



Working together to eliminate road death and serious injuries

**Bringing you important news for business drivers**

**May 2009**

### **In the Health & Safety limelight**

DriveTech FleetSafe will be exhibiting at the Health & Safety Expo at the NEC between May 12 and 14 and would be very pleased to welcome any customers who are visiting on the stand (F56, Hall 1).

We are principally promoting our **DrivingMonitor** product but also stressing how all of our products and services can assist with duty of care and health and safety compliance.

For more information about the show or to register for free entry ahead of time please click here:

[www.safety-health-expo.co.uk](http://www.safety-health-expo.co.uk)

### **Swine Flue**

Although the media is clearly hyping the Swine Flue story out of all proportion, it clearly pays to take simple, sensible steps to minimise the chances of infection. Readers are very welcome to download the advice currently on the DriveTech website, by clicking here:

[www.drivetech.co.uk/fleetsafe/rr\\_kb\\_useful\\_docs.htm](http://www.drivetech.co.uk/fleetsafe/rr_kb_useful_docs.htm)

### **Driver CPC courses now available**

As many of you will know, it is now a mandatory requirement for PSV (from last September) and LGV drivers (from this coming September) to have 35 hours of additional, approved training within a fixed timeframe.

DriveTech is pleased to announce that it currently has seven different Driver CPC courses approved by the regulatory body, JAUPT, which meet this need:

**Full day (7 hours)**

Driver CPC Speed Workshop (PCV and LGV)

Driver CPC Safe Culture Workshop (PCV and LGV)

Driver CPC Real World Training Course (LGV only)

**Half day (3.5 hours)**

Driver CPC Mobile Phone Workshop (PCV and LGV)

Driver CPC Eco Driving Workshop (PCV and LGV)

Driver CPC Reversing and Manoeuvring Course (LGV and PCV)

Driver CPC Seatbelt Workshop (PCV and LGV)

As usual Kelly Robertson is the one who can supply more information, either on 01344 467886 or via [tellmemore@drivetech.co.uk](mailto:tellmemore@drivetech.co.uk)

**Quality ingrained in our culture**

DriveTech was one of the first companies to be re-accredited recently under the new, more strict parameters of ISO9001 and the current accreditation now runs through to 2012. The company is also now aligned to the standards for ISO 4001 for Environmental Compliance, ISO 18001 Health & Safety Compliance, BS25999 Business Continuity Planning, ISO 17799 Information Security Compliance and is actively working towards full accreditation in the next 9-12 months.

DriveTech has also become a British Quality Foundation member and is adopting the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) blueprint model for quality practices across the business.

**Hayfever hazard**

The late spring sunshine has acted as a catalyst for the distribution for the first burst of airborne pollen of the season and, as 21 per cent of motorists claim to be affected whilst driving, it can present a serious road safety hazard.

Whilst drivers should be encouraged to take remedies to combat the effects, it is vital that they read the label before purchasing to ensure that the product doesn't cause side effects that could compromise their judgment or alertness.

Professor Brian Lipworth at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in Dundee said, "When you think that sneezing once whilst driving at 70 mph could mean travelling almost 300 feet with your eyes closed, it's clear that this is a very dangerous issue that could potentially lead to a fatal collision."

### **Long jail term for texter**

Although DriveTech customers will be only too aware of the dangers of using any form of mobile communications device whilst driving, we felt it important to flag up that a driver who was texting at the wheel, and subsequently caused the death of a mother of two, was recently jailed for nine years (and paradoxically banned for seven) for causing death by dangerous driving.

This is another example of the effect of the increased penalties that now apply as a result of the Health & Safety (Offences) Act which became law in January.

### **Pothole misery**

According to the Asphalt Industry Alliance there is a pothole every 120 yards in this country, making a total of 13,000 potholes for every local authority area!

Although last year a total of 968,195 potholes were filled at a cost of over £62 million, this expenditure comes nowhere near solving the problem and 74% of all councils agree with our stance that potholes represent a serious road safety hazard.

If you hit one by mistake it can not only severely damage a tyre and rim but it can deflect you sufficiently off course to run the risk of running into the opposite carriageway or off the road entirely.

The only sure way to avoid trouble is keep your visual scanning routine up rigorously – whilst it's important to look well ahead for early anticipation of hazards to come it's equally important to scan the road in the short and middle distance for anything that might require a change of direction, however slight.

**Issued by the DriveTech Communications Department.**

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