



# Speaking of Safety

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## From the President's Desk

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the President's Desk
- 2 Calendar of Events
- 2 Michigan Safety Conference
- 3 In the Spotlight – Cell Phone Policy
- 3 MIOSHA Recordkeeping
- 4 Reward Safety Efforts
- 4 Our Mission
- 4 Board of Directors

In recent months, the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan has focused efforts on driver's safety with Defensive Driving Classes, the Teen Driver Safety Course, and providing information regarding safe driving behaviors. In this issue of Speaking of Safety, please take note of the new cell phone policy that has recently been implemented by our board of directors. The Safety Council hopes that our membership has similar policies in place already, or are in the midst of developing them. By implementing a corporate cell phone policy, companies are protecting their employees and their communities, as well as reducing the risk for accident and injuries. Simply put - cell phone policies can save lives.

The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan operates in accordance with an agreement with the National Safety Council and our By-Laws. The Safety Council works with an Executive Board, our Board of Directors, and our membership to fulfill specific goals and our mission. The Board of Directors are continually reevaluating our goals and priorities and are looking for your involvement. Please contact me with any ideas or concerns you may have about your relationship with our Council or the National Safety Council. Only by open communication can we service your needs along with those in our local communities.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

## Calendar of Events

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

April 9, 2010 -DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

April 16, 2010 - DDC 8, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

April 20-21, 2010 - Michigan Safety Conference, Lansing Center, Lansing

May 14, 2010 - DDC-4, 8:30 am, Safety Council Training Center

May 21, 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).

## Michigan Safety Conference

If there is any conference you can budget in for this year, make it the Michigan Safety Conference. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of this conference and it promises to be just as impressive as in years past. At this conference, attendees can obtain CPR/First Aid certification, attend other class training, or enjoy the numerous exhibitors. The Michigan Safety Conference has deemed this year as the "Year of the Exhibitor" to honor the numerous companies who take the time to exhibit the latest in safety-related technologies, services, apparel, and equipment.

Register and find additional details for the Michigan Safety Conference by going to [www.MichSafetyConference.Org](http://www.MichSafetyConference.Org).

The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan will also be in attendance at the Michigan Safety Conference, so please be sure to stop by our booth and see what we have in store for this year. We hope to see you at this valuable safety conference.

## In the Spotlight – Cell Phone Policy

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that at least 1.4 million crashes are caused each year due to drivers using cell phones while driving. In addition, the NSC estimates that 200,000 additional crashes each year are caused by driving who are texting. In the fall, President Obama signed an Executive Order prohibiting federal employees from text messaging while driving in government-owned vehicles to illustrate how serious and dangerous this activity is on our roads.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and Nationwide Insurance conducted a public opinion survey which showed public support for total bans on cell phone use at approximately 50%. With many states enacting laws prohibiting cell phone use or limiting use to hands-free devices, it appears that legislators are also favoring a change in driver behaviors.

The Safety Council has instituted a policy to protect our employees and those citizens within our communities. This new policy will take effect immediately upon board approval and includes the following rules:

1. Company employees are not permitted to use a cell phone, either hand-held or hands-free, while operating a motor vehicle on company business and/or company time.
2. The policy applies to use of all cell phones and PDA's.
3. Calls are not to be answered while driving.
4. To make a call an employee must pull over to a safe area and stop the vehicle.

The Safety Council leadership and board believe that this new policy is important for the safety of our employees and to the community. We hope that more companies will become more strict in developing similar policies. Please contact the Safety Council for assistance with researching or writing a cell phone policy for your company.

## MIOSHA Record-Keeping

Improving the safety environment on the jobsite requires a continuous effort by both employers and employees. Keeping track of workplace accidents and injuries, can identify the industries or even specific tasks where additional attention should be focused. MIOSHA's Record-Keeping requirement helps MIOSHA identify the most common accident and injury causes, so that they can identify where additional regulatory efforts should be focused. At the end of the day, employers and MIOSHA want Michigan's workers to go home to their families safe and sound.

In accordance with the MIOSHA Record-Keeping rule, employers are to post the MIOSHA Form 300A Summary of the previous calendar year from February 1 to April 30. Companies with no injuries or illnesses in the previous calendar year must post the form with zeros on the total line. Be sure the Form 300A Summary is posted appropriately and if you have any questions regarding the MIOSHA Record-Keeping requirement, please contact the Safety Council.

## Reward Safety Efforts

Give coworkers another reason to stay safe on the job - reward them for a job well done! Are employees following safety procedures, have you met the Million Work Hours without an injury, do you have a driver with a perfect record? Show employees that being safe can actually save lives and prevent injuries and illnesses.

Rewards can be as easy and inexpensive as a certificate of appreciation or as distinguishing as a wall plaque. In June, during National Safety Month, really give your employees something to work towards like a corporate picnic or party.

Rewarding employees for staying safe on the job will encourage adherence to safety policies and create a positive safety environment. Rewards also show that safety is important to management, not because of the money saved in worker's compensation or days off work, but that management wants employees to stay safe and healthy.

If there isn't a reward system built into the corporate safety program, start creating one today. For assistance on improving the corporate safety program or developing a reward program, please contact the Safety Council.

## 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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