



SAFETY/SENSE

The Monthly Newsletter of Delaware **Safety** Council

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The Future is Here. Technology and AI in Safety.





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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! January is *Membership Appreciation Month* and we have 41 new Members to appreciate! Our new Member Benefits package offers medical, dental, travel and vision insurance, as well as many discount retail offerings.

An estimated 15 million people are expected to lose Medicaid coverage during the redetermination process. Some of these individuals will qualify for no or low-cost premiums in the health insurance marketplace; others have enrolled in another health insurance plan during the pandemic.

Becoming a Member of Delaware Safety Council provides access to affordable and robust healthcare plans. Part-time, seasonal and hourly workers are covered!

In addition, January 21— 27 is *National Passenger Safety Week*. It is a week where it is encouraged for passengers in a vehicle to advocate for themselves. If you are in a vehicle and the driver isn't wearing their seatbelt, speak up. If the driver is speeding when you are a passenger, speak up. It is always okay to advocate for your own safety.

U.S. roadway deaths are rising again at an alarming rate. People are still driving recklessly. Drunk, drugged and distracted driving are on the rise. Just telling people to drive safely isn't enough. Passengers need to play a more active role in their own safety and that of others.

Stacey

Member of:





January is Membership Appreciation Month

As Member Appreciation Month rolls on, don't forget to take advantage of these great benefits!



Member Benefits

In Partnership with





Cliff Notes. Not Always

As the 2023 calendar year closed I was reflecting on an impactful topic introduced to me by the Delaware State Chamber a year ago. Benefits cliff. This happens when families receive benefits through a public assistance program, earn a raise and then become ineligible to continue receiving benefits despite being unable to sustain their household.

Single mothers especially find themselves asking, “Will this higher-paying job actually make me and my family better off financially?” In many cases, the answer is no. Again, the benefits cliff occurs when earnings gains are offset by the loss of public benefits. This creates financial disincentives for low-income individuals to earn more income and its ripple-effect goes all the way into their retirement years and qualifications for Social Security benefits.

The struggle to provide for one’s family is something I can relate to from personal experience. When my daughter was born, I was 22

years old, and was working three jobs to put my then husband through college. He was 6 years older than I was and our plan was to get him through his remaining two years of school and then address mine. We were divorced before we got to my turn, and I was a single mother.

Originally, my full-time job when I was pregnant was as the Bridal Coordinator for John Wanamaker stores. I worked initially at the store in Delaware and was quickly promoted to overseeing all the stores and working in Philadelphia. At that time, benefits were covered by my employer and when my daughter was born, I had 16 weeks maternity leave – full pay, and all my hospital bills were covered.

When John Wanamaker stores (owned at the time by Carter-Hawley-Hale) merged with Woodward & Lothrop out of Washington, D.C. many duplicate roles, jobs and departments were consolidated including bridal. And

that is where the benefits disappeared and the challenge of replacing them and providing for my family began.

Every decision not only had ramifications for me personally, but also for my daughter, her needs, and our housing. While I never received benefits through a public assistance program, I was certainly eligible for them. As a suburban kid from a small town in Pennsylvania, I honestly didn’t know anything about public assistance benefits. But I was aware of the financial struggle and crushing pressure of trying to piece together your life, your education and provide for yourself and your daughter, alone. Like many of these people trying to get ahead, they are stopped or impeded by something, ironically called “benefits”.

The biggest challenge is that no one knows where the cliff begins, or when it will end, because it is individualized for each person, and based on a variety of



factors. Anyone on the edge of any cliff is scared. People facing the benefits cliff, fear losing their benefits and being worse off since it's not clear when and why they might lose them. They are forced to make decisions that hold them back.

Experts and people working in the system can't fully see how benefits and income work together. Case workers, government agencies and policy makers work in a silo with an individualized view of the problem. The benefits system itself is a complicated maze of different thresholds, limitations, and unclear rules, varying state by state, county by county, and city by city.

Working people deserve a full picture of their financial landscape, and for many people receiving benefits this is simply out of reach. Low-income workers are often forced to make conservative decisions for their lives, finances, and families because of the threat and fear of hitting a benefits cliff.

