Members Meet, Share Questions and Solutions

Welcome to our two new member network groups in Minneapolis-St. Paul area! The South Metro and East Metro Networks join six other groups throughout the state that have been meeting quarterly for three-plus years. The groups select topics and gather for roundtable discussions, occasionally bringing in an expert to participate. Recent meetings have focused on ways to keep our workplaces safe from violence, helping each other solve training challenges, and emergency preparedness. Over the past year, nearly 400 committed members have participated in these ongoing discussions. They provide a valuable opportunity for candid sharing of information with other members and our staff.

Through the regional meetings, surveys, and a variety of other direct contacts, we’ve heard your feedback about where we’re doing well and where we can improve. You’ve let us know that you appreciate the job we’re doing promoting safety and injury prevention, with high marks for the quality of our programs and services, our flexibility, and the enthusiasm and responsiveness of our staff.

We’re committed to helping you meet your goals — we’re here to answer your questions, provide safety resources and expertise, connect you with other members who share your issues and concerns, and ensure good value for your membership investment.

As we come to the end of 2015, thanks to all of you for your work to make Minnesota a safer place to live.

If you have questions or comments about your membership, or an interest in joining a regional group, contact Cary Swenson, Director of Membership Services, at cary.swenson@minnesotasafetycouncil.org;
A New Year! Auld Lang Syne!
New Year’s Resolutions!

BY PAUL W. AASEN, President, Minnesota Safety Council

Welcome New Year, you are a fresh start, a moment to look back and look ahead. For many companies and organizations, it’s a new calendar year and a new budget year. The last 12 months of work are closed and accounted for as the new work year opens.

I hope safety is on your accounting list. Everyone spends time and energy making their world safer. Take credit for it! Take a moment to tally the wins and losses. Put a number on the expense and a value on the human outcome. If your workplace was incident free, it’s easy to take the effort for granted. If you had a loss, you know the impact on lives and morale and on the business.

During 2014, there were 78,700 recordable injury and illness cases in Minnesota (Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry). Over 38,000 of these cases resulted in lost job time. Each of these 78,000-plus cases cost the employee and employer about $39,000 on average. Minnesota businesses and employees lost over 3 billion dollars! The most common events? Slips, trips, falls, sprains, tears and back injuries — all of which are preventable.

And these numbers only include workplace events. We are nine times more likely to get injured at home with similar outcomes and losses.

Yes, New Year’s is a good time to re-tally the value of safety:
• The cost of prevention versus the cost of an event.
• The long reach of a safety culture through the workplace onto the road and into the home.
• The sudden and serious impact of an event that could have been prevented.
• The huge impact leaders make when they take the time to remind their organizations that safety matters.

Thank you for carrying safety from the old year into the new year. Being safe is a great New Year’s resolution!

New Partnership Provides HR Access, Resources to Members

A reminder that the Minnesota Safety Council and MRA – The Management Association are working together to make it easier for safety council members to get human resource management support and for MRA members to get work, home and life safety support. While this is not a joint membership, the new partnership offers easy access to safety and human resource expertise along with special opportunities for training and events.

Some of the benefits you’ll see though this partnership:
• Enhanced leadership, professional development and human resource training options at both the Minnesota Safety Council and MRA locations.
• Expanded HR information available through Minnesota Safety Council publications.
• Discounts for selected MRA training and events.

► See www.mranet.org for all MRA services.
The overall rate of nonfatal cases requiring days away from work fell in 2014, but the median days away needed to recuperate increased, according to a new report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The rate of severe occupational injuries and illnesses decreased to 107.1 cases per 10,000 full-time workers in 2014. The median days away from work to recuperate—a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses—was 9 days in 2014, one day more than reported in 2013.

OTHER KEY FINDINGS:
The rate of falls on the same level increased in transportation and warehousing, wholesale trade, health care and social assistance, and manufacturing in 2014. For all occupations, the incidence rate for public sector workers was 167.4 cases per 10,000 full-time workers, compared to the rate of 97.8 for all private sector workers.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN MINNESOTA?
The BLS survey estimated 78,700 OSHA-recordable nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in Minnesota for 2014. The survey estimated 38,400 injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work, job transfer or restrictions after the day of injury. The rate of these cases was 1.8 per 100 FTE workers, unchanged from 2013.


