



# October Safety Info

- Be Cautious in Glare Situations
- Remember: Safe Driving = Defensive Driving
- PPE Reminders
- Advice on Several Topics

# DEER – GLARE – HIGH VISIBILITY



- NO amount of high viz apparel is effective in GLARE BLINDNESS
- You are effectively BLIND to all optical sensory.
- When the sun is behind you, approaching vehicles probably do not see you or your vehicle.
- Daytime running lights and High Viz Apparel may not be effective in glare.
- Best Practice = 'Defensive Positioning' on foot & in vehicle.
- MINIMIZE your exposure in all situations. This takes discipline.
- Camera will document but not prevent an incident
- **Do not become complacent or lazy.** Safe behavior usually involves a bit more effort.

# DEFENSIVE DRIVING = SAFE WORK

- A safe driver generally translates to a safe worker.
- Conservative judgement and decision-making - behind the wheel and in self-directed work activity. Most of our work is self-directed.
- In other words, safe driving skills are transferable to the job site. We don't want you taking risks in any situations.
- Maintain a 4 second following distance in all driving environments.
- Halloween – pedestrian safety reminder;
- Apply the 5 Keys of Defensive Driving\*

\* 1) Aim High in Steering; 2) Get the Big Picture; 3) Keep your eyes moving; 4) Make Sure THEY SEE YOU; 5) ALWAYS LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT.

# PPE

- Examine your high viz garment. A year or longer exposure to sunlight plus periodic laundering can degrade luminosity.
- **Make sure your hi viz garment is properly ANSI rated and optimally brilliant.**
- Best Practice: write your name & service date on hard hat & vest
- Launder high viz vest periodically. Air dry- avoid high heat.
- WASH the interior of hat and suspension at least seasonally
- Cold Weather – Dress in layers for adjustment during day. Temps can vary by 30+ degrees

# EVERYTHING ELSE



- Check truck cargo caps or covers
- Use at least THREE tie down straps for any cargo bed, roof mounted or trailered equipment.
- Use medium or heavy grade tie down straps.
- The fact is: junk blows off vehicles. This is an extreme traffic safety hazard.
- Seasonal Advisory — bees of all types are particularly active and aggressive around now. Bee hives can be concealed practically anyplace. Always leave yourself a path of refuge. Avoid running – walk quickly.
- **All edged tools must be carried in a sheath.** Avoid swinging tool ‘bounce-back’ on limb or truck. Assume proper stance when swinging. Swing the tool at sufficiently sharp angle to penetrate mass of wood. On vines, grass, lighter limbs, i.e. dime size diameter – use shear or pruner.
- Wear high grip gloves when handling, using, carrying, etc. any tool. This improves dexterity, force, safety & directional control. Hand & finger injuries are common, painful & preventable.
- Extra caution – ladders; climbing of all type. Footwear; weight distribution; secure the ladder.