

Workplace Safety Bucknell

Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2
Winter 2011

Inside this Issue:

Defensive Driving Tips	1
University Vehicle Drivers	1
Slips, Trips, Falls	2
Germs ...	2
Complimentary Snacks	2
Safe Driving DVD's	2

About the Workplace Safety Committee

The Bucknell Workplace Safety Committee has prepared this newsletter to provide safety and health-related information to our colleagues.

We welcome your safety concerns, questions and suggestions. Please address these to:

safetyworks@bucknell.edu

Committee members:

Linda Bennett, Office of the General Counsel

Margaret Brody, Chem Lab

Rex Cutchall, Facilities

Todd Fogle, Library & IT

Trish Haire, Human Resources

Lisa Lapp, Public Safety

Jim McCormick, EH & S

Kelly Pastuszek, Athletics


Chris Small, Facilities

Gina Stockdale, Events Mgt

Defensive driving tips to avoid hitting a deer

Each year there are approximately 500,000 deer/auto collisions resulting in over 100 deaths and thousands of injuries. Each deer/auto collision costs the auto insurance industry about \$2,000 according to the Insurance Information Institute. The recent explosion in the deer population has led to a dramatic increase in deer/car collisions. In the 1980's deer population was approximately 10 million. Today, there are more than 25 million. Losses due to deer and car encounters will only increase as the deer population continues to grow and urban habitats encroach upon rural environments.

The following are defensive driving tips to avoid hitting a deer:

- Be vigilant in early morning & evening hours, the most active time for deer.
 - Use your high-beam headlights, which reflect in the deer's eyes, to see the deer better.
 - Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
 - Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path. Do not swerve. It can confuse the deer as to where to run. It can also cause you to lose control and hit a tree or another car.
- 
- Be alert and drive with caution when you are moving through a deer crossing zone.
 - Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
 - Look for other deer after one has crossed the road. Deer seldom run alone.

If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. The frightened animal, in attempting to move, could hurt you or itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police. When you get home, contact your insurance agent or company representative and report the incident. Collision with an animal is normally covered under the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance policy.

Courtesy of smartmotorist.com

Attention University Vehicle Drivers:

*If you are involved in an accident while driving any university vehicle, whether you think there is damage to the vehicle or not, you **must** fill out the accident report form that is located in the glove compartment & return it to Vickie Smith in the Transportation Office upon return to campus. If there is no accident report form in the vehicle contact Vickie Smith at 570-577-3785 and she will send you one. You must also notify Linda Bennett immediately at 570-577-1149 in the Office of the General Counsel.*

Slips, Trips and Falls

Trips and falls often occur while people are in a hurry, because they often take short cuts and don't pay attention to what they are doing. We all have tried to jump across an obstacle instead of walking "the long way around" to our destination. These types of acts are unsafe. Learn to slow down and walk sure footedly by avoiding potentially hazardous short cuts.

Avoid injuries by paying attention to where you are walking. Learning to recognize hazards and avoid them saves time, money and injury. As mentioned previously, resist the temptation to take short cuts because short cuts are usually comprised of objects or routes not designed for foot traffic and often consist of unstable, shaky or slippery surfaces.

If you cannot avoid walking on slippery or wet surfaces, practice walking safely across them. Don't try to run, jump or slide across these slick surfaces. Instead, take slow, short steps with your toes pointed slightly outward. For additional balance, keep your hands at your sides (not in your pockets) to support you if you begin to fall. Remember that a freshly polished floor can also be very slick even though it doesn't usually appear hazardous.

If you work in an area that has slippery surfaces wear shoes that have slip-resistant soles. Ask your supervisor about the correct shoe for your job. Keep your shoes free from grease and oil. On large walkways, use mats or rough grade coverings to minimize falls.

Inadequate lighting can camouflage what is in your way, so replace light fixtures or bulbs that don't work. When you enter a darkened room always turn on the light first, even if you stay only for a moment. Keep walkways clear of obstructions in areas that have poor lighting.

Stairs which are too steep or not steep enough can create the potential for trips and falls. Because it is very easy to lose your footing while climbing stairs, walk up and down stairs slowly. Be cautious of worn or broken steps, and of insufficient lighting that may make it difficult to see properly. Never run up or down stairs, and avoid skipping steps. If you have to carry a load while climbing stairs, carry the load so it doesn't block your vision, and keep one hand free, if possible, to hold onto the wall railing.

Courtesy of The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation Resource Center



Germ's . . . Did you know ?

- *A virus can survive on surfaces (and infect individuals) for two to eight hours after being deposited.*
- *It takes almost no time at all for an item to become contaminated with germs once it makes contact. The five-second rule isn't a good idea when it comes to food dropped on the floor.*
- *Not all bacteria are bad: some are necessary to help the body use nutrients.*
- *Leftover food that has come into contact with a used eating utensil may spoil more quickly since digestive enzymes from saliva help to break food down.* JJ Keller & Associates, Inc.

Attention: Faculty/Staff University Drivers—Complimentary Snacks for a meeting

The Workplace Safety Committee has recently purchased the following two dvd's for our library: "Driven to Distraction" and "Before You Turn the Key" with accompanying handbooks. These are available for you or your department to view. There is a short test at the end of each handbook. Take the test and submit your answers to Lori Barth, 209 Marts Hall and your name will be entered into a contest to win a cool prize.

Any department that reserves the dvd's for a departmental meeting will be provided with complementary snacks for the meeting from the WSC. For more information contact Lori Barth at lbarth@bucknell.edu.

(See the sidebar above for information about the dvd's.)

Safe Driving DVD's

Two new dvd's are available for viewing by any employee or department.

Before you Turn the Key

is a 20 minute dvd explaining the importance of knowing how to operate the specific vehicle you are about to drive; adjusting seats, mirrors, knowing how to operate the wipers, etc.

Distracted Driving is a 20 minute dvd reminding us of the dangers of cell phones, texting, eating, etc. while driving.

Contact Lori Barth at 71149 if you would like to borrow either of these dvd's.

Available from our Lending Library:

Videos:

- ✓ *Fire Safety—Everyone's Job*—13 minutes
- ✓ *Safe Lifting and Carrying*—12 minutes
- ✓ *Drive Safely*—12 minutes

Handbooks:

- ✓ *Slips, Trips and Falls*
- ✓ *Safe Winter Driving*
- ✓ *Back safety—Lift well, Live well*
- ✓ *Holiday Stress*
- ✓ *Ergonomics—Solving the Puzzle*

Please call x71149 for more information about these videos and handbooks.