

IDENTIFY

Although driving can be a pleasant break from regular duties, it is a serious responsibility both on and off the job. Safety is the number 1 priority; make a commitment to engage in training, procedures, and practices that promote safe driving. Manitoba Public Insurance has released preliminary analysis of road fatalities in Manitoba for 2017.

There was a total of 65 fatal collisions in 2017 resulting in 73 fatalities; this is the second lowest total roadside fatalities since 1982. This is a 32 percent decrease from 2016 to 2017 and it is still not enough; each of these people were mothers, fathers, siblings, friends, employees, and colleagues.

Employers have a responsibility to provide a healthy and safe work environment to their employees and that does not stop when those employees are travelling in a vehicle.

COMMUNICATE AND CONTROL

What can you do as an Employer?

Driving is very common in the Construction Industry; an employer must put policies in place to promote **responsible driving**. Monitor workplace driving to ensure that your workers are following your policies and procedures by receiving driver's abstracts before employment, having policies with statements calling for employees to disclose any changes to their license, and having systems in place to ensure vehicles are being inspected and maintained efficiently (through pre-use checklist and maintenance schedules).

Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is the leading factor in fatal and serious vehicle accidents. Driver distractions are anything that takes your focus away from the primary task of driving, which always requires your full attention.

Mobile phones are among the top driver distractions. Those who talk on the phone while driving are five times more likely to have an accident, while those who text are 23 times more likely to get in an accident while driving.

The cost of distracted driving is not just loss of life or property damage; the costs in Manitoba have increased for drivers caught in the act. Drivers convicted of violating distracted driving laws will receive a driver's license suspension (72 hours), \$672.00 fine, and lose five (5) merits.

How can you stay focused on the road?

Stay off your phone while operating a vehicle

- Let your calls go to voicemail and answer text messages once you have reached your destination.
- Use auto-response features on your phone to let people know that you are driving and cannot speak or text until it is safe to do so.
- If you do need to make a call or answer a text message, find a safe place to pull over and park your vehicle.

Focus only on driving

- Before leaving, make sure you had enough time to eat, get ready (grooming, makeup), choose your radio station, plan your route, check road conditions.
- If you must attend to a child or a pet, find a safe location to pull over and park.

Encourage others to follow suite

- Drop conversations with passengers in complex driving situations (construction sites).
- If you are a passenger, do not distract the driver.

Resources

<https://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/Pages/nr2018jan22.aspx>

<https://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/PDFs/TCSR2016.pdf>

<https://www.platinumdrivers.com/smith-system-andprinciples-of-safe-driving/>

<http://www.wspcs.ca/Information-Resources/Topics/Motor-Vehicles.aspx>

<https://www.mpi.mb.ca/en/PDFs/Distracted-Driving.pdf>

THE QUIZ: Defensive Driving

Answers are at the bottom of the page. Present these questions to attendees and have them answer as a group. Have a discussion to ensure everyone understands the risks and how to control them.

1. You lose one merit when you get a distracted driving charge.
TRUE _____ FALSE _____

2. Mobile phones are among the top driver distractions.
TRUE _____ FALSE _____

3. What is not one of the 5 key principles of responsible driving?
A) Aim high in steering
B) Keep your eyes moving
C) Check your GPS often to know exactly where you're going
D) Make sure they see you

4. What can employers do to promote responsible driving?
A) Put policies in place to promote responsible driving
B) Monitor workplace driving
C) Receive your employees driving abstract before hiring
D) All of the above

5. List the ways you can stay focused on the road

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

What is Responsible Driving?

Responsible driving can also be referred to as defensive driving. One system that exists to help with defensive driving is the Smith System® and it operates on 5 key principles:

Aim High In Steering

Look at least 15 seconds into your future, not just at the vehicle in front of you.

Get the Big Picture

Look for hazards. (Other Motorists, Pedestrians, Vehicle doors opening, etc.)

Keep Your Eyes Moving

Don't stare. Use your peripheral vision. Stop the fixed habit stare.

Leave Yourself an Out

Monitor the space cushion around you.

Make Sure They See You

Use your signals. (Signal lights, 4-way Flashers, Head Lights, Brake Lights, Horn, Hand Signals.)
Make eye contact.

1. FALSE 2. TRUE 3. C 4. D 5. Stay off your phone while operating a vehicle, focus only on driving, encourage other to follow suite

ANSWERS

FOR THE RECORD

Date of Meeting: _____

Location: _____ Start time: _____ Finish Time: _____

Topic: _____ Meeting Leader: _____

In attendance (please print):

Contact your Construction Safety Association for even more *Practical Solutions for a Safer Workplace*

Follow us on Social Media, visit our website at constructionsafety.ca, or give us a call for more tools, resources and information.

WINNIPEG OFFICE
1447 Waverley Street
Winnipeg, MB R3T 0P7
T: 204-775-3171
F: 204-779-3505

BRANDON OFFICE
950-10th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 6B5
T: 204-728-3456
F: 204-571-0678