GLOBAL TRENDS IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

A recent ASSE blog post highlights five global trends affecting the occupational safety and health profession:

- A renewed interest in prevention through design.
- Release of the ISO 45001 management standard, expected in early 2017, which will provide a framework for linking occupational safety and health to overall organizational strategy.
- Development of a professional framework that includes an emphasis on the ability to “communicate, influence and lead.”
- Integrated financial reporting that include elements such as risk management in the calculation of value.
- Responsibility for comprehensive risk assessment, part of a critical transition in communicating safety performance, “because risk is the language understood by CEOs, CFOs, directors, investors and operational leaders.”

Source: ASSE’s Professional Safety, November 2015

First Aid Instructor Training, December 2

Seventeen people learned life-saving skills to take back to their businesses and communities. Annually, our first aid/CPR/AED classes reach more than 10,000 people.
Increased OSHA Fines Included in Federal Budget

OSHA fines will increase significantly by next summer for the first time since 1990. OSHA was one of a handful of federal agencies exempted from a 1990 bill requiring that penalties keep up with inflation; that exemption was struck down in the new federal budget. At current inflation levels, fines would rise by about 80 percent and must be in place by August 1, 2016, for states regulated by federal OSHA. State OSHA plans are expected to follow suit. In subsequent years the penalties will rise with the inflation rate. Here’s a sampling of comments and coverage about the change:

- **National Law Review**: “While OSHA has the option of implementing an adjustment less than the maximum amount, Assistant Secretary David Michaels has pushed for years to increase maximum penalties so it seems unlikely that they would not take full advantage of this increase. . . . employers are well advised to audit their compliance with applicable OSHA regulations to ensure that programs, policies and training are all up to date.”

- **ISEA Protection Update**: “This change adds yet another powerful weapon to OSHA’s growing enforcement arsenal. OSHA under the Obama administration has made liberal use of the General Duty Clause, weighted inspections, and new reporting requirements—all of which have resulted in OSHA inspection of industries and employers that it has never targeted before.”

- **Wall Street Journal**: “. . . even after an expected increase of as much as roughly 80%, OSHA fines will remain tiny compared to those issued by many other regulatory agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency. . . . The average fine last year for an incident in which a worker died was $7,000, reduced to $5,050 following settlement talks, according to the AFL-CIO.”

Will the increase in OSHA fines lead to safer workplaces?
(responses as of December 16, 2015)

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- Safety+Health Magazine

OTHER FEDERAL OSHA NEWS:

**Final rule for handling retaliation complaints**
OSHA has issued a [final rule](#) establishing procedures and time frames for handling employee retaliation complaints under the National Transit Systems Security Act and the Federal Railroad Safety Act. The two acts provide protections against retaliation for whistleblowing related to safety or security.

**OSHA delays enforcement of new PSM policy**
Federal OSHA has [announced](#) that it will delay enforcing a [new interpretation](#) of its Process Safety Management Standard to allow retail facilities that had previously been exempted more time to come into compliance. The exemption, originally intended only for retailers selling small quantities of hazardous chemicals, had also been applied to those making more than half of their income from direct sales of the chemicals. Through July 22, 2016 (12 months from the announcement of the new interpretation) OSHA will focus on providing compliance assistance and is unlikely to issue citations to those newly covered, barring extreme circumstances. Thirty-eight members of Congress have signed a letter asking OSHA to withdraw the new interpretation on the grounds that it’s arbitrary and costly, and to begin a formal rulemaking process in order to better assess the impact of the change.

**Protecting whistleblowers: recommended practices**
You can [provide input](#) on a draft whistleblower protection program. It’s designed to help employers protect employees from retaliation when they raise concerns about workplace conditions or activities that could harm workers or members of the public.
Resource Round-up

VIOLENCE IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS
Workplace violence in healthcare settings accounts for nearly as many serious violent injuries as all other industries combined. Federal OSHA has launched a new webpage to provide employers and workers with strategies and tools to prevent those incidents. The website complements OSHA’s Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers, updated in 2015. The Guidelines describe the five components of an effective workplace violence prevention program, with extensive examples.

