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Why a Toolbox Talk on Business Driving

- Risk assessment identifies this as a high risk
- 15 times more likely to be killed on the road than at work
- 1/3 of all road casualties involve business driving
- Health and safety law applies to on-the-road work activities
- A lot of Brett staff drive many miles
How should we control the risk? – before the journey

• Every Business must have a driving risk assessment for it’s staff

• When planning the journey, consider
  – Distance to be driven
  – Estimated time taken (add at least 10% for delays)
  – Hours already worked & due to be worked
  – Time of day of journey
  – Weather conditions
How should we control the risk? – before the journey

- Don’t forget that alcohol stays in your system & takes approximately 1 hour/unit consumed to clear from your system

- Check that any prescription drugs don’t preclude you from driving or cause drowsiness
How should we control the risk? – setting off

- Check lights, tyres, visibility (a dirty windscreen is always distracting) and wash water.
- Make sure the seat is adjusted for your comfort
- Adjust the head restraint to the centre of the back of your head to protect you from whiplash
- Make sure that there are no loose items that may cause injury if you have to break hard.
How should we control the risk? – on the road

• Ensure you have sufficient breaks to stay alert (highway code recommends at least 15 minutes every two hours).

• If driving long distances it may be necessary to stay overnight to minimise fatigue.

• These are recommendations – each individual reacts differently to driving and can be affected by other external factors.
How should we control the risk? – mobile phones

• Research has shown that a driver on the phone is four times more likely to have an accident
• Only use hands free mobile phones
• Only accept, or make, a call if you are confident it is safe to do so and minimise call length
• When calling someone driving always ask if is safe to talk to them
• Avoid dialling numbers
  – use short-cut keys
• Never text whilst driving
Fuel economy

• Ensure tyres are at the recommended tyre pressure as this increases efficiency

• Driving at 50mph will use 30% less fuel than driving at 70mph

• Servicing in line with the manufacturers recommendations will increase fuel efficiency
Summary

• Driving is probably the highest risk activity you do either at work or at home
• Allow yourself sufficient time – stay over if necessary
• Make sure your vehicle (it is work equipment) is serviced and in good working order
• There is a QHEST policy and guidance note for further information