

Driving Safety For The Municipal Employee Driver



Topics covered in this presentation

1. Driving fatalities and injuries
2. Safe driving tips
3. Distracted driving
4. Driver fatigue
5. Pedestrian safety
6. Work zone safety
7. Defensive driving
8. Driving behavior/aggressive driving



Introduction to the Importance of SAFE DRIVING

Each year there are more than 40,000 deaths nationwide related to motor vehicle crashes

In Florida, the most frequent work-related fatality is from motor vehicle crashes (22 %)



What is not in the statistics are the countless family members, friends, and co-workers grieving the loss of someone they were close to

Unsafe Driving

Top three causes of motor vehicle accidents

- Distracted or inattentive driving
- Speeding
- Impairment (drugs or alcohol)



Other causes :

- Failing to yield
- No signal when turning
- Running a stop sign
- Driving left of center
- Wrong turns
- Following too closely



High Risk Areas

Many accidents occur at these locations:

Major Highways (merge lanes, congested traffic)

Intersections and Crosswalks

Parking Lots

Railroad Crossings

Work Zones

School Zones



Does your company have a safe driver program?

Many motor vehicle crashes occur during the workday or during the commute to and from work. Employers bear the cost for injuries that occur both on and off the job.

Whether you manage a fleet of vehicles, oversee a mobile sales force or simply employ commuters, by implementing a driver safety program in the workplace you can greatly reduce the risks faced by your employees and their families while protecting your company's bottom line.



Personal Responsibility

Not only is it the employer's responsibility to enforce safe driving policies for their workers, it is a personal responsibility to improve driving behaviors.

It is a public safety issue and has a huge economic impact.



Basic Safe Driving Tips

Basic rules to follow:

- Wear seatbelts
- Drive the speed limit
- Obey traffic signs and stop lights
- Use turn signals
- Do not tailgate



Drivers should be extra cautious and alert :

- *at peak times of the day when there are more people*
- *when children are present*
- *when driving through a worksite*
- *at entrances and exits, including driveways*
- *at crosswalks*
- *at railroad crossings*
- *during poor weather conditions*
- *when driving at night*

Vehicle Safety Inspections

Inspect your vehicle regularly to make sure the following are in good shape:

- Tires (including spare)
- Horn
- Lights
- Windshield and wipers
- Mirrors
- Brakes
- Heating
- Seatbelts
- Fluids
- First aid/roadside safety kit



Distracted Driving



Image courtesy of Florida Today, by Jeff Parker

Distracted Driving & Inattentive Behavior

Nearly 6,000 people died per year in crashes involving a distracted driver, and more than half a million were injured. (Source: National Traffic Safety Administration)

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. (Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

The temptation for drivers to text and use cell phones has made it difficult to minimize road fatalities.

Please do your part to control the number of fatalities and injuries.

PAY ATTENTION DRIVERS

Cell Phones are a Driving Distraction



A driver's first responsibility is the safe operation of the vehicle.

If you are distracted by a phone conversation, you are putting yourself at risk of a collision, and possibly endangering others.

Texting While Driving – How Dangerous is it?

(from Car & Driver Magazine)

Distracted Driving Website: Distraction.gov

Cell Phones are a Driving Distraction

Alternatives:

- Turn off cell phone while driving
- Pull off to the side of the road to make important calls

NOTE: Hands – free devices are safer than holding a phone, however, that does not diminish the dialing distraction and inability to focus completely on driving during a conversation



Cell Phones: Alternatives and Exceptions

Alternatives

- Bluetooth
- Voice-activated and speed dialing
- Push-to-Talk devices (radio)
- Voice mail and Caller ID answer caller until getting to safe destination



Exceptions:

- Emergencies – calling law enforcement for assistance
- Reporting road hazards to the authorities
- Notifying the authorities of erratic driver

Note: Before using for emergency, determine if the call can be made safely.

Driver Fatigue



According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) at least 100,000 police reported crashes are the direct result of driver fatigue each year.

