



# News

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## **Roadshow for Business Drivers takes to the Road**

Twenty deaths on the roads every week involve people at work. Collisions are now the biggest cause of work related deaths.

95 Alive, the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, is organising a series of roadshows across the County to help businesses and managers appreciate the risks on the roads, and work towards limiting the dangers. The idea is to help companies large and small develop ways of managing occupational road risk and to understand the new Corporate Manslaughter Bill.

Any company that uses vehicles, or people who drive themselves for work, are invited to come along and find out more.

Almost every business uses vehicles, from haulage companies delivering goods, to salesmen visiting clients and managers attending meetings.

Some employers believe, incorrectly, that provided they comply with certain road traffic law requirements, for example that company vehicles have a valid MOT certificate, and that drivers hold a licence, this is enough to ensure the safety of their employees, and others, when they are on the road. However, health and safety law applies to on-the-road work activities as to all work activities, and the risks should be effectively managed.

North Yorkshire County Councillor John Fort, Executive Member for Road Safety said: "Managers and company directors could gain valuable information here that could save a life or stop someone getting hurt. We appreciate for business people lots of new rules and regulations come along on a regular basis, so hopefully this will help them get to grips with this crucial information."

David Bowe, Assistant Director of Highways for North Yorkshire County Council and Chair of 95 Alive said, "The true costs of accidents to organisations are nearly always higher than just the costs of repairs and insurance claims. The consequences of an accident on the self-employed and small businesses are likely to be proportionately greater than on a larger business with greater resources. The benefits of managing work-related road safety can be considerable, no matter the size of your business. That's why it is so important that businesses manage occupational road risk".

John Everson 95 Alive Partnership Co-ordinator said, "Employers who have not complied with the Occupational Road Risk legislation may not only face the tragedy of death, but

also could be at risk of a hefty fine or prison term and even being charged with (in the case of a fatal accident) Corporate Manslaughter”.

In addition, the new Health and Safety at Work (Offences) Act 2008 brought in in January of this year, is aimed at punishing individuals who breach health and safety rules, and unlike the Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act, the breach does not have to have resulted in death.

The 95 Alive team will be visiting business parks across North Yorkshire to offer advice for employers and employees on the subject, and are inviting anyone interested to pop along to the road safety trailer for a coffee and some free useful resources.

The first road show was in Northallerton, and further roadshows are being held at Stokesley Business Park on Thursday November 6th and at Thirsk Industrial Park on Wednesday November 11th from 10am to 3pm. Details will be on the website [www.roadwise.co.uk](http://www.roadwise.co.uk) or call John Everson on 01609 533086 or Marie Brown on 01609 798120. You can also email [95alive@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:95alive@northyorks.gov.uk).