



# Speaking of Safety

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## From the President's Desk

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The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan is pleased to report that efforts to make Michigan's roads safer is continuing to succeed with the enactment of new legislation making texting and driving a primary ticketable offence. In Michigan, if a driver is witnessed reading, writing, or sending text messages while operating a vehicle, they can be stopped and ticketed. The first offence is a \$100 ticket and the second or subsequent offence will cost \$200.

The Safety Council encourages all businesses to implement a safe driving policy for all employees including sales staff, delivery staff or curriers, and management members that might be required to drive to client or vendor meetings and other work-related destinations. A safe driving program will keep employees safe, as well as has the potential to improve an already tightened company budget.

Register TODAY for the Safety Council/ASSE-Greater Detroit Chapter annual golf outing on August 11, 2010 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. A registration form can be found on the Safety Council website at [www.safetycouncilsemi.org](http://www.safetycouncilsemi.org). Print out form and fax it to the Safety Council as soon as possible to secure your foursome. If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring this event with a sign at a tee, on a golf cart, or at the meal locations. Sponsorships are an inexpensive marketing opportunity and a great way to support your Safety Council.

The Safety Council is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of our membership. The Safety Council has several networking, volunteer, and other opportunities that could support the mission of the Safety Council. The Safety Council would like to thank everyone to has graciously donated time, talents, and/or sponsorships to our organization. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Safety,  
*Jack Mihalko, MA*  
President/CEO

## Calendar of Events

### Register today for these upcoming classes & seminars:

August 11, 2010 - Safety Council/ASSE-Greater Detroit Chapter Golf Outing, Inn at St. John's, Plymouth

August 13, 2010 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

August 20, 2010 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

September 10, 2010 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

September 17, 2010 - 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](http://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](mailto:info@safetycouncilsemi.org).

## Poison Prevention

The National Safety Council reports an 80% increase in poisonings from 2001 to 2006. Poisonings include unintentional overdose or misuse of drugs, as well as exposure to household chemicals and other substances.

According to a 2007 survey by NSC, most Americans believe that children are at higher risk for poisonings than adults. Data suggests that adults are actually at the highest risk for poisonings, mostly due to unintentional drug overdoses. Many unintentional overdoses include the use of opioid analgesics, such as oxycodone and methadone, which are initially prescribed to treat chronic pain. However, while children rarely die from unintentional poisoning, an estimated 40,000 children under the age of 4 are injured every year.

To reduce the risk of unintentional poisoning, always follow the recommended dosage prescribed by your doctor and ask questions of the doctor and/or pharmacy about interactions with other medications you may be taking. Never share medications. Use child-resistant caps and keep medicines and household chemicals locked up and out of reach to protect children. Some mouthwashes contain enough alcohol to poison a child. Keep medicines and chemicals in their original containers and do not store them near food. Dispose of any unused or expired medications. Keep the number for Poison Control near the phone: 800-222-1222.

## In the Spotlight – Home Safety

The National Safety Council collected data indicating that people are actually safer at work than at home, 11% safer. Looking at 146 million workers, the NSC discovered that there were: 53,200 off-the-job deaths and 4,988 on-the-job deaths. In addition, NSC discovered that there were 9.4 million off-the-job disabling injuries and 3.7 million on-the-job disabling injuries. This data estimates a cost \$240.3 billion for off-the-job and \$164.7 billion for on-the-job injuries and fatalities.

The NSC suggests that many of these off-the-job injuries and fatalities can be attributed to:

- Falls, especially to those 65 years and older
- Distracted drivers - using the cell phone and/or texting while driving
- Inexperienced teen drivers
- Poisonings, including those from unintentional drug overdose from painkillers or other prescription drugs
- Sports injuries
- Overexertion
- Choking
- Drowning
- And other incidents and accidents

Much legislation and training is focus on safety at the workplace and on the road. Sometimes not enough light is shed on home safety hazards. By understanding common home hazards and implementing safe practices, the home can become just as safe as the workplace.

To reduce the potential for an injury or accident in the home, be vigilant in looking for safety hazards. Conduct a home inspection to see where potential risks may be and find ways to prevent the risk from becoming an accident waiting to happen. Look for fire hazards, trip and fall hazards, poisoning hazards, and always supervise children when playing near water. Spend extra time with new teen drivers and help them become better drivers.

The Safety Council provided helpful “Summer Safety” tips In the last issue of *Speaking of Safety*. Many of these ideas were focused on common home and playground safety hazards. In many other *Speaking of Safety* issues, the Safety Council has focused on teen driver and distracted driver safety hazards. However, information is only useful in preventing injuries and accidents if it is not only read, but implemented.

The Safety Council strives to provide relevant information to our membership and the community that helps to improve safety in the workplace, at home, and on the road. If you are interested in additional home-safety information, please contact the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan.

## Safety Excellence

Encourage safety excellence at the workplace by maintaining open communication and through continuous improvement of the corporate safety program. Begin by conducting a safety perception survey to determine the safety culture at the workplace. Are safety measures the first thought or the last thought when an employee is performing job responsibilities. Is safety equipment and training readily available to all employees and is it being utilized when necessary?

Conduct regular internal safety inspections to determine gaps or areas requiring improvement. An internal inspection can reveal safety issues before an injury or accident occurs. A corporate safety program is an evolving document that changes with the changes in workplace practices. Continual review and evaluation of the corporate safety program will keep procedures relevant as the job responsibilities change.

Regular evaluations of the workplace can also reveal patterns in safety issues, such as repeated injuries or short-cuts around safety measures. Learning about these patterns can aid in the development with more appropriate safety measures to eliminate these repeated injuries or shortcuts.

Gather the support of employees by making them part of the inspection process. Reward departments for having good safety records and for reporting unsafe areas before accidents or injuries occur. Reward employees for assisting with the development and the enforcement of the corporate safety program. A safe workplace can have immeasurable effects on employee morale and productivity.

## 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.

## Board of Directors

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