

The Top 5 Safety Hazards in the Transportation Industry

Workers who drive for a living have a long list of extra considerations to keep in mind when they enter their vehicle each day. They also face a number of challenges associated with driving for long periods of time. The following are five common issues that can pose hazards to driver safety.

Driving Without Awareness and Distracted Driving

When attention goes down, the chances of a car crash go up. Distracted drivers are nearly 3 times more likely to be involved in a collision than attentive drivers. It can be difficult to stay concentrating after hours of driving. Distracted driving is also caused by multitasking and technology.

Slips and Falls

Slips and falls are a huge problem in the transportation industry, especially during the winter months when ice and slush coated roads and vehicles. Slippery surfaces don't discriminate based on the number of years on the job. Slips, trips and falls are caused by both physical and human factors. Drivers rushing to get into their truck or tired after a long day on the road are less likely to hold onto the handrail or test their footing before exiting the vehicle.

Failure to Conduct Proper Walk Around Inspections

Bad weather or being in a hurry can tempt many drivers to rush through vehicle inspections leading to essential issues going unnoticed. Even when walk around inspections are conducted and potential issues are noticed, time, money and complacency can put off important fixes until the next trip and by then it could be too late. Truck maintenance issues left until later could also easily be forgotten if left undocumented or uncommunicated.

Other Drivers and Changing Conditions

People feeling rushed or annoyed by other drivers are more likely to take unnecessary risks. A person's state of mind can lead to aggressive or careless driving and cause collisions. Failure to recognize changing environmental and road conditions, accidents, or reduced visibility can all stem from driver inattention and complacency. When temperatures dip, it starts raining or the snow begins to fly, drivers are exposed to potential conditions causing accidents.

Fatigue

Fatigue is often brushed off as a normal state of affairs you endure with a bit of willpower. But when drivers become fatigued they're not just tired, they're dangerously handicapped by physical and mental changes. Fatigue slows down reaction times, lowers attention and concentration levels, and increases errors. When drivers are fatigued they're much more likely to become distracted or stressed, or take their eyes off the road. Being fatigued while driving is just as dangerous as drinking and driving.

If you would like to book a no-cost 30 minute virtual consultation please use the link to schedule your session.

<https://sooleyssafetyservices.ca/services/ola/services/online-consultation>