

# SAFETY FACTS: MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death at work in New Mexico. Motor vehicle accidents tend to result in more serious injuries than other types of accidents – almost 30 percent of all compensable fatalities are this type.

## CAUSES

- Failure to wear seat belts
- Lack of attention while driving
- Excessive speed
- Violations of state law and company policy
- Driving under the influence
- Failure to drive with regard to road conditions

## IDEAS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Develop a company policy that covers driving while at work.
- Consider including the following:
  - The use of seat belts in company vehicles is mandatory
  - Only specifically authorized employees with valid and company verified licenses may operate company vehicles or personally owned vehicles on company business
  - Prohibit alcohol and drug use in company vehicles
  - Offer Defensive Driving courses to employees
  - Develop a vehicle safety inspection and maintenance program
  - Establish a safety awards program to recognize good drivers

## IDEAS FOR EMPLOYEES

- Wear seat belts and ensure your passengers do the same
- Never drink and drive
- Obey all traffic laws
- Inspect your vehicle before driving and report defects to a supervisor
- Do not drive the vehicle if safety problems are not corrected
- Be alert to changing road conditions and drive defensively