

Ongoing Driver Training Ideas

A guide to selecting topics for ongoing professional driver training

Background

Professional driver training is a significant part of any carrier's safety program. Whether we are discussing an occupational health and safety (OHS) program or National Safety Code (NSC) program, no program is complete without addressing this topic.

Training upon hiring and job-specific orientation are critically important. But, training should not end with orientation. Updates on job changes, newly identified hazards, and recurring seasonal topics are all sources of training topics.

Job changes and newly identified hazards should be communicated out from the carrier as they appear. If work remains largely routine, though, ongoing training programs will need to look for other topics to create training material.

This bulletin will give suggestions for carriers to use for ongoing training. Much of what follows is applicable all year; other topics are seasonal. If you are having a hard time thinking of ideas for the next safety newsletter, safety meeting, or training session, the ideas below can serve as starting points. We will start with providing summaries of existing government resources applicable to trucking and bussing; then, we will review what resources AMTA has freely available to carriers for use in their safety programs.

Government Resources

The Government of Alberta provides resources to employers both from a traffic perspective and from an OHS perspective.

Alberta Traffic Safety Plan Calendar

The [Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar](#) presents monthly topics related to traffic safety in Alberta [1]. Developed from collision information and input from the public and other stakeholders, the calendar document is used to coordinate law enforcement and traffic safety communications around issues that are most prominent at certain times of the year.

Carriers may find it useful to see what traffic safety topics Alberta emphasizes at certain times of the year. This document can be used to create timely safety messaging within carriers.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Resources

While they focus on training for commercial vehicle enforcement officers, individual fleets can learn a lot about on-road safety and vehicle inspections from CVSA.



[CVSA's](#) website offers information on commercial vehicle inspections, fatigue management, and common industry defects [2]. Carriers can use these resources to help train their fleets and can view CVSA webinars, events that provide fleet safety professionals with ideas for internal safety training and meetings.

Alberta OHS Prevention Initiative

Even if you are focusing on the on-road portion of your safety program, incorporating OHS material into your training is a way to promote driver health and wellness in ways not typically addressed by NSC-specific safety training.

The Government of Alberta has a current program called the [OHS Prevention Initiative](#) [3]. This program provides employers with free resources to use to help reduce injury rates and frequencies, focusing on high-impact injury categories in the Province [4].

AMTA Resources

Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) offers free resources which can serve as starting points for carriers in their own safety programs. Our bulletins and micro-learn videos can also be used as standalone resources for safety meetings, ongoing training programs, and carrier safety communications.

AMTA Micro-Learn Videos

AMTA produces micro-learn videos to address priority areas in Alberta's OHS Prevention Initiative in ways that are specific to the trucking industry. Our [micro-learn library](#) is available online and offers content well-suited to orientations, safety-related communications, and safety meetings [5].

A micro-learn is a short (typically less than 2 minutes) safety video. These can be of great value for carriers that have limited ability to host large safety meetings due to drivers not frequenting a common location. Contact AMTA for details on how to incorporate these videos into your safety program.

WSS Bulletins

Workplace Support Services (WSS) is the branch of AMTA that offers carriers with one-on-one consultation services for concerns related to OHS, human resources, labour, and National Safety Code (NSC) compliance [6]. You will find, on the [WSS webpage](#), bulletins on a variety of topics related to carrier operations, and WSS can be contacted for additional information on anything present in the bulletins.

Need Help? Contact AMTA

AMTA can provide carriers with guidance on the information presented in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact AMTA and our experienced staff will be happy to help. For your safety and compliance questions, please email Workplace Support Services (WSS) directly at wss@amta.ca.

For more updates like this on a variety of topics related to the trucking industry, please [sign up for our eNews](#).

References

- 1 – Government of Alberta. 2022. “Alberta Traffic Safety Plan.” Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-traffic-safety-plan.aspx#jumplinks-2>
- 2 – Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. 2022. “Programs.” Other sections of this website have information on training and webinars. Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://www.cvsa.org/programs/>
- 3 – Government of Alberta. 2021. “OHS prevention initiative.” Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://www.alberta.ca/occupational-health-and-safety-prevention-initiative.aspx>
- 4 – Alberta Labour. 2019. “Prevention Initiative for Alberta’s Occupational Health and Safety System.” Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ec4efe3e-469f-4926-ba64-0f3ec6362e98/resource/6ba00b2a-9c3a-4e18-8249-c8f2bb31bef0/download/prevention-initiative.pdf>
- 5 – Alberta Motor Transport Association. 2020 (with more recently-published content). “AMTA Micro-Learn Library.” Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://amta.ca/what-we-do/safety-training/amta-micro-learn-library-2/>
- 6 – Alberta Motor Transport Association. 2020 (with more recently-published content). “Workplace Support Services.” Accessed January 26th, 2022, from <https://amta.ca/what-we-do/workplace-support-services/>