Safe Courier Driving for Landscapers: Delivering Materials Without Incident Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Traffic Collision Risk:** Landscaper drivers operate larger vehicles and tow trailers loaded with tools/chemicals, increasing risk of crashes—safe driving training and pre-trip checks are critical.
2. **Loss of Control:** Uneven loads and improper tie-downs can shift during transit, causing vehicle instability, requiring regular load checks and proper securing.
3. **Roadside Loading Dangers:** Delivering materials at the roadside exposes drivers to struck-by traffic—use of cones, hi-vis gear, and safe parking procedures is essential.
4. **Driver Fatigue & Distraction:** Long hours, split trips, or cell use elevate crash risk—mandate seat-belt use, journey planning, and strict no-phone-while-driving policies.
5. **Vehicle Maintenance Failures: I**nadequate upkeep (e.g., brakes, tires, lights) contributes to incidents—daily inspections and maintenance schedules mitigate breakdowns.
6. **Hazardous Cargo Exposure:** Landscapers often carry fertilizers, pesticides, and tools—accidental spills or leaks can cause exposure; secure and PPE-cover chemicals properly.

STATS

- BLS 2023 data recorded 32,000 serious injuries among delivery drivers, with 33% from overexertion during loading/unloading (e.g., lifting heavy pavers), emphasizing the need for gloves and material handling equipment. Slips,

trips, and falls on uneven delivery sites accounted for 25% of injuries.

- In 2024, PPE violations (29 CFR 1910.132) ranked 6th in construction (1,876 citations), including inadequate HVSA or safety footwear for landscapers delivering materials to sites.
- A 2022 NIOSH report noted that 30% of delivery injuries involved unsafe site conditions (e.g., uneven driveways, debris), underscoring the need for site assessments and PPE like slip-resistant boots.
- Statistics Canada’s 2021 Workplace Safety Survey recorded 2,500 lost-time claims in delivery services, with 15% linked to landscaping material deliveries, including back strains (20%) and slips on uneven surfaces (10%). Inadequate PPE contributed to 12% of cases.
- In 2024, Ontario introduced fines up to $500,000 for repeat OHS violations, including PPE non-compliance, impacting landscaping firms failing to provide proper safety gear for drivers.