

## Fatal Facts

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### **INCIDENT #1 - Workers killed off-hours in a company owned vehicle**

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT**

Four workers were in a six-passenger pickup truck driving on a two lane blacktop paved road. These workers were traveling home after their shift. It was night and the road was wet. The driver approached a left-hand curve at an unsafe speed and failed to negotiate the curve. The truck went into a skid and onto the unimproved shoulder, rolled over five times, and came to rest in an upright position off the roadway. The driver and one of the rear passengers were ejected as the truck rolled over and they were killed. The two coworkers that remained in the vehicle during the rollover sustained minor injuries. Only one person out of the four was wearing a seat belt. The speed limit on the curve was 40 mph (dry conditions), and the truck was determined to have been traveling at 47 mph.

#### **ACCIDENT PREVENTION**

1. Require employees to wear seat belts when they are traveling in company vehicles.
2. Develop and implement a company vehicle safety program for all employees, e.g., supervisors, crew members, sales personnel, etc.
3. Instruct employees to comply with all highway safety regulations and to reduce driving speed during inclement weather and when road conditions have deteriorated.
4. Stress to employees that operating vehicles while fatigued is dangerous to themselves, their passengers, and others that may encounter their vehicle. Make sure that employees understand that management does not want them driving if they are too fatigued to drive safely.
5. Ensure vehicles are properly maintained, e.g., brakes, tire pressure, etc.

#### **COMMENTARY**

It is imperative to recognize that even though the workers were off-hours, they were still in a company owned vehicle. Confirm with your insurer what liabilities your company undertakes when employees operate your vehicles, even if they have strayed from their original authorized usage. As part of your company vehicle safety program include a prohibition on drug and alcohol usage. Require valid driver's licenses with severe disciplinary penalties for operating a company vehicle without one.