

# safety signals

SAFETY NEWS // TIPS // SUCCESSES

## New road conditions alter driving risks

**F**leet video telematics provider Lytx shared insights about changes in driving risk tied to COVID-19:

**Animal strike incidents increased dramatically.** Lytx data shows a 64 percent increase in animal strikes since shelter-in-place guidelines were widely introduced. With more people at home, Lytx says, animals were venturing out of their usual spaces.

- Strikes peak between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. during low light conditions.
- 73 percent of all animal strike incidents occur at 55 mph or higher.
- Compared to the same time period last year, strikes occurred 2.5 times more frequently during daylight hours.

**Risky driving behaviors decreased.** From the week of March 1, before most states initiated shelter-in-place orders, to the week of March 29, when shelter-in-place had been broadly instituted, Lytx data shows a 51 percent decrease in frequency and a 55 percent decrease in severity of risky driving incidents across all Lytx-protected fleets.

Compared to the same time period last year, the trucking industry saw these reductions in risky driving behaviors:

- Late response: down by 62 percent.
- Failure to keep an out: down 28 percent.
- Collisions: down by 28 percent.



**Less driving has led to fewer risky incidents.**

- Avoidable near collisions: down by 25 percent.
- Unavoidable near collisions: down by 23 percent.

“With the majority of people across the country observing shelter-in-place guidelines – and driving less – it’s natural we’d see decreases across these types of risk,” says Kyle Warlick, client intelligence analyst at Lytx.

**Speed increased and travel time decreased.**

Data from the end of March to early May shows a 19 percent increase in speed and a 10 percent decrease in travel time on frequently traveled routes.

“This is likely another result of decreased passenger vehicle traffic on the roads, and increased demand on drivers to deliver essential goods,” says Warlick. **LPG**

*Source: Lytx database made up of 120 billion miles of driving data collected from 1.3 million drivers using Lytx DriveCam event recorders.*

## PPE GUIDELINES

**P**ropane marketers are using personal protective equipment (PPE) based on the recommendations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local government agencies in response to the coronavirus. Transmission in the workplace can be anticipated from co-workers, customers and members of the general public, says Wes Sheppard, senior consultant for safety and training at P3 Propane Safety.

Marketers must set basic PPE guidelines, communicate frequently with employees and provide training on daily operational changes, including steps to reduce exposure for employees and customers and mandated orders from local authorities, says Sheppard. Measures may involve:

- Social and physical distancing limits with the use of masks and face shields.
- Nitrile or latex gloves.
- PPE disinfecting and disposal methods above the requirements of eye protection.
- Propane-resistant gloves for safety operations.

As with any new product or operation, documentation of new PPE training procedures is required for the workplace, says Sheppard.

## NATIONWIDE TASK FORCE HELPS BUSINESSES SAFELY RESUME WORK

**T**he National Safety Council leads the first nationwide task force geared to help protect employees who are resuming work now and in a post-pandemic environment. The Safe Actions For Employee Returns (SAFER) initiative guides all employers through the process of bringing back workers at minimal risk

as the country begins to reopen businesses and public spaces.

The task force includes major safety organizations – such as the American Society of Safety Professionals and the American Industrial Hygiene Association – Fortune 500 companies and public health experts who bring experience

to help businesses successfully navigate unprecedented challenges.

The task force delivers resources, such as guidebooks and checklists, to equip employers with the tools they need to protect workers. Learn more about the effort and find resources currently available at [nsc.org/safer](https://nsc.org/safer).