

Safety First...it's the right thing to do!



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Oilfield workers at higher risk of fatal motor vehicle accidents

Take an industry where the workers are disproportionately young, male and work long hours, driving pickup trucks on rural highways.

The result, according to a recent study, is that oil and gas workers are **8.5 times** more likely to **die** in a motor vehicle accident while on the job than people who work in other industries.

More than one-third of the oil-field workers killed in on-the-job traffic accidents between 2003 and 2009 were working in Texas, a reflection of the industry's strength here.

According to analysis data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 202 oil and gas extraction workers died in motor vehicle accidents while on the job between 2003 and 2009. This number represents people working for operators, drilling contractors and well service companies.

Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 28 percent of all work-related deaths among people in the industry during that period, making it the leading cause of on-the-job deaths, according to the study. Among other major industry groups, only people working in transportation and warehousing had a higher rate of vehicle-related fatalities.

More than half of the fatalities involved a pickup truck, which don't require drivers to have a commercial driver's license. About 56 percent of the fatal accidents involved only one vehicle. Lengthy drives on rural roads, long work hours and driver fatigue are possible contributing factors. **But seat belt use — or the lack of it — is a major factor in the high death rates. Seat belts weren't worn, or the victim was ejected from the car, suggesting that a seat belt wasn't worn, in half of the deaths.** Lap and shoulder belts can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent in light trucks.

Ref-Chem's Driver and Transportation Safety Procedure states; All operators and passengers **must** use seat belts and shoulder harnesses, if the vehicle is so equipped.

Informative:

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Oil and gas workers are 8.5 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle accident while on the job than people who work in other industries.

Source: Houston Chronicle/Business

