Summer Driving Safety

Provided by Curt Speck, President
Safety Resources Company of Ohio

Driving safely should always be your main focus whether you are behind the wheel alone or with passengers. Distractions are greater than ever these days and it is critical to know and practice the basics of safe driving.

Summertime Common Driving Distractions:

1. Young Drivers
   - Lack of driving experience and judgment can increase risk of an accident.

2. Increased Road Travel
   - Traffic jams and road congestion create challenging driving conditions.
   - Unfamiliarity with the area can lead to slow, unpredictable, and erratic driving.
   - Increased potential for road rage.

3. Construction and Work Zones
   - Potholes and road repairs, general construction watch for leftover debris in the road.
   - Be extra cautious when driving in construction zones.
   - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported construction/maintenance work zones averaged 773 driving fatalities per year from 2005-2014.

4. Motorcycles and Bicycles
   - Driving alongside cyclists make traffic maneuvers more dangerous.

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Dr. Larry D. Giovinazzo, Audiologist is committed to ensuring your hearing conservation needs are covered by an expert. Dr. Giovinazzo and his staff want to provide the most efficient and effective onsite hearing conservation and respiratory services possible! Our goal is to minimize employees time away from their workstations and in the end make the follow up for the program administrator as little as possible. We provide all notification letter whiles onsite whereas our competitors have the program administrator pass them out after the fact (OSHA allows 21 days for this letter to be handed out), we provide onsite retests for OSHA defined Standard Threshold Shifts (STS) to try and reduce the need to send employees out for follow up, final report is delivered within 3-5 business days and all communication about your programs needs are handled by Dr. Giovinazzo.

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Stark County Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.
• Be aware of your car’s blind spots, check twice before changing lanes, turning right, and parallel parking.
• The IIHS reports that 720 cyclists were involved in fatal accidents with motor vehicles in 2014 alone.

5. Overheating, Dehydration, and Blowouts
• Your car’s engine can overheat, and so can you! If your engine temperature is growing too hot, pull over and turn off the vehicle.
• As for yourself, always stay hydrated and try to keep your vehicle cool with AC or open windows.
• Hot weather causes the inside of your tires to expand and lead to a blowout.

6. Rainfall/Sun Glare
• Summer weather can be trickier than expected. If you live an area that receives heavy summer rain, be careful. Flash flooding and rain on top of dry conditions can cause visibility issues and hydroplaning.
• Don’t underestimate that glaring morning or midday sun.

7. Animals and Children
• Many children are outside playing during the summer months and may decide to run into the road. Slow down in populated areas and watch for kids playing. Take an extra thirty seconds to get where you’re going can help save a life.
• Watch out for animals, a driver swerving can quickly result in a hazardous pile-up.

Top 4 Safe Driving Tips:
1. Focus on driving
   • Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times – no multi-tasking.
   • Don’t use your phone or any other electronic device while driving.
   • Slow down. Speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

2. Drive “defensively”
   • Be aware of what other drivers around you are doing, and expect the unexpected.
   • Assume other motorists will do something crazy, and always be prepared to avoid it.
   • Make that 4 seconds if the weather is bad.

3. Make a safe driving plan
   • Build time into your trip schedule to stop for food, rest breaks, phone calls or other business.
   • Adjust your seat, mirrors and climate controls before putting the car in gear.
   • Pull over to eat or drink.

4. Practice safety
   • Secure cargo that may move around while the vehicle is in motion.
   • Don’t attempt to retrieve items that fall to the floor.
   • Have items needed within easy reach – such as toll fees, toll cards and garage passes.
   • Always wear your seat belt and drive sober and drug-free.

Summer is a wonderful season despite the dangers around us. Being prepared goes a long way when it comes to preventing accidents. Keep these hazards and safety tips in mind while you’re on the road and enjoying the beautiful summer weather. Stay Safe.

Upcoming Events
June 12—Machine Guarding Basics—8:00 am-10 a.m.—Fee—at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce—register at starkcountysc.com

June 18—Trench Safety Stand Down Event—9-12:30 p.m.—Free—Park Enterprise, 560 Barks Rd. W., Marion, OH 43302—hosted by BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene. www.bwclearningcenter.com and search under “Trenching Stand Down”

For info on Stark County Safety Council events go to http://starkcountysc.com/
Summer is upon us; it is no time to relax. Every June marks the beginning of summer and for those of us in Northeastern Ohio it is welcomed with open arms. Children are out of school, pools are open, backyard barbeques and fireworks. Distracted driving hits its peak with beautiful sceneries (illegal texting and driving) and multi-tasking of drivers which include having the phone in one hand, eating, drinking and driving with one’s knees all at once.

Children have been known to dart in front of cars while chasing a ball or riding bicycles without helmets in the middle of the street. Cyclists can be seen texting and riding their bicycles. Pedestrians, oblivious to their surroundings, are either talking on their phones or texting and walking. Safety must be first and foremost this time of year; inattentive driving, drownings, obligatory fireworks injuries, as well as tragic auto accidents by inattentive teenagers.

If we double our efforts regarding safety, hopefully the words of the song will ring true: “See you in September”. Have a great summer!
Q: What is the first aid for a tick bite?
A: Most tick bites are painless and cause only minor signs and symptoms, such as redness, swelling or a sore on the skin. But some ticks transmit bacteria that cause illnesses, including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. In general, to transmit Lyme disease a tick needs to be attached for at least 36 hours. Other infections can be transferred in a few hours or even a few minutes says the Mayo Clinic.

First Aid:
- **Remove the tick promptly and carefully.** Use fine-tipped forceps or tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Gently pull out the tick using a slow and steady upward motion. Avoid twisting or squeezing the tick. Don't handle the tick with bare hands. Experts don't recommend using petroleum jelly, fingernail polish or a hot match to remove a tick.
- **If possible, seal the tick in a container.** Put the container in a freezer. Your doctor may want to see the tick if you develop new symptoms.
- **Wash your hands and the bite site.** Use warm water and soap, rubbing alcohol, or an iodine scrub.

When to seek emergency care: Call 911 or your local emergency number if you develop:
- A severe headache
- Difficulty breathing
- Paralysis
- Heart palpitations

When to contact your doctor:
- If you can’t completely remove the tick.
- The rash gets bigger.
- You develop flu-like signs and symptoms. You think the bite site is infected. You think you were bitten by a deer tick.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Stark County Safety Council has ranked as one of the top Safety Councils in the State of Ohio for over 15 years, and this year was no exception! We were honored to be named the 2nd Place Safety Council of the Year by the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation Division of Safety & Hygiene at the 2019 Safety Council Leadership Conference. It is because of your tremendous support, involvement and dedication to safety that we are able to reach this accomplishment.
The Stark County Safety Council (SCSC) and the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation honored SCSC safety award winners at the 2019 Safety Awards Banquet on April 30th. Thank you to John Annarino, Chief Medical and Health Officer, the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation for being the special guest speaker. It was a wonderful evening! Congratulations to all SCSC members who received awards!
FREE BWC SAFETY CLASSES
Free BWC safety classes available at North Canton Service office. See the BWC catalog for class descriptions.

Measuring Safety Performance—June 6—8:30-4:30
First Aid in the Workplace—June 17—8:30—4:30
Thermal Stress—June 20—8:30-Noon
Safety for the Non-safety Professional—June 25—8:30-4:30

Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com to enroll.

Resources

- The BWC Library creates a monthly ‘Safety Update’ available at www.bwc.ohio.gov

July 11, 2019

“Street Smart On Drugs”

Sergeant Michael N. Powell (Ret.) & State of Ohio for Ohio (HIDTA) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

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