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## Ways companies can lessen the risk for traveling workers



Jon Cook

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April 25, 2013

In the wake of emergency events such as last week's Boston bombings and the 9/11 attacks that preceded it, companies have a legal obligation to alert traveling employees of any potential security risks.

Mississauga-based software firm **e-Travel Technologies** has developed a travel risk management tool that helps corporations fulfill their obligations by providing workers with a "know-before-you-go document" that tells employees of the risks associated with traveling to more politically unstable countries such as Syria.

E-Travel founder **Don Churchill** said employees must have "duty of care" policies to protect traveling employees that require "real time alert notifications by mobile or email of the event that potentially puts the employee at risk."

Most companies hire travel management companies, or TMCs, to cover them in these circumstances and e-Travel supplies the software platform to many Canadian TMCs, including **Uniglobe, BCD Travel, Carlson Wagonlit** and **Vision 2000**.

Following are a few ways companies can protect themselves and their traveling employees:

1. Have a comprehensive Duty of Care solution in place, which can be covered by hiring a travel management company that can institute a policy.
2. If you don't use a TMC, Churchill said there are many services such as eTravelAlerts.com, Canadian Foreign Affairs and US State Department that carry travel risk warnings.
3. Prior to booking a trip abroad, employees should always ask a travel agent if there have been or will be events happening at their destination that may cause them to reconsider travelling there at this time, said Churchill.

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