Result = 1,550 deaths and 71,000 injuries



Drivers Need to Stay Alert

Take action to ensure you are driving alert:

1. Make lifestyle changes; diet, exercise, plenty of rest
2. Don't rely on "quick fixes" that may not work. Avoid regular use of alcohol, smoking, caffeine
3. Stop if you need to. Take a nap or brisk walk outside.



Pedestrians vs. Motorists

In the United States, between 2007 and 2017, there were 53,793 pedestrian fatalities.

On average there are over 400 pedestrian deaths per year in the State of Florida.

That is second only to California.



Important safety reminder:

Drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing streets in marked or unmarked crosswalks in most situations.

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – Pedestrian Safety](#)

Pedestrians vs. Motorists

Safety Tips

- Don't assume the pedestrian sees you
- Move carefully when lighting is poor and look around the vehicle prior to accelerating
- If vision is obstructed, be especially slow when making a turn
- Be aware that parking lots may have missing stop signs or faded traffic lane stripes due to lack of maintenance
- It is more difficult to see pedestrians and bicyclist because larger vehicles like buses, dump trucks, and utility vehicles have a much larger blind spot.



Collisions Involving Children and Motorists

On average, one in every five children between the ages of 5 and 9 killed in traffic accidents were pedestrians. (NHTSA)

Most common types of collisions between children and motorists are due to:

1. Child darting out into the street at a corner or mid-block
2. Vehicle turns into the path of a child
3. Child hidden from view by a service or delivery truck
4. Child hidden from view by a bus – driver does not stop for bus
5. Vehicle backing up in roadways, driveways, or parking lots



Work Zone Safety

What is a “work zone” ?

A work zone is an area of roadway with construction, maintenance, or utility work activities. A work zone is typically marked by signs, channelizing devices, barriers, pavement markings, and/or work vehicles. It extends from the first warning sign or rotating/strobe lights on a vehicle to the “End of Road Work” sign or the last temporary traffic control device.



[Workzone accident case reports](#)



Work Zone Safety



Drivers generally don't think they are at risk in work zones.

99 percent the people injured or killed in work zone collisions are drivers and their passengers.

Most injuries and deaths in work zones are caused by rear-end collisions.

Inattentive drivers are not prepared for sudden slow downs and last minute lane changes in work zones.





Work Zone Safety Tips

- Do not speed in work zones; obey the posted speed limits.
- Stay alert! Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for workers; drive with caution.
- Don't change lanes unnecessarily.
- Avoid using mobile phones while driving in work zones.
- Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.
- Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones.
- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you.
- Anticipate lane shifts, and merge when directed to do so.
- Be patient!



Defensive Driving

Defensive driving involves the cultivation of good habits, maintaining attention and a thoughtful, cooperative attitude.

A defensive driver learns to anticipate the actions of others.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE

Important Defensive Driving Skills:

- Make good decisions based on factors like road conditions, traffic conditions, and weather
- Evasive maneuvering
- Proper hand placement and seating position
- Skid control
- Steering and braking techniques
- Understand your vehicle's dynamics



If you haven't had training, attend a defensive driving course.

Defensive Driving

Key Points

- Keep space in front of your vehicle to allow time to stop. At 60 mph, a vehicle travels 88 feet per second. In the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second it takes to put your foot on the brake, you've gone 66 feet—180 to 220 feet before you stop! If you speed or tailgate, by the time you SEE a problem, you're out of luck!
- Speed management - as speed of your vehicle increases so does the severity of an accident.
- Know your vehicle's blind spots to avoid a potential collision.



Image courtesy of WA Traffic Safety Commission



Additional Resources

[American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association](#)

[Department of Licensing – Driving records](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)

[AAA Foundation for Highway Safety](#)

[Center for Disease Control & Prevention – motor vehicle safety](#)



Thank you!! A big FACT Family Thank You to Putnam County, Jason Taylor, Commissioner and FACT Board Chair Larry Harvey, and Evan MacClellan!

Mark Your Calendars

2nd Quarter Roundtables

East – April 14, Union County

West – April 18, Santa Rosa County

3rd Quarter Roundtables

East – July 21, St. Johns County

West – July 26, Wakulla County

Annual Risk Management Conference

October 5 and 6, St. Johns County

