

Environment aware:

# Summer driving

Use this guide to lead a discussion with employees to raise awareness about the changes summer can have on driving. Empower them with strategies to minimize risks and become safer drivers. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

While weather conditions significantly impact car accidents, it's interesting to note that the season with the highest number of roadway crashes is not winter—it's summer. During the winter months, both vehicle miles and deaths go down, while in the summer months, vehicle miles and deaths increase.<sup>1</sup> It's crucial to review summer driving safety tips to help prevent breakdowns and highway crashes.

## 1 Driving under the influence:

Summer vacations, outdoor gatherings, and barbecues often involve alcohol. Unfortunately, this leads to an increase in alcohol-related incidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), summer sees a significant rise in alcohol-impaired drivers, and crashes involving them nearly double compared to other months. As you hit the road this summer, keep in mind that you're sharing it with more intoxicated drivers, so stay vigilant and drive defensively.

## 2 Heat-related vehicle issues:

Regularly inspect the vehicle's cooling system. Ensure that the radiator, hoses, and coolant levels are in good condition. Overheating engines can lead to severe damage, so preventive maintenance is crucial. High temperatures cause the air inside tires to expand. This can be especially problematic if your tires are already worn. To reduce the risk of blowouts, check your tire pressure using a gauge and maintain proper inflation. A blowout can result in loss of steering control and increase the likelihood of a collision.

## 3 Increased traffic and unfamiliar drivers:

Summer traffic surges due to vacations, students out of school, and increased outdoor activity. This leads to congestion, longer travel times, and a higher accident risk. Unfamiliar tourists and distracted driving further contribute to potential collisions. Be cautious around drivers who may not be well acquainted with the area.

## 4 Construction zones:

Summer is prime time for road construction projects. Look for the orange diamonds—these signs are placed alongside the roadway well before the actual construction zone to warn drivers. As soon as you see a “work zone ahead” sign, reduce your speed and be on the lookout for workers, machinery, and obstacles. Maintain safe following distances, don't tailgate. Be patient and expect the unexpected, construction zones can often lead to unexpected changes in traffic flow.

## 5 Glare and sun angle:

Safe driving involves not only obeying traffic rules but also being aware of environmental factors like glare. Intense sunlight can create blinding glare, especially during sunrise and sunset. This glare reduces visibility, making it challenging to see the road, traffic signals, and other vehicles. Use sunglasses, keep windshields clean both inside and outside, and adjust sun visors appropriately.

<sup>1</sup> Motor Vehicle - Crashes by Month - Injury Facts ([injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/overview/crashes-by-month](https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/overview/crashes-by-month))

For additional information related to driver safety, visit [MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5](https://MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5)

For further guidance, refer to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Summer Driving Tips ([nhtsa.gov/summer-driving-tips](https://nhtsa.gov/summer-driving-tips)).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at [RMSolutions@nationwide.com](mailto:RMSolutions@nationwide.com) or 1-800-260-1356.

NationwideAgribusiness.com

The information used to create this brochure was obtained from sources believed to be reliable to help users address their own risk management and insurance needs. It does not and is not intended to provide legal advice. Nationwide, its affiliates and employees do not guarantee improved results based upon the information contained herein and assume no liability in connection with the information or the provided suggestions. The recommendations provided are general in nature; unique circumstances may not warrant or require implementation of some or all of the suggestions. Nationwide, Nationwide is on your side and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Third-party marks that appear in this message are the property of their respective owners. © 2024 Nationwide GCO-0836AO (06/24)

# Toolbox Talk

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Environment aware: Summer driving

Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____
Participant Name: _____	Signature: _____

## Discussion notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---