



Alabama Trucking Association
Workers Compensation Fund



An OSHA Cooperative Program

A Newsletter For Our Members Where Safety Is Our Primary Concern!

**March
2016**

STAFF

KIMBLE E. COAKER, CPA
CEO/Administrator

DON BOATRIGHT
Chief Operating Officer
dboatright@atacompfund.org

TODD HAGER
Director of Claims
thager@atacompfund.org

DEBRA L. CALHOUN
Office Manager
dcalhoun@atacompfund.org

DON ANCHORS, CDS, CBES
Director of Loss Control
and Safety
danchors@atacompfund.org

DUANE CALHOUN, CDS
Loss Control Engineer
tdcalhoun@atacompfund.org

MICHAEL SMITH, CDS
Loss Control Engineer
msmith@atacompfund.org

VICTOR WHATLEY
Loss Control Engineer
vwhatley@atacompfund.org

KIMBERLY K. BEST
Payroll/Audit Coordinator
kbest@atacompfund.org

KIM CAMPBELL
Underwriting Coordinator
kcampbell@atacompfund.org

KATIE EDWARDS
Accounting Specialist
kedwards@atacompfund.org

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES COSTS EMPLOYERS!!!!!!

A new report recently released by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) states that U.S. traffic crashes cost employers nearly \$47.4 billion (that's right, BILLION) in direct crash-related expenses. The direct costs alone are staggering (medical care, indemnity payments, liability, property damage), so just think what the indirect costs would be (lost productivity, costs for replacing and training new driver, insurance costs, diminished value of vehicles), this list goes on and on.....

Driver behavior plays a significant role in crash-related expenses and it is imperative that drivers make safe choices. Below are the four major crash-related expenses for employers:

- SPEEDING – \$8.4 billion
- DISTRACTED DRIVING – \$8.2 billion
- DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE – \$6.8 billion
- NOT WEARING SEAT BELT – \$4.1 billion



These four crash-related combined expenses total over \$27.5 billion in losses. We see the same proportion of crash-related expenses here at the ATAWCSIF with Speeding and Distracted Driving being our two main culprits.

SPEEDING

First and foremost, the main consequence of speeding and/or distracted driving is that someone can get seriously hurt. When you make the decision to speed, you put yourself, your passengers, and others who are on the road in danger. If you do get caught speeding, you will most likely receive a speeding ticket, which could be quite expensive. If you receive a speeding ticket, then you will most likely find that your insurance rate will increase along with possibility of having license revoked or suspended. Having your license revoked/suspended will cost you your job! Therefore, don't speed!

DISTRACTED DRIVING

The level of danger that a moment of lost concentration can bring is multiplied when driving a CVM. Blind spots, the inability to brake as fast, and a number of other factors play into the difficulty that is regularly associated with driving a large commercial truck. Each day in the U.S., more than 9 people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. Distracted driving is driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from driving and certainly increases the chance of a motor vehicle crash. Below are some statistics on distracting behaviors that hold the greatest crash risk.

Unsafe Driving Behavior	Increased Crash Risk
Texting	23 times
Reaching for object in the vehicle	9 times
Using a cell phone	4 times
Driving drowsy	4 times
Reading	3.4 times
Applying makeup	3 times



SHOP SAFETY – SCISSOR LIFTS



Some of our Fund members have warehousing operations where scissors are utilized. We have seen some recent claim activity with significant incurred costs as a result of unsafe scissor lift work practices. Scissor lifts provide a safe and reliable platform for workers to perform job tasks when used according to the manufacturer's instructions. When not used properly, scissor lifts can present a serious hazard to workers. Employers are responsible for keeping workers safe. During a one-year period, OSHA investigated scissor lift-related incidents that killed 10 people and injured more than 20. All of the incidents were preventable and most were the result of employers not addressing fall protection, stabilization or positioning.

Here are some safety tips if your employees are using scissor lifts:

- Scissor lifts should be installed with guardrails.
- Only trained workers should be allowed to use scissor lifts, and that training should include never standing on the guardrails and keeping work within easy reach to avoid leaning away from the lift.
- Employers should ensure scissor lifts are stable by following the manufacturer's instructions and using the device outside only in good weather conditions.
- Position scissor lifts at least 10 feet away from electrical power sources and implement traffic controls to prevent workers or vehicles from approaching the lifts.



Go to OSHA's website to obtain further information working safely with scissor lifts. NIOSH has also developed a webpage about aerial lifts and their risks to workers. The webpage links to requirements from OSHA and standards from ANSI for safe work practices. The webpage has a simulator that shows how scissor lifts respond to different conditions, i.e. tilting, wind speed and curb impact. The simulator also allows users to operate a virtual aerial lift and identify hazards such as potholes.

If scissor lifts are a part of your workplace, make sure your employees are properly trained and are made aware of hazards and conditions that could affect safety. Below are the links to the OSHA Hazard Alert and the NIOSH Aerial Lift Simulator.

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3842.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/aeriallift.html>