Creating an active threat safety plan
Every active threat incident will vary in its details but a recent article in OHS Online discusses common threads that can form the basis of an effective safety plan.

- Overcome reluctance to conduct active threat training.
- Develop flexible response plans with key principles that support effective decision making in the face of varied threats.
- Be proactive in providing employees with the knowledge and tools to identify and communicate possible high-risk indicators in advance of an actual incident.
- Build the plan on clear language to support communication before, during and after an incident. Include emergency communication options for both employees and customers.

Find sample workplace violence-related policies and plans in the Members Only section of our website. Log in at minnesotasafetycouncil.org/mo and click the “Plans, Policies and Checklists” tab.

TEMPORARY WORKER SAFETY
A new video from federal OSHA stresses the responsibilities of both employers and staffing firms in protecting temporary workers. The six-minute video features OSHA administrator David Michaels and Stephen Dwyer, general counsel of the American Staffing Association.

EHS RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SMALL BUSINESS
The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has updated its Small Business Resource Guide, which provides plans, tools, tips, and information from across the web on how to keep workers safe.

AGING WORKFORCE
Within five years, one out of four workers will be ages 55 and over. The new Productive Aging and Work initiative from NIOSH provides information to support the safety and health of an aging workforce.

LEGAL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS USE BEHIND THE WHEEL
In partnership with AAA-The Auto Club Group and the Minnesota Department of Health we’ve co-sponsored a publication about impaired driving that will be included in the January issues of Twin Cities Business and Minneapolis/St. Paul magazines. The goal: to raise awareness of changing issues related to the use of alcohol and drugs (legal and illegal) behind the wheel. Entitled “Buzzed Driving,” the publication provides an overview of the impairment issue in its many forms across Minnesota and the nation.

Take a look at tcbmag.com/Special-Publications/ and share the link with anyone who would benefit, personally or professionally. Limited hard copies are available by contacting lisa.kons@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.
How Safe Are You?
And Would You Like the World to Know?

Has your company been working hard on safety?
Is it working? Are you keeping people safe?
If yes, then you deserve recognition for a job well done.

Apply for a GOVERNOR’S SAFETY AWARD and get recognized at the Minnesota Safety & Health Conference, May 5, 2016.

Who is eligible for an award?
The award criteria is here: Governor’s Safety Awards

What’s in it for your company?
Benchmarking your safety program is a great way to check your progress against the best or better yet, set the bar with your excellent safety program.
Applying for an award is also a great way to reaffirm the value of safety in your workplace and to take a minute to honor everyone’s hard work and commitment to safety at work, on the road and at home.

Do you have to be a Minnesota Safety Council member to apply?
NO! While we’d love to have you as a member, membership is not required to apply.

Will you meet the Governor?
Maybe. In the past, the Governor and Lt. Governor have both been part of our awards ceremony. Schedules willing, we plan to have them participate again.

Should you be concerned about your company’s safety data becoming public?
No. All application information is secure and confidential.

Is it hard to apply?
No. We’ve streamlined the online process and information you prepare this year is saved for future applications.
TUESDAY, MAY 3

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
7:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

OPENING SESSION
8:00–9:00 a.m.
• Life Would Be Easy, If It Weren’t for Other People
  Connie Podesta, Keynote Speaker

ALL-DAY SESSION
9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
• Introduction to Occupational Safety*

HALF-DAY SESSIONS
9:45–11:45 a.m.
• Auditing Your Health and Safety Management System
• Qualitative Respirator Fit Testing, Hands-On
• Reality-Based Inclusion: Building Resilience and Bulletproofing for Success*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9:45–10:45 a.m.
• Leadership, Like You’ve Never Seen It Before
• Promoting Off-the-Job Safety
• Ergonomics: Trends and What’s New
• Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace: The Road Ahead, Part I
• Ladder Safety and the New NIOSH App
• Minnesota in the Crystal Ball
• Active Shooter/Armed Intruder: Lessons Learned & Updates

