



# **Indiana**

## **Department of Labor**

*Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **State Encourages Fleet Managers to Develop and Enforce Driver Safety Programs**

INDIANAPOLIS (April 8, 2013) – Transportation-related incidents were the leading cause of workplace fatalities in Indiana in 2011. During that time, more than 40 Hoosier workers were killed in incidents that occurred on or on the side of roadways. Three worker deaths also occurred in construction work zones.

The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) has launched a statewide safety initiative aimed at reducing workplace transportation-related deaths. The department urges construction contractors and industry workers to develop, implement and enforce construction work zone safety policies and procedures.

“For Hoosier families, a transportation-related incident that takes the life of a loved one is a deep loss,” IDOL Commissioner Sean M. Keefer said, “This very real loss drives the Indiana Department of Labor to seek improvements to better educate the public and enforce workplace safety in construction work zones.”

The following are important tips to help employers manage their mobile workforce:

- **Do** assign a key member of the management team the responsibility and authority to establish and enforce a comprehensive driver safety program.
- **Do** enforce mandatory seatbelt use.
- **Do** develop work schedules that allow employees to adhere to speed limits and account for weather conditions such as heavy rain, excessive wind speed, snow, sleet and hail.
- **Do** encourage employees to develop an alternate route of travel prior to leaving the station. This will help lessen driving-related stress in areas of heavy traffic or construction zones.
- **Do not** require workers to drive irregular hours or far beyond their normal working hours.

- **Do not** allow drivers to engage in distracted driving behaviors. Drivers should not use cell phones or communication radios, including hands-free headsets, or other electronic devices such as GPS units or tablet PCs while driving.

“The Indiana Department of Labor will work with companies, associations, and industry representatives to proactively address transportation-related hazards and exposures,” added Keefer. “Working together, we can reduce the number and severity of transportation-related incidents.”

For more information about transportation safety and access to resources, please visit the Indiana Department of Labor’s transportation safety website at [www.in.gov/dol/2385.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/2385.htm). Additional information on work zone safety including articles and public service announcements are available at [www.in.gov/dol/workzonesafety](http://www.in.gov/dol/workzonesafety).

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**About the Indiana Department of Labor:**

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol)

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