

The *BSO Plus Safety Topic* is a review designed from the BSO Plus agenda. This safety topic is your way to stay current on the safety information over the 3 years, so please ensure you submit the completed test to your employer for record retention.

DRIVING HAZARDS

According to the WSIB, over the 10 year period from 2004 to 2013, Motor Vehicle Incidents have accounted for the highest number of traumatic fatalities (39.9%) in the workplace.

The four main causes of vehicular deaths and injuries on Ontario roads are:

1. Distracted driving
2. Aggressive driving
3. Failure to use restraint devices
4. Driving while impaired (*source: OPP*)



In 2013, 82 workers lost their lives due to traumatic workplace fatalities. Motor vehicle incidents were the cause of 35% of the deaths in 2013 and remain the leading cause of traumatic fatalities since 2004. In 2013, there were 1436 Lost Time Claims related to transportation accidents. (*source: WSIB*)

Safe Work Practices for Driving

Wear your seatbelt:

- According to the most recent information available through Transport Canada, 51% of all people either killed or seriously injured in motor vehicle accidents were not wearing their seatbelt at the time of the accident.
- Bottom line – seat belts save lives. When using any type of vehicle that comes equipped with seat belts, and that includes fork lifts, ALWAYS wear your seat belt.

Follow the rules of the road:

- Obey all traffic rules and posted traffic signs on public roads
- Follow all rules of the road for each site as described in site-specific training
- Follow the practice of STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! at all railway crossings

Minimize distractions:

- Adjust seat, mirrors, steering wheel and climate controls prior to operating the vehicle
- Do not operate any hand-held devices while the vehicle is in operation. Pull the vehicle over to a full stop before answering a call or text.

A MODEL TO IMPLEMENT A SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM

- 1. Identify Hazards**
Worker exposure, hazard types, risk
- 2. Assess Hazards and Determine Controls**
Elimination, administration, personal controls
- 3. Implement Program**
Policies, procedures, training, orientation
- 4. Annual Review & Continual Monitoring**
Program review, incident investigation

(*Source: Workplace Safety North*)

Hazards on the Road

The following are some of the driving hazards you are likely to encounter while operating any type of vehicle on the job, whether on municipal/provincial roadways or roadways on and inside plant property.

Railway Crossings:

- 17% of all railway accidents are the result of a collision between a train and pedestrians or vehicles trying to cross the tracks.
- Trespassing accidents, which involve people (mostly pedestrians) who are either not authorized to be on the railway or who fail to give rights-of-way – in other words, “beating the train” – remain the leading cause of crossing accidents.

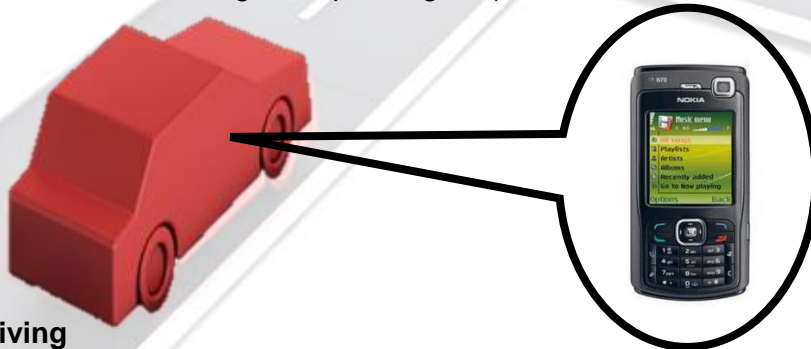


Intersections:

- Nationally, 28% of vehicular fatalities and 40% of serious injuries occur at intersections.
- Intersection accidents are caused by rolling stops; failing to yield right of way; hidden intersections; running an amber light; excessive speed; following too closely; and driver distraction.
- Pedestrians represent about one in six motor vehicle-related fatalities on Ontario roads – 41 per cent of which occurred at intersections. (Source: OPP)

Bicycles:

- Bicycles present a significant hazard because they can be difficult to see from a moving vehicle.
- On plant sites, the major cause of bicycle accidents come from cyclists not following the flow of traffic and from cyclists driving in areas meant only for pedestrians (E.g.: a sidewalk or through an operating unit).



Distracted Driving

- Engaging in any secondary activity which takes the operator’s attention away from driving is considered “distracted driving”. This can include: eating while driving, searching for something in the car, or using any type of hand-held communications / entertainment device.
- Using handheld devices to text, email or talk while driving, except for 911 calls, has been banned in Ontario since 2009.
- In 2013, 78 people died in distracted driving-related collisions, compared to 57 impaired driving deaths and 44 speed-related deaths. (Source: OPP)