

John Meola's
Safety First!
Safety Meeting Topics
for WSA Members



January Safety Info

- Happy New Year and Welcome to Nuclear Winter 2023
- Winter driving reminders
- Follow defensive driving rules – the practice that keeps you alive
- Applied Safety Best Practices (BMPs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME TO THE 2023 VERSION OF NUCLEAR WINTER

- For many the freeze-thaw cycle is on steroids; watch for emerging potholes that can cause damage to your sweeping head
- Black ice hazard
- Bridges may be icy more than regular pavement
- Pavement pre-treatment is hard to manage in extreme weather; don't count on it!

WINTER DRIVING REMINDERS

- Cold start morning — take a minute to warm up your vehicle before rolling out
- Ice and water both create a hydroplaning hazard
- Edge-line 'puddling' can also be ICE!
- Steering & braking are both compromised in cold conditions
- Clear windows & mirrors
 - Avoid ice/snow blow-off by staying back further, especially when following large vehicles
- Tire & wheel mechanics
 - Extra important to make sure your tire pressures are balanced
 - Weight distribution can become skewed with a loaded sweeper so be extra cautious then

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

"THE PRACTICE THAT KEEPS YOU ALIVE"

- 5 Keys – aim high – get the big picture – makes sure they see you – keep your eyes moving
- ALWAYS leave yourself an out!
- Distractions – use discipline when in traffic – phone ALWAYS down.
 - Avoid CREATING an exposure
 - Avoid PROLONGING an exposure
- Intersections, including cloverleafs, are especially hazardous; parking lots, too
- Many accidents are caused by following too closely: 4-second rule applies – all speeds, all roads, parking lots, etc.
- There is no 'one' reason why accidents occur...

APPLIED SAFETY (BEST) PRACTICES

Slip & Fall Avoidance: Pay attention to surface characteristics!

- Footwear – fixed eyelets cause snag hazard; laces; sole & edges
- Tractive surfaces & foreign matter: LOOK where you step
- Balance – handrail or support; weight transfer; 'No Tippy Toes'
- Change in Elevation – stair, step, guard rail, barrier wall, slope, etc.
- Ladder; gradient; avoid climbing onto truck bed
- Safety chock whenever raising hopper for inspection
- Carrying objects; don't have distractions
- 'No Tippy Toes'

• **Hand & Finger Protection**

- Reach, stretch, grasp
- Arm above shoulder; lifting from below the knee
- Use a TOOL to assist; Use grip-enhancing gloves when helpful
- Hand & finger configuration – 'No finger tip reaching'