

## Employers Need A Traffic Safety Program Because...

Transportation incidents are the #1 cause of death for employees on-the-job accounting for 40% of workplace fatalities. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 19, 2017: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>)

Seat belts dramatically reduce risk of death and serious injury. Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45%, and cut the risk of serious injury by 50%. (<https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbeltbrief/index.html>)

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) in their December 16, 2016 NETSWork electronic newsletter mentioned employers are spending \$5 billion annually on traffic crashes involving employees who weren't wearing a seat belt while driving or riding in a vehicle, either on or off the job. That's \$27 million in Nebraska.

OSHA states, "It is the employer's responsibility and legal obligation to have a clear, unequivocal, and enforced policy against texting and driving." (<https://www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/modelpolicies.html>)

Courts are ruling the employer is responsible for the harm caused by an employee when talking on a cell phone if the employee was acting within the course and scope of his or her employment at the time the crash occurred.

AAA reports 87% of drivers indicated they have engaged in at least one risky behavior while behind the wheel within the last month. These behaviors included; driving distracted, impaired or drowsy, running red lights, speeding or not wearing a seat belt.

Motor vehicle crashes cost Nebraska employers \$311 million in 2014. (CDC: Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths: Costly but Preventable, 2014)

Bans on cellphone use while driving did not decrease productivity. It really doesn't matter whether your company issues cell phones to employees or not; if your company's employees do business by phone, your company needs a cell phone policy. (*Safety and Health*, October 29, 2017: <http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/16263-no-cellphones-while-driving>)

The reaction time of a distracted driver is no different than that of a drunk driver. (University of Utah Study, stayer, Drews and Couch)

It is against the law in Nebraska to use a handheld cell phone to read, type, or send written communication while operating a motor vehicle. Violations carry a fine from \$200 to \$500.