SESSIONS
11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
• Communicating Across the Generations at Work
• Big Data and Leadership Engagement
• How to Complete a Security Assessment
• Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace: The Road Ahead, Part II
• OSHA Inspection Update
• Five Steps to Improve Ergonomics in the Office
• 6½ Simple Tools to Prove Value, Gain Cooperation and Save Lives

NETWORKING LUNCHEON
11:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

TOURS
• Surly Brewing*
• MnDOT—Regional Transportation Management Center*
• 3M—Customer Innovation Center*
• Minneapolis Convention Center Sustainability/Green Tour*

HALF-DAY SESSIONS
1:00–4:00 p.m.
• Confined Space Entry in Construction*
• Advanced Safety Training Techniques*
• Laser Safety Operator Training*
• Reality-Based Rules of the Workplace: The New Foundation for Boosting Employee Value, Driving Strategic Results and Fulfilling Organizational Missions*

SESSIONS
2:00–3:00 p.m.
• Hearing Conservation Training—Meets Annual OSHA/MSHA Requirements*
• Predicting, Preventing and Elimination: The Four Safety Truths from Your Inspections
• Identifying Cultural Hazards—4 Clues You Are Out of Balance
• NFPA 70E Electrical Safe Work Practices
• Five Mistakes Companies Make with Ergonomics
• Leadership: It’s Not Just Positional, It’s Personal

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
7:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

OPENING SESSION
8:00–9:00 a.m.
• The Trust Edge, Part I
  David Horsager, Keynote Speaker

ALL-DAY SESSIONS
9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
• Introduction to Occupational Health
• Safety the Lean Way

HALF-DAY SESSIONS
9:45–11:45 a.m.
• Safety Contacts: Caught You Doing Something Right!
• Occupational Fatigue: The Next BIG Issue
• Leadership for EHS Professionals*
• Managing Safety Resources: A Look at How Cities and Counties Implement Safety Programs
• Rescue Plans, Crisis Management
• Violence Prevention Planning and Implementation in the Hospital Setting

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9:45–10:45 a.m.
• The Trust Edge, Part II
• Forklifts—Lifting Your Standards
• Life Cycle of a Safety Career: A Modern Path
• S.A.V.E. Yourself Active Shooter Training
• Protecting Temporary Workers: Whose Responsibility Is It?
• The Importance of Balance
• Are Your Employees Distracted Drivers?
• Aerial Lifts—Raising Compliance
• Sink or Swim: Thriving and Succeeding as a Leader

SESSIONS
10:45–11:45 a.m.
• Pills and Weed in the Workplace: Managing Injury Risks
• You, the Inspired Motivator
• Effective Electrical Safety Program Audits
• Legally Effective Incident Management
• Safe Systems: Components of a Well-Designed Program
• Protecting Temporary Workers: Whose Responsibility Is It?
• The Importance of Balance
• Are Your Employees Distracted Drivers?
• Aerial Lifts—Raising Compliance
• Sink or Swim: Thriving and Succeeding as a Leader

SESSIONS
2:00–3:00 p.m.
• Safety Management Systems: A Comparison
• A Culture of Safety: Panel Presentation
• Touch Stones for Inspired Leadership
• Poison Prevention: Protecting Workers and Families
• Easy and Safe Rider
• De-escalation Techniques for Preventing Workplace Violence
• A Culture of Traffic Safety: Panel Presentation

THURSDAY, MAY 5

OPENING SESSION
8:00–9:15 a.m.
• Miracles Are Made
  Deborah A.P. Hersman, President & CEO, National Safety Council

ALL-DAY SESSION
9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
• Introduction to Loss Control*

HALF-DAY SESSIONS
9:30–11:45 a.m.
• Legally Effective Incident Management
• Effective Electrical Safety Program Audits
• Workers’ Compensation/Return-To-Work—Take Your Program to the Next Level
• S.A.V.E. Yourself Active Shooter Training

