# 2018 Driver Safety Risk Report

An overview of the growing safety risk and solutions to protect your mobile workforce

### Key Takeaways

- The number of motor vehicle accidents and injuries remain at record high levels, and 40% of vehicle accidents are work-related, posing significant risk to employees who drive for work.
- Vehicle accidents negatively impact businesses and their mobile employees. In fact, 53% of vehicle accident injuries cause employees to miss work.
- Companies can reduce the accident rates for their employees by as much as 35%<sup>1</sup> with a proactive approach to safety beyond Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) checks.

## Accident rates and vehicle insurance costs are on the rise.

For mobile employees who drive their personally-owned vehicles for work, the cost of insuring their vehicles is becoming more expensive as accident rates continue to increase. The price of vehicle insurance is impacted by the number of insurance claims and the costs of those claims. And those numbers are reaching new heights. **Collision insurance claims in the U.S. remain at the highest level of the past 10 years** and have steadily increased over the past five years. So, as the number of accidents increases, the cost of insurance does too.



Source: Insurance Information Institute



40% of all motor vehicle accidents are work-related.<sup>2</sup>

# Cost of accidents are far-reaching for businesses and their mobile employees.

As the number of collisions increase, so do physical injuries to mobile employees. **Since 2013, the annual number of motor vehicle related injuries has increased 6.2%**. Beyond the physical and psychological harm to employees, there are many costs associated with these injuries that impact both employees and their employer. Some of these costs may seem obvious, but the impacts can be far-reaching.

For example, when an employee has an accident that includes damage to both themselves or someone else and a vehicle, their annual insurance rates typically increase by about 33%. Accidents without any injuries still increase annual insurance rates by about 23%. That means that **an accident could increase an employee's average auto insurance costs by \$350-\$515 a year.** 

Unfortunately, due to the steady increases in the number of accidents, even for mobile employees with clean driving records, they're paying the price for higher auto insurance. To understand the cost, auto premiums have increased by an average of 8.3% across the top 10 auto insurers since 2015.<sup>3</sup>



Source: National Safety Council

## **DID YOU KNOW?**



of vehicle crash injuries cause employees to miss work.<sup>4</sup>

Employers also face costs that are less obvious when an employee is involved in a vehicle accident. The company has to absorb medical expenses, wage replacement (sick leave and life insurance) and harm caused to both property and other people involved in work-related crashes.

For both the company and their mobile employees, there's lost productivity when employees are injured, regardless of whether an accident occurred on the job or not. This includes missed days of work and time off of work for follow-up medical treatment. As a result, managers and other employees have to spend time adjusting to the unexpected absence of the injured employee which can result in a significant opportunity cost. If crashes involve company-owned vehicles, property damages also factor into the costs.<sup>4</sup> The cost burden on businesses has increased steadily as the number of vehicle crashes has also increased.



Motus estimates that motor vehicle crashes cost employers \$56.7 Billion in 2017.



Vehicle Crash Costs to Employers





### How Annual Car Insurance Rates Increase

## Risk to mobile employees' safety has reached new levels.

Employees who drive their personally-owned vehicles for work are at a higher risk of getting into an accident because they're on the road more often than the average driver. For businesses who reimburse these employees, it's important to take steps to proactively manage that risk and help your employees stay safe while they drive for work. Given this, it's alarming that a recent Motus survey shows that many companies don't require these employees to participate in driver safety programs.

# 42.6%

of companies mandate driver safety programs for employees in company-owned vehicle programs.

# 68%

of companies report recent on-the-job car accidents in company-owned vehicles.<sup>5</sup> of companies mandate driver safety programs for employees in mileage reimbursement programs.

19.5%

41%

of companies report recent on-the-job car accidents in employee-owned vehicles.<sup>5</sup>

Clearly, something is missing in the efforts to protect these employees on the road. Companies typically use several methods to manage risk among employees that participate in vehicle programs. For example, 69% verify auto insurance, and 39% use Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) checks<sup>5</sup>. While having active insurance is important, it doesn't do much to help businesses avoid the costs of a vehicle crash that happens on the job. MVRs tell companies about an employee's driving history, and in some cases can notify them when new violations appear on a driving record. **But a more effective way of reducing risk and cost requires a proactive approach to driver safety.**  **Motus Driver Safety Solutions** offer businesses individualized safety programs that give employees the tools they need to combat hazards on the road. The comprehensive program includes proactive assessments and training modules – specific to each employee's risks – in addition to MVRs and insurance verification. As a result, Motus Driver Safety Solutions help businesses reduce collision rates by **an average of 35%\***.

Keeping the mobile workforce safe matters. With the frequency of on-the-job vehicle crash injuries and the cost to employers reaching new heights, it's more important than ever for businesses to equip their mobile workforce with the skills they need to drive safely. Taking a proactive approach to driver safety can help companies effectively mitigate risk and protect their employees who drive for business.



Motus Driver Safety Solutions can protect your mobile workforce.

## **Get Started**

I. OSHA. Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes.

- 2. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Census of fatal occupational injuries summary, 2016.
- Why auto insurance rates are likely to increase in 2018. ValuePenguin. https://www.valuebenguin.com/2017/05/auto-insurance-rate-hikes-also-likely-2018
- 4. Network of Employers for Traffic Safety. Cost of Motor Vehicle Crashes to Employers—2015.

5. Motus internal research. February 2018

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