

Section 19

DRIVING AND VEHICLE SAFETY

Motor vehicle incidents are the number one cause of lost work time and on-the-job fatalities. Consider this: approximately 40% of all occupational deaths are motor-vehicle related.

19.1 Recognizing Hazards

Recognizing traffic hazards requires being aware of vehicles that are entering or exiting the roadway, going too fast or slow for conditions, or changing lanes. Other skills include awareness of weather conditions, traffic flow and road conditions. A driver should know what's going on ahead at least one city block, to each side, on the road behind, and inside the vehicle. Hazards include pedestrians, school buses, animals, intersections, school zones, vehicle breakdowns, cargo spills and traffic lights.

19.2 Alcohol/Drug Use

More motor vehicle fatalities are linked to alcohol/drug use than any other cause. It is a violation of law to operate any vehicle while impaired. **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE.**

19.3 Safety Belts Are For Everyone

The safety belt enables you to take control of your life. Sure, you may not be able to control that drunk driver who is headed straight for your car, but you can control your chances of surviving the crash. As long as you wear your safety belt, you are in control. Your chances of survival increase about 50%. There is no question about it, safety belts reduce fatalities and injuries. Safety belts shall be worn even if the vehicle is equipped with an airbag. **SEAT BELTS SHALL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.**

19.4 Vehicle Maintenance

Proper vehicle maintenance is vital for safe and efficient operation. The driver of the vehicle will know best when non-scheduled maintenance is necessary. Before each trip, the driver shall check lights, mirrors, tires and brakes, and that the load is secured. Remember, safe driving doesn't happen by accident; you make it happen.

19.5 Communication Devices

Do not operate communication devices (unless hands free) while operating a motor vehicle. Pull vehicle to the side of the road and stop in a safe place before operating communication devices.