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9:30–10:30 a.m.
• Protecting Temporary Workers: Whose Responsibility Is It?
• The Importance of Balance
• Are Your Employees Distracted Drivers?
• Roadside Safety Audits—Are You Prepared?
• Aerial Lifts—Raising Compliance
• Sink or Swim: Thriving and Succeeding as a Leader

SESSIONS
10:45–11:45 a.m.
• Life Cycle of a Safety Career: A Modern Path
• Prevention and Care of Back Injuries
• Productive Aging and Work
• Recommended Practices for Workforce Involvement
• Inside MNSTAR: A Panel Presentation
• Communicate Like a Champ: Influencing Up, Down and Across Your Organization

82ND ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S SAFETY AWARDS LUNCHEON
11:45 a.m.
• Positive Intelligence
  Shirzad Chamine, New York Times Best-Selling Author

*Pre-registration required

Watch for a detailed conference program online the week of January 25th!
Upcoming Train-the-Trainer PLUS Workshops

Train-the-Trainer PLUS workshops are a great way to get back into compliance and revamp tired training without a huge time commitment. Get a new DVD program and the instruction to implement it – for just the cost of the program! Sign up for one of our upcoming sessions and see how easy change can be.

- January 14 – Forklift
- January 15 – Bloodborne Pathogens
- January 29 – Electrical Safety
- February 4 – Aerial Lift
- February 19 – Back Safety
- February 25 – Right-to-Know

Don’t forget your backup – additional attendees from the same company come for just $95 each.

For more information, contact Steve at 651-228-7326/800-444-9150 or steve.rauh@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.
MARCH 2016

3 Forklift Train-the-Trainer PLUS
4 Fall Protection: Competent Person
7–9 OSHA 503 Update for General Industry Outreach Trainers
9 Lockout/Tagout Train-the-Trainer PLUS Workshop
10 Confined Space Entry in Construction
10 Drug and Alcohol Recognition Training for Supervisors
11 Electrical Safety in the Workplace: NFPA 70E
14–15 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (8-hour)
14–16 Defensive Driving Course, Instructor Development (8-hour)
14–17 30-Hour OS&H Standards for General Industry
16–17 10-hour OSHA General Industry Safety and Health Training
17 First Aid/CPR/AED Training
18 Industrial Laser Safety Operator Training
21–22 Transporting Haz Mat and Dangerous Goods
22 Forklift Train-the-Trainer
23–24 First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor Training
23 Lockout/Tagout Workshop
29 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (4-hour)
29–30 Defensive Driving Course, Instructor Development (4-hour)
29–4/1 OSHA 501 Trainer Course in OS&H Standards for General Industry (30 contact hours)

APRIL 2016

5 Bloodborne Pathogens Standard Compliance Workshop, Non-Health Care
6–8 Emergency Response Initial Training (24-hour)
7 Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer PLUS
8 Emergency Response Initial Training (8-hour)
8 Emergency Response Refresher
11–14 OSHA 510 OS&H Standards for Construction
12 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (8-hour)
13–14 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety Course
14 Electrical Safety Train-the-Trainer PLUS
15 Forklift Train-the-Trainer
18 Managing Aggressive/Assaultive Behavior in the Workplace
19 Confined Space Entry in Construction
19 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (4-hour)
20 OSHA Recordkeeping: Beyond the Basics
21 AWAIR (A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program) Workshop
21 First Aid/CPR/AED Training
22 Bloodborne Pathogens Train-the-Trainer PLUS
22 Electrical Safety in the Workplace: NFPA 70E
26–29 Safety Management Techniques

MAY 2016

10–13 OSHA 500 Basic Instructor Course in OS&H Standards for Construction (30 contact hours)
12 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (8-hour)
16 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (4-hour)
16 Electrical Safety in the Workplace: NFPA 70E
17 Forklift Train-the-Trainer PLUS
17–20 OSHA 511 OS&H Standards for General Industry
19–20 10-hour OSHA General Industry Safety and Health Training
19 First Aid/CPR/AED Training
23 Industrial Laser Safety Operator Training
24 Forklift Train-the-Trainer
25 Accident/Incident Investigation
26 Right-to-Know Train-the-Trainer PLUS

