

Vehicle Fatalities in Manitoba Workplaces 2017

You as employers have a responsibility to provide a healthy and safe work environment for your employees and that does not stop when they are travelling in a vehicle. There was a total of 65 fatal collisions in 2017 that resulted in 73 fatalities, and while this is a 32 percent decrease from 2016 to 2017, it is still not enough.

What does the law say?

The Workplace Safety and Health Act of Manitoba (WSHA) requires employers to do everything reasonable and practicable to ensure the safety of their employees in the workplace. The WSHA applies to vehicles if employees are operating them while on duty. Employers have a lot at stake every time an Employee gets behind the wheel. A driving safety program will help workers become better drivers on and off the job. It takes commitment from employers, supervisors, and workers to make the program a success.

How does motor vehicle safety affect Construction?

Manitobans suffered 13 Workplace fatalities in 2017 and of those fatalities 9 were related to vehicles and power mobile equipment, of those 9 vehicle related fatalities, 5 were in the construction industry.

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 licence, and having systems in place to ensure vehicles are being inspected and maintained efficiently (through pre-use checklist and maintenance schedules).

Safety is Your Destination

Safety is the number 1 priority. Make a commitment to engage in training, procedures, and practices that promote safe driving.

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.