

## Highway Accidents

Roadway crashes have been the number one cause of death for workers in the U.S. These incidents accounted for 22 % of all worker fatalities. Approximately 2000 people are killed every year in a work-related highway accident. Three types of accidents were noted for the majority of the fatalities: head-on collisions between 2 or more vehicles; single vehicle crashes into stationary objects at the side of the road (i.e. trees, utility poles, etc.); and non-collision incidents involving overturned or jack-knifed vehicles.

There are several ways that employees, as well as, employers can decrease the likelihood of these accidents:

### Employers:

- Provide safety information that promotes safe driving behaviors.
- Safe driving policies should be in place and enforced.
- Driving irregular hours should be avoided. Long hours or schedules might influence employees to drive at excessive speeds.
- Perform regular vehicle maintenance to ensure employees have a vehicle that operates safely.
- Be sure employees have a valid driver's license for the class of vehicle they are to operate and are insured.
- Provide adequate training for any specialized vehicle employees are going to use.
- Keep records of employee driving records. When a deficiency is noted, take actions to correct immediately.

### Employees:

- Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- When hazards occur, apply brakes gradually.
- Be aware of your surrounding and what lies ahead. Scan the road ahead to ensure hazards will not be encountered.
- Remain alert. It is very easy to drive on auto-pilot and let distractions cloud our minds.
- Cell phones should not be used while driving. Pull over to the side of the road to receive or make any calls.
- When driving in adverse conditions, SLOW DOWN.
- Never drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Always change lanes with caution. Cutting off vehicles, changing lanes too fast or not using your signals may result in an accident or provoke other drivers.

For additional information, contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics at (202) 606-6175.