

# TASK FORCE TALK



## DRIVER SAFETY

Category: *Ground Support - Safety*

Driving is an essential requirement for US&R Task Forces and Incident Support Team (IST) personnel responding to; working at; or returning home from a deployment. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the U.S. In fact, 46% of all EMS provider fatalities were related to motor vehicle crashes during the 2013-2017 period. The “Most Wanted List” for 2019-2020, is an annual report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) that details what the agency views as the most pressing transportation safety risks. Here are three that apply to US&R personnel:

#1 *Distracted Driving* – reading maps, phones, or anything that takes your eyes off the road

#5 *Reduce Speed Related Crashes* – inattention or too fast for road conditions

#8 *Reduce Fatigue Related Crashes* – improper work/rest cycles or driver rotations

## Key Points:

Have any of these risks affected you or your current driver? The following key points are provided to reduce the probability of an accident from occurring:

- Identify the travel route ahead of time
- Establish common communications if traveling with other vehicles
- Travel in pairs to allow the passenger to be the navigator/communicator/facilitator
- Monitor weather/road conditions/road closures
- Drive at a speed based on existing road conditions (traffic/weather)
- Make frequent stops for food and/or fuel or just to stretch your legs
- Swap driving responsibilities with qualified drivers
- Have an alternative plan if travel conditions change
- STOP if:
  - Unable to concentrate on the road
  - Eyes are heavy – nodding off
  - Need to read a text or email
  - Unsafe road conditions

This Task Force Talk is focusing on getting you to where you need to go.....Safely.

Please follow the key points and always Wear a Seat Belt!

References:

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health – [Motor Vehicle Safety at Work](#) (2020)

National Transportation Safety Board (2019-2020)

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## Share your topic - OR - Submit feedback:

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