



Kentucky Personnel Cabinet
Office of the Secretary

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Commonwealth of Kentucky Recognized for Employee Safety
June is National Safety Month

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 2, 2009) – For the second straight year, the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet received the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award from the National Safety Council (NSC). The council announces the winners each year in June during National Safety Month.

The Commonwealth was eligible to receive the award based on the low number of workplace-related injuries reported in 2008. Statistics from the NSC indicate unintentional injuries to be the fifth-leading cause of death in the U.S., claiming over 120,000 lives in 2007. They also estimate these injuries cost the nation \$684.4 billion in lost productivity, health care cost and other related expenses.

“We are honored to be recognized by the National Safety Council as a workplace that places great value on employee safety,” said Scott Gasser, state safety director for the Personnel Cabinet. “National Safety Month is a time where we focus on educating and developing opportunities for employees to learn how they can prevent work-related injuries.”

Each week in June, the Cabinet is partnering with the NSC to coordinate educational experiences for employees on this year’s four nationally chosen topics*:

- **Teen Driving**, June 1-7. National traffic crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities in the U.S., accounting for 38 percent of all teen deaths. In 2007, there were 5,100 crashes involving drivers ages 16-19.
- **Falls Prevention**, June 8-14. Falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injuries for most age groups. During 2007, over 21,700 people in the U.S. died from falls.
- **Overexertion**, June 15-21. Back strain and other forms of overexertion are a

leading cause of workplace injuries and are responsible for nearly 3.5 million injuries every year in the U.S.

- **Distracted Driving**, June 22-28. The NSC estimates driver inattention is a factor in about 80 percent of all collisions. In fact, it is estimated that cell phone distractions contribute to 636,000 crashes and 2,600 deaths each year.

To learn more about the Personnel Cabinet's Safety Program and to view online safety materials, visit <http://personnel.ky.gov/emprel/safetyprogram/default.htm>.

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**Statistical information on each topic was provided by the National Safety Council*