

Safety Sound-off

VIDC Occupational Health & Safety Committee Newsletter

Road Safety at Work Week: March 6-10, 2017

In 2017, Road Safety At Work Week is March 6 to 10. This event is an opportunity for BC workplaces to improve awareness and adoption of road safety practices. Each year, Road Safety At Work Week focuses on a key aspect of workplace driving by providing tools, resources, even online courses that employers, managers and supervisors can use to build or improve safety programs.

This year, the focus is on the responsibilities organizations have for employees who drive their own vehicles for work.

Definition of an employee-owned vehicle

Employee-owned vehicles include vehicles that are owned or leased by the employee (their name is on the vehicle registration/insurance). The term also refers to vehicles that an employee rents or borrows or otherwise has "ownership" accountabilitys.

Most BC businesses – 75 per cent – understand that they have legal responsibilities for employee safety when employees drive a **company** vehicle for work. However, fewer – only 59 per cent – understand that their legal responsibilities extend to employees who drive their **own** vehicles for work.¹

The fact is employers are responsible for employee safety when employees drive for work **no matter who owns the vehicle they drive**. This is because if it is used for work, a vehicle is a workplace and without exception, employers are responsible for employee safety in the workplace.



Safety policies and procedures

Whether their employees drive their own vehicles for work every day or only occasionally, such as to pick up supplies, meet with a client or attend a meeting, every employer must have safety policies and procedures in place.

This includes checking periodically to ensure each employee has a valid driver's licence and that their vehicle is maintained in good working order. All it takes is one unguarded moment, one small mistake, and the consequences could be life-altering both for an employee and his or her organization.

Employees also responsible

Employees are also on the hook when they are behind the wheel for work. Whether they drive a company vehicle or their own, they must drive safely at all times and know and follow applicable driving laws as well as company policies and procedures. For example, if a company prohibits using hands-free cell-phones when workers drive for work, employees must comply even when they use their own vehicle for work.

Source: www.roadsafetyatwork.ca

For more information on vehicle safety, tools to develop policies, and fun things like quizzes to test your knowledge, check out the website for all sorts of great info!

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KEEP CALM AND GO TO THE NEXT UNION MEETING

Heath & Safety

Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 22, 2017: Stop Bullying Day
- ◆ March 6-10, 2017: Road Safety At Work Week
- ◆ April 28, 2017: Day of Mourning
- ◆ May 7-13, 2017: NAOSH Week
- ◆ June 22-24, 2017: Miner's Memorial Weekend



Welcome to our VIDC Health and Safety Newsletter.

Our Committee members are:
Sarah Fairbrass, Chair;
Martha Higgins; Bill Newman,
Sherrene Ross.

www.vidc.cupe.ca



What's Wrong with this Picture?

There are some things seriously wrong with this picture!! See if you can spot the issues and send them by April 30th, 2017 to: vpupe374@gmail.com to have your name entered to win a prize. The lucky winner will be announced at the next VIDC meeting and list of issues will be published in the next newsletter along with the next photo!



Last Issue's Winner: TBA

The prize this month is sponsored by the VIDC
OH&S Committee!

