Fleet Safety

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of work-related injuries. Crashes on and off the job have far-reaching financial and psychological effects on employees, their coworkers and families, and their employers. The real tragedy is that these crashes are largely preventable. In response to this, the Board of Risk and Insurance Management has developed vehicle/driver safety initiatives, set forth in the Standards of Participation program, for employers to reduce motor vehicle crashes. In addition to implementing a comprehensive fleet management program, it is recommended that all employees who operate a vehicle (whether private or entity-owned) for work-related duties are provided training on safe vehicle operations on an annual basis.

A comprehensive fleet management program should be implemented to:

A. Save lives and to reduce the risk of life-altering injuries within your workforce.

B. Protect your organization's human and financial resources.

C. Guard against potential company and personal liabilities associated with crashes involving employees driving on company business.

A comprehensive fleet management program will help to keep the driver and those with whom he/she shares the road safe. Additionally, the program can change driver attitudes, improve behavior, and increase skills to build a "be safe" culture. By instructing employees in basic safe driving practices and then rewarding safety-conscious behavior, you can help employees and their families avoid tragedy.

An effective program requires the full cooperation of each driver to operate his/her vehicle in the safest possible manner and to comply fully with their responsibilities as outlined in a Fleet Safety Program.

A comprehensive fleet management program should include:

A. Assigning responsibilities at all levels of employment

B. Vehicle usage

C. Employee driver's license checks

D. Accident reporting and investigation

E. Accident Review Committee

F. Vehicle selection and maintenance

G. Training standards

H. Car phone safety

I. Fleet safety rules

J. Driver Recognition Program

A comprehensive fleet management program provides guidelines for what an employer can do to improve traffic safety performance and minimize the risk of motor vehicle crashes. Employers have enormous power to protect their businesses by educating their employees about safe driving practices. Following these guidelines helps to ensure that you hire capable drivers, only allow eligible drivers to drive on company business, train them, supervise them, and maintain company vehicles properly. Adhering to the guidelines set forth in a comprehensive fleet safety program can also help to keep your motor vehicle insurance costs as low as possible. A comprehensive fleet management program can be found in the sample Loss Control Manual, developed by the Board of Risk and Insurance Management, at http://www.state.wv.us/brim/Loss/losscntl.htm.

References:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov

Board of Risk and Insurance Management Sample Loss Control Manual
http://www.state.wv.us/brim/Loss/losscntl.htm

Contributed by: Jill Farrar, Safety/Loss Control Specialist, WV BRIM