



## Vehicle Crashes On and Off the Job Cost Employers Dearly

### Upcoming Safety Observances

#### February

Super Bowl LV - Impaired Driving  
"Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk"  
(February 13)

#### March

Vehicle Safety Recalls week  
(March 7-11)  
St. Patrick's Day - Impaired Driving  
"Buzzed Driving is drunk driving"  
(March 17)  
Rail Grade Crossing Campaign  
(March 21-April 11)

Free resources are available on the Utah NETS webpage to assist you during these observance periods.

For more information, visit [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) or call 801.746.SAFE (7233).

The costs for businesses when their employees are involved in car accidents on and off the job are staggering, at \$72.2 billion a year, according to a new study.

The "Cost of Vehicle Crashes to Employers 2019" study, released in March 2021 by the Network for Employers for Traffic Safety, looks at how much car crashes cost businesses in terms of workplace disruption and liability costs.

While the costs to companies when their workers are in on-the-job automobile accidents are easily measured, the costs to businesses when their employees miss work after accidents while off the job are almost as steep.

Employers end up paying in some way for injuries to their employees on and off the job, and to their dependents. As many as 1.9 million workdays are missed due to both on- and off-the-job accidents, resulting in lost productivity and training someone new to do the work.

For on-the-job accidents, there are also workers' compensation implications for each time an employee is injured in an accident, which can drive up your rates. Also, your firm would likely also be held liable if one of your driving employees injured a third party and/or damaged their property.

Consider that:

- A fleet of 1,000 vehicles averages costs of \$1.1 million per year for property damage alone.
- A single non-fatal injury crash has an average cost of \$75,176.
- A single fatal crash costs an average of \$751,382.
- A single crash that only causes property damage costs an average of \$5,483.

Consider that:

- Speeding
- Distracted driving
- Driving under the influence of alcohol, and
- Not wearing a seat belt.

*(continued on next page)*

# Vehicle Crashes On and Off the Job Cost Employers, cont.



## What can you do?

With the above in mind, employers may want to consider holding meetings on safe driving for not only driver employees but all of them, since an off-the-job accident can result in injury or death to your worker or their loved ones.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has the following tips for employers:

- If you have a fleet, implement a fleet driver safety program and maintain complete and accurate records of workers' driving performance.
- Check driving records of prospective employees and conduct periodic rechecks after hiring.
- Ask your workers to periodically provide documentation of

their insurance and to report any suspensions, revocations, and convictions for vehicle-related offenses.

- Establish schedules that allow drivers to obey speed limits and follow hours-of-service regulations where they apply.
- Require newly hired workers to attend performance-based defensive driving courses, with mandatory refresher training at regular intervals.
- Implement a driver safety program that emphasizes the link between driver safety at work and driver safety at home. Safe driving in the workplace benefits the worker's family by reducing the risk of fatality or disabling injury. In addition, lessons learned on the job can increase workers' awareness of the importance of safe driving outside of work hours.
- In your training, emphasize the need for wearing a seat belt at all times.
- Have a zero-tolerance policy for talking on the phone and texting while driving, both of which are already against the law in most states. Require that any employee who needs to make a call, pull over first when it's safe to do so, regardless of whether they have a hands-free unit.
- Studies have shown that even talking with a hands-free device can be enough of a distraction to cause an accident.

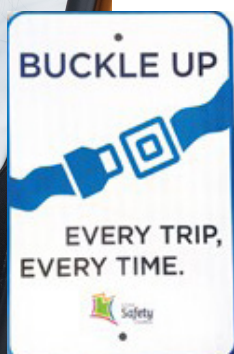
## Encourage Your Employees to Buckle Up



**In Utah alone, we had 318 roadway fatalities in 2021.** Of those 276 fatalities 74 were not wearing a seat belt. Tragically, these deaths were 100% preventable.

As employers, employees, and everyday commuters, these numbers can be reduced with education, training and awareness.

The Utah Safety Council wants to help remind your employees and customers to "Buckle Up - Every Trip, Every Time" with our new reflective parking lot signs.



Each sign is 12x9 and available for members to purchase at \$25.75 each.

For more information or to place an order, please contact Nichole Rilk at [nrilk@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:nrilk@utahsafetycouncil.org) or 801.746.SAFE (7233) ext. 303.



## Defensive Driving Online Modules

These ultra-convenient **20-minute single-topic training sessions** provide the flexibility to train your employees on individual subjects based on specific driving behaviors, incident rate factors, and training policies. Or, choose the entire 9-session Module Library for your employees as a comprehensive driver safety training program.

With National Safety Council Defensive Driving Online Modules, you can create an interactive and engaging training experience for your employees with ease.

