Traffic crashes are the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the United States. More than 2,000 deaths a year result from occupational motor vehicle incidents. That number is more than 30 percent of the annual number of fatalities from occupational injuries. The annual number of work-related roadway deaths had increased to a rate of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 FTE employees by 2002. In 2005, traffic crashes resulted in 43,443 deaths and 2,699,000 injuries. An average of 119 persons died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2005. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for every age from 3 through 33.

**In short, vehicle crashes result in:**
1 fatality every 12 minutes
1 injury every 10 seconds
1 crash every 5 seconds
1 property damage crash every 7 seconds
A cost of $89 billion annually

In looking at specific age groups, traffic crashes account for forty-four percent of teen deaths in the U.S. The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16- to 19-year-olds than among any other age group. Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are four times more likely than older drivers to crash.

Motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries among older adults are rising. During 1990–1997, the number of deaths rose 14% and the number of nonfatal injuries climbed 19%. Between 1992 and 2002, nearly 3,200 workers aged 55 years and older died in motor vehicle crashes on public highways, accounting for 22% of all occupational fatalities among this worker group. Drivers ages 65 and older have higher crash death rates per mile driven than all but teen drivers.
The average cost of vehicle crashes to employers ranges from $16,500 for all crashes, jumping to $73,750 involving non-fatal injuries and $504,400 for fatal injury crashes.

What are the causes of these crashes?
- 25-50 percent of crashes caused by distracted driving
- 40 percent of crashes are alcohol-related
- 30 percent of crashes are speed-related
- 52-58% of occupants aren't belted in fatal crashes

To help reduce the number of vehicle crashes, there are several programs which employers can implement to help keep their employees safe, reduce these collisions and their associated costs. Vehicle accident prevention training should be considered, which covers distracted driving, driving under the influence, excessive speed, fatigue and aggressive driving.

Defensive driving techniques should be stressed which includes the following:
- Avoiding rear-end collisions
- Backing safety
- Avoiding deer crashes
- Inclement weather driving
- Railroad crossing safety
- Seat belt use

The implementation of a workplace safe driving program can help reduce injuries and fatalities along with providing benefits that include:
- Lower operating costs
- Improved employee relations and higher morale
- Enhanced corporate image

Commercial driver safety topics must be part of the overall program as well which would cover DOT regulations such as pre and post trip inspections, cargo securement, hours of service regulations, driver security awareness and the transport of hazardous materials.