

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of all accidental deaths in the workplace. Traffic accidents alone claim more than 30,000 lives each year and cause more than one million injuries when factoring in forklift accidents, excavation accidents, and other accidents involving material handling equipment. What we do behind the wheel not only affects us, it can have a direct impact on other drivers on the road, passengers in our vehicle, roadside workers, and pedestrians.

Most accidents are caused by one of three human factors: distraction, frustration, and fatigue. Operating procedures are designed to prevent vehicle accidents, comply with federal, state, and local regulations, prevent injury to personnel and the public, and reduce vehicle operating and repair costs. The items listed below should be followed by all employees operating any vehicle:

- All vehicle occupants must wear seat belts.
- Operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
- Drivers should not use cell phones while driving. To use a cell phone the driver should pull over to the right hand berm/shoulder of the road or other safe location, turn on the emergency flashers, stop the vehicle, and turn off the engine. In some states it is against the law to use hand-held cell phones while driving.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and posted speed limits,
- Drive appropriately for weather and road conditions,
- Do not tailgate; leave ample room for stopping,
- Use turn signals when turning or changing lanes,
- Do not drive if you are fatigued, sleepy, or on medication that may impair your ability to operate a motor vehicle.
- Actively scan the roadway and anticipate the movement of automobiles, pedestrians, and animals.
- Do not refuel the vehicle with the engine running. Personnel must stay within 15 feet of the vehicle during the fueling operation.