### The course covers key topics and issues including:

**Speed Management**—Provides drivers the knowledge to use traffic lanes properly and safe-driving techniques to prevent lane-related collisions (44100-1601)

**Intersections**—Analyzes the reasons why drivers collide at intersections and offers defensive driving procedures to avoid these deadly crashes (44100-1602)

**Avoiding Impaired Driving**—Teaches practical, common sense techniques to avoid and respond to reckless impaired driving on our highways (44100-1603)

**Lane Management**—Provides the knowledge to manage driving speed in the most common driving conditions and situations (44100-1604)

**Weather and Road Conditions**—Helps prepare drivers for the worst driving conditions by teaching proper defensive driving techniques in real-life scenarios (44100-1605)

**Avoiding Fatigued Driving**—Learn the warning signs of drowsy driving and how to change sleeping habits and decisions to help ensure driver safety (44100-1606)

**Backing and Parking Lot Strategies**—Offers safe driving techniques to help drivers avoid preventable collisions in multiple backing and parking conditions and situations (44100-1607)

**Avoiding Aggressive Driving**—Learn how to respond to and avoid aggressive drivers and keep from becoming an aggressive driver in the most stressful driving situations (44100-1608)

**Avoiding Fixed Objects**—For public utility and service industry vehicles. Identifies why drivers collide with fixed objects, and offers safety practices and driving techniques that can eliminate these preventable collisions (44100-1613)



**ONLINE SAFETY  
TRAINING THAT  
WILL HELP CHANGE  
RISKY DRIVING  
BEHAVIORS IN LESS  
THAN 30 MINUTES**

**Topic-specific modules  
that teach defensive  
driving strategies and  
collision prevention  
through scenario-based  
training**

To demo the Defensive  
Driving Online Modules, go to  
[nsc.org/Online-Modules](http://nsc.org/Online-Modules)

*Eliminating Preventable Deaths®*

## Defensive Driving Courses for Your Employees

**Improper driving is a contributing factor in OVER HALF of all motor vehicle crashes.**

The National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course (DDC) offers practical strategies to reduce collision-related injuries, fatalities and costs. It addresses the importance of attitude in preventing crashes, and reinforces good driving skills. Most importantly, DDC shows students the consequences of the choices they make behind the wheel, and puts defensive driving in a personal context.

Study after study has shown that drivers who participate in the Defensive Driving Course average fewer collisions and fewer driving arrests than drivers who do not take the course. Offered locally through the Utah Safety Council, this course has set the standard in the industry for over 40 years, and continues to improve driver behaviors.

### The following options are available to utilize the Defensive Driving Course:

#### On-Site Defensive Driving: 4-Hour Course (DDC-4)

- Fast-paced, practical and highly effective refresher course
- Developed to meet your driver improvement and safety needs
- Taught by certified experienced instructors
- Available on-site or specially arranged at the Utah Safety Council
- Customizable in a variety of ways

#### In-House Defensive Driving: 4-Hour Course (DDC-4)

- Certify your current instructors as DDC instructors
- Utilize cutting edge curriculum and teaching materials
- Teach proven collision avoidance techniques
- Instill the importance of attitude in preventing crashes
- Flexibility in scheduling, location and class size.
- Purchase materials through the Utah Safety Council

#### Online Defensive Driving Course

- Nationally recognized program
- Locally administered and maintained
- Flexible, easy to use and available 24/7
- Engaging and interactive, with reviews at the end of each session
- Available in English and Spanish
- Course demo available upon request
- Quantity discounts available

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Nichole Rilk, Traffic Safety Program Manager at 801.746.SAFE (7233) or by email at [nrilk@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:nrilk@utahsafetycouncil.org).



# ONLINE DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE Producing Safer Drivers



**This course offers practical strategies to reduce collision-related injuries, fatalities and costs.**

The National Safety Council's Online Defensive Driving Course (DDC) addresses the importance of attitude in preventing collisions, and reinforces good driving skills. Most importantly, this course shows participants the consequences of the choices they make behind the wheel, and puts defensive driving in a personal context.

Quantity	Member	Non-Member
1-25	\$40	\$50
26-100	\$37	\$47
101-250	\$32	\$42
251+	\$27	\$37

Offered locally through the Utah Safety Council, this course has set the standard for the industry for over 40 years, and continues to improve driver behaviors. Many Utah companies train their employees to drive defensively with Online DDC.

**UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG**



## Online DDC is:

- Flexible and self paced
- Easy-to-use
- Engaging through the use of streaming media
- Interactive, with a review at the end of each chapter
- Locally administered and maintained

Call the Utah Safety Council today to see how we can assist you with your training needs.

Contact **Nichole Rilk** Traffic Safety Program Manager at 801.746.**SAFE** (7233) or email **traffic@utahsafetycouncil.org** for more information or to purchase user IDs.

Online DDC demo available for preview. Send an email to Greg requesting to view the online course.

# Winter Weather Driving Tips



1574 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104



LOCAL CHAPTER

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## NETS News

If you would like to submit items for use in this newsletter, send them to:

**Email:**  
nrilk@utahsafetycouncil.org

**Phone:**  
801.746.SAFE (7233)



### Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- a snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper;
- abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers);
- blankets for protection from the cold; and
- a cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

### What to Do in an Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself and your passengers, your car, and your surroundings.

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.