

KCASA Safety and Compliance Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

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Prepare your business for winter storms

You don't need a weather man to know that it is almost winter and with that will come the potential for extreme storms. Before they hit, prepare your business to handle extreme cold and snow. Take action this fall to protect employees from injuries and illnesses, minimize damage and recover quicker following a winter storm situation.

Here's a quick checklist to help you get ready.

1. Get familiar with NOAA National Weather Service and weather warning systems.
2. Replenish emergency stockpiles and supplies in a safe location onsite.
3. Prepare for power outages: test the back-up emergency power generator, and back-up heating source.
4. Check condition of sandbags, shovels, road salt or ice melt.
5. Have a business emergency/continuity plan.
6. Maintain an inventory of all equipment and assets for your business in the event of structural damage.
7. Review FEMA's Emergency Checklist as you prepare your emergency kit.



Help your employees prepare for winter storms!



This newsletter is provided to KCASA members by:

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Final Rule That Bans Hand-Held Cell Phone Use by Drivers of Buses and Large

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Final Rule That Bans Hand-Held Cell Phone Use by Drivers of Buses and Large Trucks

WASHINGTON - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced a final rule specifically prohibiting interstate truck and bus drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating their vehicles. The joint rule from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is the latest action by the U.S. Department of Transportation to end distracted driving.

The final rule prohibits commercial drivers from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial truck or bus. Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) after two or more serious traffic violations. Commercial truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving will face a maximum penalty of \$11,000. Approximately four million commercial drivers would be affected by this final rule.

"This final rule represents a giant leap for safety," said FMCSA Administrator Anne S. Ferro. "It's just too dangerous for drivers to use a hand-held cell phone while operating a commercial vehicle. Drivers must keep their eyes on the road, hands on the wheel and head in the game when operating on our roads. Lives are at stake."

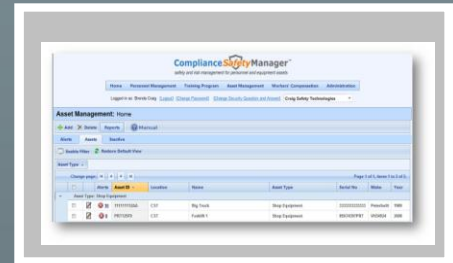
While driver distraction studies have produced mixed results, FMCSA research shows that using a hand-held cell phone while driving requires a commercial driver to take several risky steps beyond what is required for using a hands-free mobile phone, including searching and reaching for the phone. Commercial drivers reaching for an object, such as a cell phone, are three times more likely to be involved in a crash or other safety-critical event. Dialing a hand-held cell phone makes it six times more likely that commercial drivers will be involved in a crash or other safety-critical event.

"Needless injuries and deaths happen when people are distracted behind the wheel," said PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman. "Our final rule would improve safety and reduce risks of hazmat in transportation."

Nearly 5474 people died and half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver in 2009. Distraction-related fatalities represented 16 percent of overall traffic fatalities in 2009, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research. To learn more about the U.S. Department of Transportation's efforts to stop distracted driving, please visit <http://www.distraction.gov>

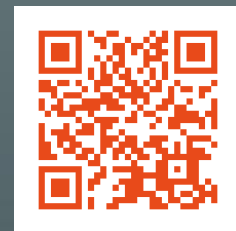
FEATURED PRODUCT:

COMPLIANCE SAFETY MANAGER



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