



Speaking of Safety

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From the President's Desk

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All of us at the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan hope that you are enjoying your summer and had a great National Safety Month in June. Congratulations to all of our membership for supporting a great opportunity to thank your employees for doing their best to remain safe on the job.

The Safety Council has been working with the new Board of Directors and the elected Board Members to continue to streamline and maximize the strengths of our Safety Council. Working together, the entire board has developed new focus items and activities that will support the National Safety Council's mission and the Safety Council's mission to provide the highest quality health and safety information, education, and training opportunities to the membership and the community. We are pleased to have several new trainers and new training opportunities that include HAZWOPER and MIOSHA related courses for both general industry and construction businesses in Michigan. Please contact the Safety Council for details on who to maximize the safety programs at your workplace.

Your Safety Council continues to promote and provide information and training opportunities for the Defensive Driving program. The National Safety Council has new video that brings the importance of good driving habits to light. Two families are profiled in this short video, both having lost a loved one in a car accident which resulted from a driver simply talking on a cell phone. One family profiled in this video is from Michigan. Please visit http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx to view this video that is less than 5 minutes long. Be sure to view the other short videos of drivers talking on their cell phones and the "near misses" that were a result of their distraction.

Be sure to register early for our Susan B. Harwood "Safety Management Systems for Small Business" class scheduled for August 26, 2009. As with all Susan B. Harwood classes, this class is FREE of charge for all attendees. Attendees will gain the basic skills and information to prepare a safety management system, identify motivators and benefits for managing safety and health efforts, evaluate the existing safety & health program and identify ways to improve the existing program with emphasis on four components of a safety management system. Please contact the Safety Council for additional information regarding this important course and register early, space is limited.

Yours in Safety,

Jack Mihalko, MA
President/CEO

Calendar of Events

Register today for these upcoming classes & seminars:

August 5, 2009 - Safety Council Golf Outing, 7:00 am, St. John's Inn, Plymouth

August 14, 2009 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

August 21, 2009 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

August 26, 2009 - Susan B. Harwood's Safety Management Systems for Small Business, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

September 11, 2009 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

September 18, 2009 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

The Safety Council's scheduled training classes take place at the Safety Council Training Center in Bloomfield Hills, unless otherwise noted. The Safety Council is also able to take our training on the road. Contact the Safety Council to discuss hosting a training opportunity at the job site. The Safety Council's experienced trainers customize classes to address the specific needs of the of the company or job functions requiring the training. In addition, since the Safety Council is a non-profit organization, class prices meet the most stringent budgets. Proper safety training is a simple way to improve the bottom line. Safe employees and job sites equals less workman's compensation claims, days off work, and actually improves productivity. Any formula for success includes a safe workplace.

Don't wait until an accident costs you too much. Register for training today. Registration for all classes and seminars ends five (5) business days before listed start date. Payment must be made in advance to complete the registration process. Download our registration form from www.safetycouncilsemi.org under the Events Calendar page or Classes page.

For a description of class offerings or to register for any class, please contact the Safety Council by phone or email and keep checking the website! Call 248-858-8830 or email us at info@safetycouncilsemi.org.



National Safety Council's "Death by Cell Phone"

The National Safety Council has been on a mission to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities that result from distracted drivers. There are a variety of distractions that have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and text messaging are much higher risk activities that occur for a longer duration and with more people than most other actions that occur while driving. The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan supports the NSC's mission to alert the nation that this behavior is not only dangerous, but socially unacceptable. Legislative bans on cell phone use is the first step of many to educate Americans and change this behavior.

Watch billboards, TV commercials, and view the NSC video posted on YouTube that will put the real risk behind driving and talking or texting to light. Two families who have lost loved ones as a direct result of cell phone use while driving are the subject of the NSC video posted on YouTube. One family profiled is from Michigan. Driver distraction is the leading cause of traffic crashes, responsible for approximately 80% of all collisions according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It is important to pay close attention to our driving habits as well as other drivers.

Keep your co-workers safe on company business. Consider implementing a ban on cell phone use for all company drivers as Exxon Mobile did in 2004. The Safety Council offers an array of defensive driving courses including a 4-hour, 8-hour, and Teen Driver Safety Course. Please contact the Safety Council for more information on how to keep yourself, co-workers, and your families safe on the road.

Are you Ready?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered with the Advertising Council to release the *Ready* Campaign - a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. The goal of this campaign is to get the public involved to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation.

Ready suggests that individuals do four key actions: prepare an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about the types of emergencies that could occur and their responses, and get involved in community efforts. *Ready Business* was launched in 2004 and focused on business preparedness. *Ready Business* helps owners and manager of small to medium-sized businesses prepare their employees, operations and assets in the event of an emergency. In 2006, *Ready Kids* was released to educate children, ages 8-12, about emergencies and how to help get their families prepared.

National Preparedness Month is held each September to increase public awareness about emergency preparedness. Americans are encouraged to host activities that include training to support the *Ready* campaign. For information about the *Ready* Campaigns, go to www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

The *Ready* Campaign recommends preparing the following items for an emergency supply kit:

- One gallon of water, per person, per day, for three days. Include extra for pets.
- A three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little to no water. Ready to eat canned items, peanut butter, protein or fruit bars, dry cereals are good items. Remember to have a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and NOAA Water Radio with extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First Aid kit and whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags & ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Local maps.
- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers if needed.
- Extra pet food and water, leash and collar.
- Important family documents including insurance policies, identification and bank account information in water-proof, portable container.
- Books, games, and activities for children.

There is much more that individuals and businesses need to do in order to be fully prepared in the event of an emergency. Knowing what type of emergencies that can occur near the home or business and how to respond to them is important to determine. Weather emergencies, factory or plant fires, and pandemics are only a few possible emergencies to think about when preparing an emergency plan. Getting involved in community activities can help both individuals and businesses prepare appropriately, as well as learn how to support community efforts. For additional tips and information, please contact the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan and go to www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

In the Spotlight – Work Zone Safety

Many Michiganders have long commutes to work and enjoy long trips across the state to many beautiful vacation destinations. Construction delays are certainly not much fun, however, it is critically important that drivers exercise extra caution and drive the posted speed limit.

The National Safety Council reports that in 2007 there were 835 people killed and 41,475 people injured in work zone crashes. Of the 835 fatalities, 644 were in construction zones, 88 were in maintenance zones, 11 were in utility zones, and 92 were in undetermined work zones. Compared to 2006, work zone fatalities decreased by 17% and injuries increased 10%.

The engineers and planners for these construction zones are responsible for making sure the work zones are operating properly, and safely. Drivers and pedestrians have the responsibility to always be alert and obey all traffic laws.

Always expect the unexpected when in or near a work zone. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes changed, and people may be working near the road. Slow down - speeding is one of the major causes of work zone incidents. Keep a safe distance between the car ahead of you to prevent a rear end collision. Pay close attention to work zone signs and obey the work zone flaggers. Expect delays and be patient and calm. The road improvements will make future commutes better.

Our Mission

The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan is a not-for-profit, public service organization. As the primary leader, our purpose is to provide the highest quality health and safety information, education, and training programs for our members and the community.

The Council's goal is to prevent injuries and illnesses, and property loss concerning every aspect of a person's life. This will be accomplished through open communication and networking by our organization with Council members and the community.

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