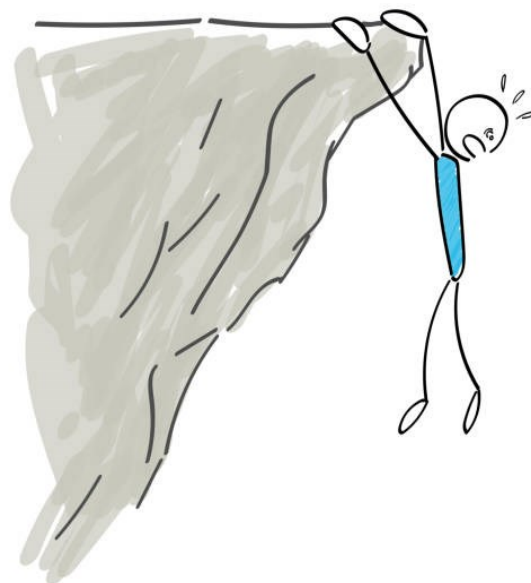
This means people receiving benefits are making decisions that include not taking pay raises, not taking on more hours at work, and not advancing in their careers, regardless of whether they're going to hit a cliff or not. The lack of transparency drives fear, which drives decision-making, which holds people back.

HR professionals are facing employee benefits deadlines right now. And one of the member benefits we added at Delaware Safety Council, through the guidance of OSPREY Benefits Advisors is affordable healthcare programs through our Membership association. We worked hard this year

to coordinate healthcare programs for our Corporate members that included hourly, seasonal, and part-time employees. They seem to be left out and sent to "the marketplace" to flounder about and fend for themselves.

We wanted to be part of the benefits cliff solution and conversation. No one should have to choose between bettering their career at the expense of putting food on the table and providing healthcare for their families.

Learn more about becoming a *Corporate Member* of Delaware Safety Council by visiting delawaresafety.org





Emergency Winter Supply Kits Could Become Your Lifeline.

Drivers can't be certain when they might encounter inclement winter weather or an emergency road closure, the National Weather Service says. Although NWS recommends drivers stay off the road during hazardous winter conditions whenever possible, the agency says it's vital to keep an emergency winter supply kit on hand for trips that must be taken.

Build an emergency supply kit with these items:

- First aid kit
- Jumper cables
- Tire chains or snow tires
- Flares
- Cellphone charger (and fully charged mobile phone)
- Water and snacks
- Flashlight
- Bag of sand or cat litter
- Boots, mittens and warm clothes
- Blanket
- Tow rope
- Shovel and ice scraper

WHAT YOU NEED
IN YOUR CAR
WINTER SAFETY KIT





NATIONAL PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

JANUARY 21 - 28, 2024

Passengers can make a difference, because **“one courageous voice can change one deadly choice.”**

National Passenger Safety Week is an ongoing event, the last week in January of every year. U.S. roadway deaths are rising again at an alarming rate. People are still driving recklessly. Drunk, drugged and distracted driving are on the rise.

Just telling people to drive safely isn't enough. We need to do more. We can do more! Passengers need to play a more active role in their own safety and that of others.

That is why the National Passenger Safety Campaign, is supported by other organizations like Delaware Safety Council who believe that it is time to focus on the passenger, and not just the driver.

The goal is to promote safe driving practices and prevent unsafe ones by empowering passengers to “SPEAK UP” when their lives are in danger due to a reckless driver. So far more than 60 other organizations have joined the coalition, with more to come.

**NATIONAL
PASSENGER
SAFETY
WEEK**





2024 Automotive Industry Tech Trends: What to Expect

The automotive industry embarks on a transformative journey in 2024, brimming with pivotal trends set to define the future of mobility. From the dominance of electric vehicles (EVs) to the integration of advanced safety features, let's delve into a preview of what this next year holds.

The automotive sector is the technological trendsetter among companies in the manufacturing industry. It is evolving rapidly and is a driver of the digitalization era. The Digital Enterprise solution offering helps the automotive industry turn its ideas into successful cars faster and more efficiently.



1. Electric Vehicles (EVs) Domination:

The electric vehicle revolution is in full swing, with automakers doubling down on investments in electric technology. Anticipate major strides in battery technology, promising improved EV range and efficiency. The automotive landscape is set to witness a surge in electric offerings, reflecting the industry's commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly transportation.

2. Autonomous Vehicles:

While the road to widespread autonomous vehicle adoption may be long, ongoing development and testing continue to bring us closer to a future where self-driving cars enhance safety and convenience. Expect to see more automakers incorporating autonomous features, paving the way for a new era in transportation.