JUNE 2016

1 Confined Space Entry in Construction
1 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (4-hour)
1–2 Defensive Driving Course, Instructor Development (4-hour)
2 AWAIR (A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program) Workshop
3 Back Safety Train-the-Trainer PLUS
7–10 Safety Training Methods
8–9 First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor Training
13 Drug and Alcohol Recognition Training for Supervisors
13 OSHA 501 Trainer Course in OS&H Standards for General Industry (30 contact hours)
14 Aerial Lift Train-the-Trainer PLUS
16 First Aid/CPR/AED Training
20 Electrical Safety in the Workplace: NFPA 70E
21–24 30-hour OSH Standards for General Industry
21–22 Transporting Haz Mat and Dangerous Goods
23–24 10-hour OSHA General Industry Safety and Health Training
23–24 10-hour OSHA General Industry Safety and Health Training
27–28 Defensive Driving Course, Basic (8-hour)
27–29 Defensive Driving Course, Instructor Development (8-hour)
28 Confined Space Entry
29 Forklift Train-the-Trainer
New National Guidelines for First Aid/CPR Training

National guidelines detailing how rescuers should perform first aid and CPR have been updated, based on most current medical research, and will be incorporated into training materials. We’re waiting for final details and will keep you posted.

If you have safety budget dollars remaining in 2015, consider using them to add the safe, reliable and easy-to-use Philips HeartStart AED to your safety program—we’ll include free accessories (a $400 savings): wall cabinet, carrying case, fast response kit and extra adult pads! Remember that for every minute that passes without CPR or defibrillation, chances of survival decrease by up to 10 percent.

Learn more about our First Aid programs/training, including the effective, affordable Instructor Training Course, March 23–24, 2016. Questions? Contact Al Terwedo, 651-228-7315/800-444-9150; al.terwedo@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.

NSC NAVIGATOR

A Safety Management System for EVERYONE.

“What are you doing to measure your safety performance today?”

Easy enough question, but it can be a complicated answer. If you’re tired of using a pen and paper or an Excel spreadsheet to track your safety metrics, National Safety Council’s NSC Navigator is a great solution for you. This cloud-based system will help you with:

- Incident Management
- Corrective Actions
- Training Tracking
- Audits
- Inspections
- Policy Management

Purchase the entire system for only $1,740, or go ala carte and customize it to what you need. Whether you have 20 employees or 20,000, this is a great way to assure lower blood pressure and more restful sleep. Contact us for end-of-year special pricing!

For a demo, contact Steve at 651-228-7326 or steve.rauh@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.
Help Keep Your Employees Safe on the Road

HAVE A PLAN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

With all the social gatherings this time of year it’s especially important to plan ahead for safe driving. An open house here, a holiday party there, “just one” with co-workers after work—before we realize it, we’ve drunk one (or more) too many, we’re impaired and we don’t have a plan for how to get home safely.

PROTECT YOURSELF—
AND OTHERS

- Plan for a safe ride — designate a sober driver, take a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the party.
- Offer to be a designated driver or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere.
- Buckle up — the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving. Call 911 if you see impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and to describe the dangerous behavior.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM IN MINNESOTA?

- Of all traffic deaths on our roads: nearly 1 out of 4 is drunk driving-related.
- From 2010 – 2014: 479 drunk driving-related traffic deaths
- More than 600,000 Minnesota residents have a DWI on their record – 1 out of every 7 drivers in the state!

Most people think about a sober ride home for New Year’s, but for the past five years, the percentage of drunk-driving related deaths has been significantly higher for Thanksgiving and Christmas than other holidays.

More than 300 law enforcement agencies will be working overtime this holiday season to help keep all Minnesotans safe on our roads. The extra DWI enforcement campaign started in late November and runs on weekends through January 2, 2016.

WHAT ELSE CAN EMPLOYERS DO?

The Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) and the Minnesota Safety Council encourage you to use our free materials about impaired driving (fact sheets, brochures, public service announcements, e-blasts, alcohol free drink recipes, and also see the poster on the next page) and other resources to help keep your employees and their safe. Find more traffic safety strategies and materials for employees on the Minnesota NETS website.

Winter is on the way . . . Are your employees prepared?

In addition to the basic safe driving habits we practice all year long — buckling up, driving alert and sober, and driving at a safe and legal speed — follow these special precautions for the winter months:

- Have a plan before you travel.
- Prepare your vehicle.
- Be aware of weather conditions.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions.
- Increase your following distance.
- If you find yourself stranded, stay calm and stay put.

Free downloadable resources:

- Winter Survival in Your Car brochure
- Winter Driving Tips fact sheet
FOR THE LOVE OF SNOWMEN EVERYWHERE, DON'T DRIVE BUZZED.

avoid the holiday buzz. buzzed driving is drunk driving.
CO POISONING: Protect Yourself and Your Family this Winter

In the excitement of the holiday season it’s important to remember safety basics at home, like treating icy spots on walkways, keeping an eye on stovetop cooking and putting a winter emergency kit in your car. As we head into the heart of winter, be aware of a big one: the increased risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Share the reminders and resources below to help protect yourself, your family and your co-workers.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?
Carbon monoxide is a gas you cannot see, taste or smell. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, isn’t working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can cause severe side effects or even death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning sends thousands to emergency rooms each year in the U.S., and kills more than 150 people.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning vary depending on the level of CO and length of exposure, but can include headache, fatigue, nausea, disorientation and dizziness, and can sometimes be mistaken for the flu.

REDUCE YOUR RISK
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune-up your central heating system (furnaces, flues and chimneys) annually.
- On the outside of your home, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.
- Don’t use a grill, generator or camping stove inside your home, garage or near a window.
- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home.

ALL ABOUT ALARMS
If you don’t have a carbon monoxide alarm, please go out and get one! A variety of UL-listed carbon monoxide alarms, both plug-in and battery-powered, are available at hardware, home and discount stores as well as through our Minnesota Safety Council Safety Store. Install alarms on every level of your home — Minnesota law requires that all single family and multi-family dwellings install an approved carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet of each bedroom — and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.

If the alarm goes off, immediately go outdoors or to an open window or door for fresh air. Make sure that everyone inside your home is safe. Call 911 or the fire department. Stay outside or by an open window until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

For more information on reducing CO poisoning in the workplace, see federal OSHA’s carbon monoxide fact sheet and MNOSHA’s information about CO monitoring.

Sources: Safe Kids Worldwide; National Safety Council
Snowmobile Safety

With over 22,000 miles of public and private snowmobile trails, Minnesota is a mecca for sledding enthusiasts. As with any motor vehicle, driving a snowmobile requires alertness, skill and common sense. A few reminders:

- Always pre-trip your machine before heading out. Know what specific equipment is required in Minnesota when operating on public lands, waters or highways.
- Watch the weather and check snow and trail conditions, and it’s a good idea to call the trail contact as well. Ride only on the groomed portion of designated trails or on private land where you have permission. Stay to the right, slow down and avoid riding on lakes and rivers.
- Always ride with another snowmobiler, so you’ll have options if there’s a problem with one of the sleds.
- Dress for safety and survival. Wear insulating layers, warm boots and mitts. Always wear a helmet and face mask. (Helmets are required for operators and riders age 18 and under.)
- A snowmobile is subject to many of the same kinds of laws as other motor vehicles, including speed and impairment. DNR conservation officers and other law enforcement personnel can pull you over if they have good reason to suspect you’re operating under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

For more information see the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

Find more winter safety resources on our website.

Together We Can Change the News

Eighty-seven percent of all fire-related deaths in the U.S. are due to home fires, but working smoke alarms reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent. Share these smoke alarm videos for adults and kids.

Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Used correctly, child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent. Learn more at www.safekids.org.

If you have questions or would like help with promoting off-the-job safety at your organization, please contact Erin Petersen, Coordinator of Family Safety Programs, at erin.petersen@minnesotasafetycouncil.org; 800-444-9150/651-228-7314.