



FATALITY NARRATIVE

Floor Installer Killed in Motor Vehicle Crash*

Industry: Flooring contractors
Task: Traveling in motor vehicle to job site
Occupation: Installer
Type of Incident: Motor vehicle crash

Release Date: January 20, 2011
Incident Date: November 17, 2008
Case No.: 08WA05801
SHARP Report No.: 71-99-2011

On November 17, 2008, a 22-year-old flooring installer died in a work-related motor vehicle crash. The victim was employed by a company that installs flooring products. He was traveling to a job site in the backseat of a private vehicle with three coworkers. All occupants of the vehicle were wearing seatbelts. At about 7:30 AM their vehicle was traveling along a highway when the vehicle's driver briefly looked down to change the radio station and the vehicle swerved into the oncoming lane of traffic and collided with a truck. Three of the vehicle's occupants were treated for minor injuries at the scene. The victim was taken to a hospital where he died.



Employers should develop policies that promote safe driving practices.

On average, 19 people per year die in work-related motor vehicle traffic crashes in Washington State. About 1 out of 7 of these people are employed in the construction industry.

Requirements

- ! All occupants in a motor vehicle must use the seatbelts installed in the vehicle. See [WAC 296-155-610](#)
- ! All vehicles must have secured seating and enough seating available for those who will be riding in the vehicle. See [WAC 296-155-610](#)
- ! Enforce mandatory seat belt use. See [WAC 296-155-610](#) and [RCW 46.61.688](#)

Recommendations

- ✓ Establish company safe driving policies and procedures.
- ✓ Institute a safe driver training program with periodic refresher training.
- ✓ Alert employees to the hazards of driving while tired, in the dark, and distracted driving.
- ✓ Do not allow employees to use a cell phone, even a hands-free cell phone, while driving.
- ✓ Do not allow employees to text message or use other handheld electronic devices while driving.

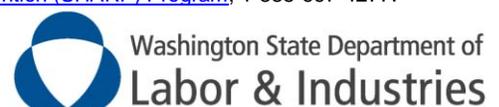
State Wide Statistics: This was number 65 out of 72 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was number 17 out of 18 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by WA State [Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation \(FACE\) Program](#) and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), [WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries](#). The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#). For more information, contact the [Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention \(SHARP\) Program](#), 1-888-667-4277.



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