3. Connectivity and IoT:

Vehicles are evolving into sophisticated hubs of connectivity. Advanced infotainment systems, vehicle-to-vehicle communication, and seamless integration with smart devices are becoming standard features. In 2024, the emphasis on enhanced connectivity and Internet of Things (IoT) capabilities will redefine the driving experience.

4. Sustainability and Eco-Friendly Practices:

Automotive manufacturers are embracing sustainability as a core principle. Beyond electric vehicles, the industry is focusing on sustainable manufacturing practices, eco-friendly materials, and comprehensive recycling initiatives. Expect a continued commitment to reducing the environmental impact of automotive production.

5. Subscription Services:

A growing trend in the automotive landscape is the exploration of subscription-based models for vehicle access. This innovative approach allows consumers the flexibility to use a vehicle for a specific period without the traditional long-term commitment of ownership, providing a new avenue for personalized mobility solutions.

6. Digital Retail and Online

Purchases: The pandemic has accelerated the shift towards online car shopping. Digital platforms offering comprehensive research tools, customization options, and seamless online purchase experiences are becoming more prevalent. In 2024, expect further advancements in digital retail to meet the evolving preferences of consumers.

7. Advanced Safety Features:

Integration of advanced safety features remains top priority for automakers. Collision detection, lane-keeping assistance, adaptive cruise control will continue to enhance vehicle safety, setting new standards for protection of drivers and passengers.

8. Shift to Lighter Materials:

In the pursuit of improved fuel efficiency, the industry is witnessing a shift towards lighter materials in vehicle manufacturing. High-strength steel, aluminum, and composite materials are being employed to reduce overall weight, contributing to enhanced performance and reduced environmental impact.

Embracing the dawn of 2024, these automotive industry trends herald an exhilarating and dynamic future within the realm of Auto House. Grounded in sustainable practices and propelled by revolutionary technologies, our journey ahead unfolds with a commitment to innovation. The road, meticulously paved with ingenuity, beckons consumers to a rich tapestry of choices and experiences within the captivating world of automobiles.



WAREHOUSE SAFETY

Warehouses are a constant moving mix of people, vehicles and equipment. Forklift operators must be properly trained to ensure understanding of the working environment. This prevents injuries to operators and pedestrians and damage to other warehouse equipment.



Forklift Operations

- Only trained and certified workers may operate a forklift. **No one under the age of 18 may use a forklift.**
- Operators must be trained on the type of vehicle in use, and on workplace conditions.
- Before operating the vehicle, examine it for hazardous conditions which would make it unsafe to operate.
- Always wear a seatbelt, if available.
- Never exceed the rated load and ensure it is stable and balanced.
- Ensure you have enough clearance when raising, loading, and operating the vehicle.
- Follow safe procedures for picking up, putting down and stacking loads.
- Keep a safe distance from platform, ramp, and loading dock edges. Never back up a forklift to the dock's edge.
- Watch for pedestrians and observe the speed limit.
- Slow down in congested areas and those with slippery surfaces.
- Use horns at cross aisles and obstructed areas.
- Do not give rides or use the forks to lift people.
- If required to park a vehicle on an uneven surface, set the emergency brake.

Forklift Maintenance and Repair

- Ensure vehicles are maintained and repaired in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- Remove from service any forklift found to be in

unsafe operating condition.

- Do not modify or make additions to the forklift that could affect capacity and/or safe operation without prior written approval from the manufacturer.

Charging Stations

- Properly position forklifts and apply brakes before attempting to change or charge batteries.
- Ensure that fire extinguishers are available and fully charged.
- Provide proper personal protective equipment such as rubber gloves and eye and face protection.
- Provide conveyors, overhead hoists or equivalent materials handling equipment for servicing batteries.
- Provide an eyewash and safety shower facility for workers exposed to battery acids.
- Provide adequate ventilation to disperse fumes from gassing batteries.
- Prohibit smoking and open flames in and around charging stations.

Other Considerations

- Maintain safe clearances for aisles and at loading docks or passages.
 - Provide visual warnings near dock edges.
 - Follow required procedures when refueling gas or propane fueled forklifts.
- Train workers on the hazards associated with the combustion byproducts of forklift operation, such as carbon monoxide.



