

# Vehicle Safety

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## OHBA Safety Pages

Employers should manage motor vehicle safety just as carefully as they manage other aspects of their business. Consider the following injury data: **Top three driver errors resulting in motor vehicle crashes in Oregon (2004)**

### ALL CRASHES

1. Failure to avoid stopped or parked vehicle ahead - 29%; 2. Did not have right of way - 15%; 3. Driving too fast for conditions - 12%; **Significant contributing factor - Stopped in traffic (except for left turn) 33%**

### FATAL CRASHES

1. Driving too fast for conditions - 37%; 2. Failure to maintain lane - 10%; 3. Ran off road - 10%; **Significant contributing factor - Had been drinking 38%**

### KEY GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM:

**Develop a written vehicle safety policy.** Tell employees what management expects when driving company vehicles. Have employees sign an acknowledgement form. Implement a comprehensive drug and alcohol program to hold employees accountable. Sample: <http://www.orosha.org/pdf/pubs/4767.pdf>

**Check workers' driving records.** Check employee driving records before they get behind the wheel of YOUR vehicle and annually thereafter. Screen those who have poor driving records.

**Investigate Accidents.** Investigate all vehicular accidents and review at your safety meeting. Ensure they are reported properly.

**Keep vehicles safe.** Develop procedures that ensure vehicle-safety inspections and maintenance are done on regular schedules. Have employees report mechanical problems to their supervisors immediately.

**Reward and discipline.** For employees with excellent driving records, recognition and privileges can be effective. On the flipside, make it clear that employees who violate safety policies will be disciplined.

**Invest in education and training.** Hold a vehicle safety meeting, review your written policy, and pertinent highway safety rules.

**Know the rules.** The Oregon Drivers and Motor Vehicle Service's (DMV) *Vehicle Code Book* includes all requirements for vehicle registration, driver licensing, and rules of the road. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/pages/form/vehiclecodebk.aspx>

### REMINDERS FOR ALL DRIVERS

**BUCKLE UP!** Seat belts are the most effective way to prevent deaths and serious injuries in traffic accidents. Oregon seat belt use is 93.3%, the fifth highest in the nation. All drivers and passengers must use seat belts. Vehicle owners are required to keep them working properly.

**STAY FOCUSED AND AWAKE.** It is common to see people reading or talking on cell phones while driving, but driving is not the time for multi-tasking. Drivers make more than 200 traffic-related decisions per mile, so it's critical to focus only on driving. *Drowsiness is also a factor. Such crashes often occur on rural roads or when the driver is alone, usually late at night, early in the morning or mid-afternoon.*

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.** Alcohol use was a factor in 38 percent of the fatal motor vehicle crashes in Oregon in 2004. It's estimated that 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in a crash caused by impaired driving. A blood alcohol level of .08 is considered intoxicated by Oregon law. Employers should have a drug and alcohol program in place to minimize this exposure.

**KEEP YOUR COOL.** Tailgating, weaving in traffic, and ignoring traffic lights and the rights of other drivers is called *aggressive behavior and contributes to an increasing number of crashes. Some employers have a 1-800 number posted on the vehicle so that other drivers can report to the employer if they see these behaviors.*

**WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTRIANS.** Oregon drivers injured 550 pedestrians and killed 45 in Oregon in 2004. Most incidents happened because drivers failed to give pedestrians the right of way. Pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections, even those that don't have painted crosswalks.

**SECURE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.** Are you sure that 10-foot ladder you're hauling in the back of the pickup will stay there when you're on the freeway? Unsecured and poorly secured.



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Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

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Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)