



# Vehicle Safety

During the course of our work day, each of us is exposed to a number of hazards, especially when we must use equipment and machines to do our job. None of us would ever operate the equipment without first making sure that it is in good working order. Whether you use a punch press, table saw, forklift or crane, it is the operator's responsibility to make sure that it is safe to use. Each day though, most of us operate a piece of equipment that is not always in good condition, and is responsible for more injuries and deaths than all other machines. This, of course, is your automobile.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 33,561 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2012. That is an average of 91 people per day. By comparison, there were 4,383 fatal work injuries, with 1,789, or 40.8%, of those being transportation-related incidents, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

So, statistically, whether you drive a vehicle as part of your daily work duties, or just drive to and from the office, each time you get behind the wheel, you take your life into your own hands. Find out from your owner's manual about the safety features, proper maintenance and correct operation of your car. Consider keeping your road skills sharp with defensive driver refresher training.

When it comes to your car, do you follow the same safety precautions with the vehicle as you would take with the other equipment you operate?

## Before You Get In, Ask Yourself These Questions

- How often do you service the vehicle?
- How often do you check the brakes?
- Do the headlights, taillights and horn work?
- Is there air in the spare tire?
- Is there a fire extinguisher, flares or triangles in case of a breakdown?

## When You Start Up, Do You Operate the Vehicle Safely?

- Do you drive defensively?
- Do you avoid distractions? (Cell or smartphone, beverage/food, adjusting windows/radio, etc.)
- Do you always wear your seatbelt?
- Do you drive at a high rate of speed?

Remember, you cannot do a good job for us here at work, if you do not make it to work safely.

**DON'T BE A STATISTIC — DRIVE SAFELY!**