Revolutionizing Road Safety: How AI is Making Driving Safer than Ever



Revolutionizing Road Safety: How AI Is Making Driving Safer Than Ever

Are you tired of the constant worry and fear that comes with navigating today's roads? Well, buckle up because we have some exciting news for you! The future of road safety is here, and it's powered by none other than artificial intelligence. Yes, you heard that right – AI is revolutionizing the way we drive, making our journeys safer than ever before. In this blog post, we'll take a deep dive into how AI technologies are transforming the driving experience and paving the way for a world where accidents become a thing of the past. Get ready to embark on an exhilarating journey where innovation meets safety at every turn!

Continued page 12



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ow AI is Improving Road Safety

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a game-changer in many industries, and road safety is no exception. With the advancements in technology, AI is being utilized to make driving safer than ever before. From assisting drivers on the road to predicting and preventing accidents, here are some ways in which AI is revolutionizing road safety:

1. Collision Prevention Systems

One of the biggest contributions of AI to road safety is its ability to predict potential collisions and take preventive measures. By analyzing data from cameras, radar sensors, and other sources, AI-powered collision prevention systems can detect objects on the road such as pedestrians, vehicles, or obstacles and alert the driver through visual or audio signals. In some advanced systems, AI can also autonomously apply brakes or steer the vehicle away from danger.

2. Driver Assistance Systems

AI-enabled driver assistance systems are becoming increasingly common in modern vehicles. These systems use various sensors and cameras to monitor the vehicle's surroundings and provide real-time feedback to assist drivers in making safe decisions while driving. For example, lane departure warning systems use image recognition algorithms to monitor lane markings and alert drivers if they unintentionally drift out of their lane.

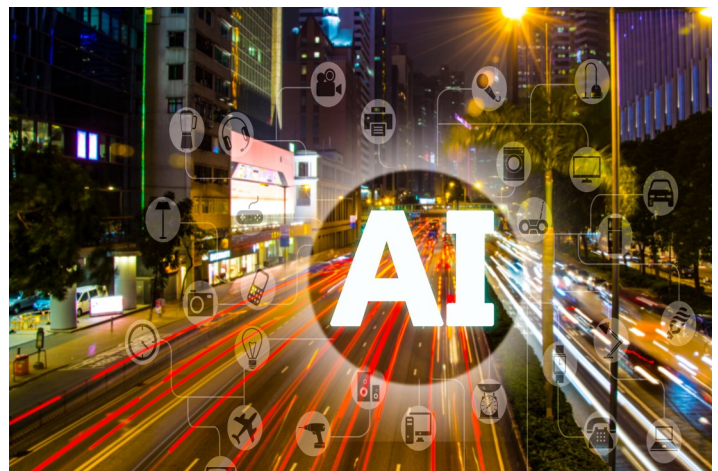
[Full original article available on LinkedIn](#)

3. Traffic Management

With increasing traffic congestion in urban areas, managing traffic flow has become a major concern for authorities worldwide. To address this issue effectively, cities are turning towards intelligent traffic management solutions that utilize AI algorithms to analyze real-time data from various sources such as surveillance cameras, GPS devices on vehicles

Collision detection and prevention technology is one of the most important advancements in road safety. By using artificial intelligence (AI), vehicles are now able to detect potential collisions and take proactive measures to prevent them. This has greatly reduced the number of accidents on roads, making driving safer than ever before.

The Inception of Collision Detection and Prevention Technology: The idea of collision detection and prevention technology was first introduced by Mercedes-Benz in 2009 with their "Pre-Safe" system. This system used sensors to analyze potential hazards such as sudden braking or swerving, and automatically applied the brakes to prevent a collision. However, with the development of AI, collision detection and prevention technology has become even more advanced.





The Need for Speed. Not So Fast!

History Corner

Since the days of the early automobile, there has been a debate about the freedom versus regulation in regards to speed limits. Some states, such as Montana and Nevada, have historically opposed restrictive speed limit laws and imposed minimal fines for noncompliance.

Connecticut was the first state to pass a speed limit law back in 1901. This law limited the legal speed of motor vehicles to 12 mph in cities and 15 mph on country roads. However, there were laws even before this that limited the speed of non-motorized vehicles. The colony of New Amsterdam (now New York) issued a law in 1652 stating that wagons, carts and sleighs cannot be run, rode or driven at a gallop. Violators faced a penalty that started at two pounds Flemish, which is about \$150 by today's standards. And in 1903, New York City introduced America's first comprehensive traffic code.

In 1995, the U.S. Congress handed speed limit laws back over to the individual states and allowed each state to decide its maximum speed to drive. Since then, 35 states increased their limits to 70 mph or higher.

