

Safety Topics

Volume 02, Issue 6

June 2002

Special points of interest:

Defensive Driving & EAPs

For what is it worth!

Top 10 reasons to buckle up!

10—My car doesn't have an ejectable canopy

9—Lying in a hospital for months is not my idea of a vacation

8—Steering wheels don't make good pillows

7—I never aspired to be a hood ornament

6—A wheelchair is not my idea of a hot set of wheels

5—I always wanted to fly, but not into a tree

4—Tombstones are not the best way to get the last word

3—I always hated statistics, the last thing I'd want is to be one

2—I faint at the sight of blood, especially my own

1—My family needs me!

Traffic Safety humor courtesy of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and reprinted from the AGC of America Safety Bulletin, Volume 3, Issue 1.

Defensive Driving!

I revisit the topic of defensive driving with a certain amount of regularity. The amount of driving that is required in our work makes this an easy topic to hit. Also, an event just a few days ago makes this topic even more dear.

A 17 year old high school senior girl one day from graduation ceremonies was killed in an automobile accident on her way to work. She was fatally injured when she ran under the trailer of a semi-tractor/trailer rig that was stopped for highway construction. Early reports from the scene said that she had failed to even brake prior to hitting the rear of the truck/trailer. Why should this happen? It was during daylight hours on a relatively flat stretch of road. The answer may be: **Paying attention to the task.** I will probably never know what she was doing just prior to the collision, but it is obvious she was not paying attention to events around her. She obviously was not practicing defensive driving techniques.

Tips on Defensive Driving!

- Wear your seat belt! In Indiana law enforcement personnel are ticketing people with gusto for not wearing them.
- Always scan the road in front of you looking one to two blocks ahead in the city and to the horizon on country roads.
- Check your rearview mirror every 3 to 5 seconds to stay alert to traffic conditions around you. Maintain a "Cushion of Safety" between you and other motorists at all times.

- Use the 4 second rule (for heavy trucks), under 40 mph, increasing to 5 seconds or more over 40 mph or when road conditions are less than ideal.
- When stopped in traffic, leave yourself enough room to get out and around the vehicle in front of you if needed.
- Avoid backing whenever possible. If you have to back up get out and look behind.
- When passing a vehicle, make certain that you can see pavement between you and the other vehicle in your rearview mirror prior to re-entering the other driver's lane.
- Always signal your intentions prior to changing lanes or turning.
- Plan for the unexpected! Pay attention! Scan the area around you and plan for what other people might do. Try to consider what could go wrong and plan an escape. Do not depend on the other guy to look out for you!

All these things apply to whether you are driving at work or driving for pleasure.

Severe Weather and Emergency Action Plans

We are in the middle of the severe weather season for the central part of the United States. Have you developed an emergency action plan the includes response to severe weather? You should have an Emergency Action Plan. If you need help in the development of your plan, Terry or I will be glad to help you. If you have an Emergency Action Plan now is great time to review it. It would make a weekly tool box safety topic that is timely.

Safety Topics - Defensive Driving

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These Safety Topics are an attempt at continuing education. Please read the information and let me know if you have an idea for future Topics. Your input is appreciated!

Plant Location: _____

Supervisor/Foreman/Plant Manager Signature:

Names of those who reviewed this information:

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