

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH



JUNE 2020

Signal Administration: Safe Driving

Nearly all Signal Members employ workers that operate company vehicles or utilize personal vehicles on company business. These essential activities bring significant risk to our organizations. Work-related motor vehicle transportation incidents resulting in injuries are consistently atop the annual data published by The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Incidents occur in various settings including roadways, member facilities, and parking lots. Often, the results are severe life altering injuries or loss of life.

As part of our focus during National Safety Month, we should internally audit and evaluate the maturity level of our motor vehicle safety programs. Our organizations need to develop and maintain processes within the safety management system to identify, assess, and control the risks of motor vehicle operation. Elements to consider should include driver authorization, qualifications, safe driving policies, training, accountability, incident reviews, and vehicle maintenance.

Periodic motor vehicle record (MVR) checks will assist in selecting and authorizing all approved drivers. Verify that MVRs are completed on workers that can slip through the cracks, such as new-hires or existing workers that shift from a non-driving role. Increase the competency of drivers by mandating initial training and refresher sessions on your program requirements and safe driving techniques. Push the basics such as seatbelt use, safe speeds, proper signals, and setting mirrors. Leaders should commit to providing employees with safe, well maintained vehicles that they are expected to properly care for. Ensure that all drivers are knowledgeable in incident reporting and investigations. Supply a kit within each vehicle that includes reporting tools and documentation. Safety equipment such as a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, high visibility vest, roadside reflectors, and escape tools should also be provided.

Evaluate your program's standards, focus on prevention, and continuously improve. You will see enhanced culture and performance around driving safety in your organization.

For more information, please visit signalmutual.com or contact your regional Safety Manager.



About the Author: John Belcher, Senior Safety Manager, Signal Administration

John brings over 17 years' experience in maritime industry environmental health and safety as well as risk control to Signal. John obtained his Bachelor of Science in Maritime Administration from Texas A&M University at Galveston. He has a strong belief in the Mutual's mission and the support for continuous improvement that our organization provides for its membership. He promotes safety management systems with an emphasis on leadership of top management and worker participation.

