



Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHIGAN EMPLOYERS CELEBRATE 10th YEAR OF DRIVE SAFELY WORK WEEK
UPS, Teamsters and Center for Truck Safety committed to employee campaign

Making the commitment to encourage safe driving behaviors among its employees, members of the Michigan Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) kicked off the 10th annual Drive Safely Work Week campaign this morning at the UPS service center in Wyoming.

On the first day of the employee-centered traffic safety campaign, which runs Oct. 2-6, NETS partners recognized the first female UPS employee in the Michigan District to be inducted into the Circle of Honor. Paulette Archambeau, a package car driver from Houghton, earned the distinction by maintaining a 25-year safe-driving record. The Michigan District also inducted 10 other drivers on Sept. 30, bringing the district's total active Circle of Honor members to 100.

The Circle of Honor program recognizes UPS drivers who have had no avoidable crashes for at least 25 years. UPS recognizes its Circle of Honor drivers during National Drive Safely Work Week.

"Employers are in a prime position to acknowledge and promote safe driving habits, because about one-fifth of all motor vehicle trips are work related and most employees commute to and from work," said Michael L. Prince, division director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). "Preventing on- and off-the-job traffic crashes has a positive effect on the overall safety of the workforce."

The Michigan Center for Truck Safety, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing truck safety through education, and the Michigan Teamsters Joint Council #43, a new NETS member, showed their support for Drive Safely Work Week by attending the kick-off and committing to promote the campaign to members. This year's campaign theme is "Safe Driving is YOUR Responsibility."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, one in four work-related deaths is due to a traffic-related trauma. Over the past 10 years, the average cost of a crash to employers has risen significantly, from about \$9,600 in 1996 to \$16,500 today.

The Michigan NETS program, sponsored by OHSP, has grown from a membership of about 250 in 1996 to 700 employers in 2006. NETS partners are encouraged to adopt safety belt use policies, reward employees for safety belt use, include articles in company newsletters, display posters and provide safe driving reminders and tips throughout the year.



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