The fastest road in America is a 40-mile stretch of a toll road between Austin and San Antonio that legally allows drivers to travel at 85 mph. Speed limits have shifted across America as cars have become faster and roads have become safer. Today, speed limits are complex, state-specific, and bound by law. The enforcement of speed limits and the politics that surrounds that enforcement are equally complex.

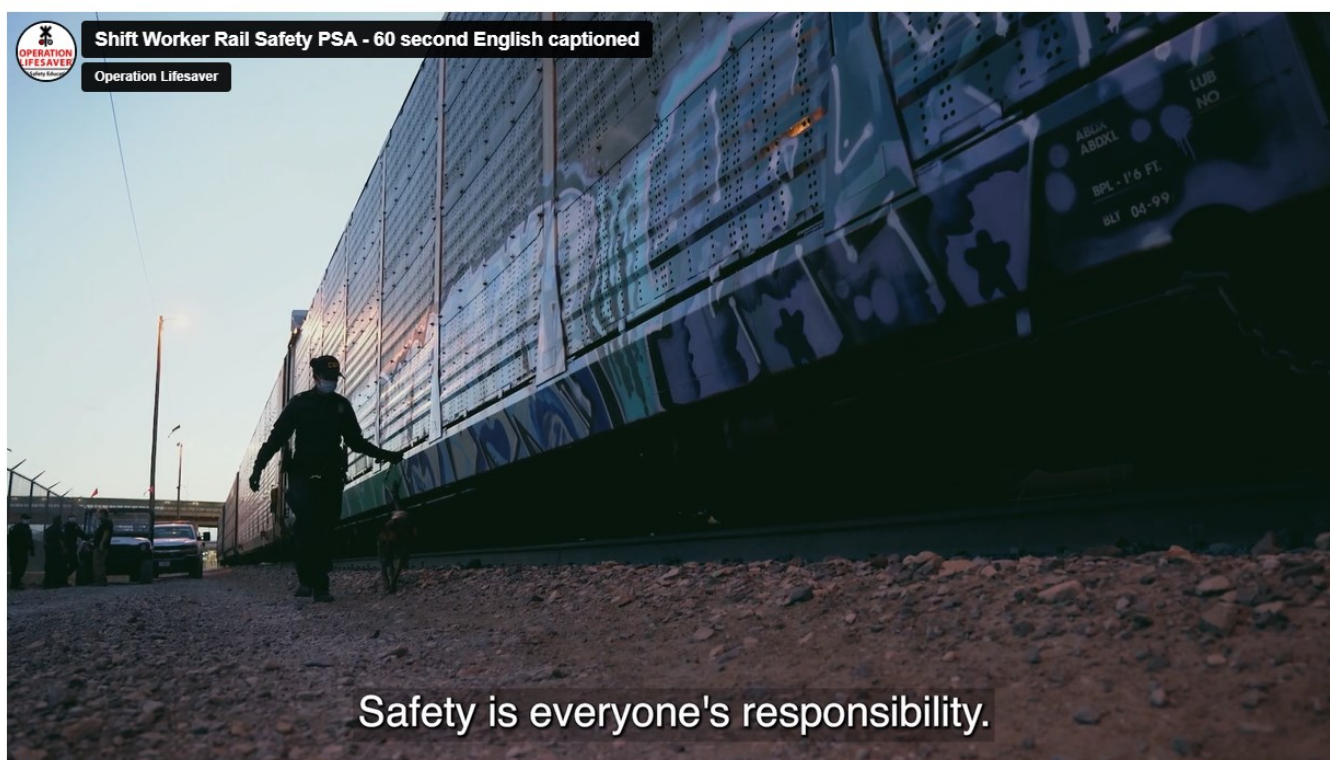
"People want to go fast," says Adrian Lund, President of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. "Cars are built to go fast and states increasingly want to raise their speed limits. Even if it means saving just two or three minutes during a trip, people want to go faster."

However, one thing has remained constant throughout the history of speed limits. Disobeying speed limit signs will always result in costly fines and an increased risk of accidents. To learn more about reducing points on your license from speeding ticket fines, check out our New York Online Defensive Driving Course and our other state-approved traffic school courses.





SHIFT WORKER RAIL SAFETY



[CLICK HERE](#)



Get to know these railroad signs and signals to stay safe when driving or walking near railroad crossings.