

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



# November Safety Info

- Glare Trouble Minimization
- Report Accidents and Close Calls!
- Thanksgiving Traffic: The Heaviest of the Year
- Special Operations: Competency and Training
- General Reminders About the Holiday Season

# GLARE TROUBLE MINIMIZATION

- Glare occurs: Early morning - Late afternoon - All night
- Be especially careful in known population areas
- Keep a safe protective distance all around you – avoid swerving into other lane
- Two lane roads – use extreme caution
- Interstate – stay away from other vehicles



# REPORT ACCIDENTS AND CLOSE CALLS!



- Close Calls – when they happen... observe, record, report.
- PPE – Seasonal gear. Layers are preferred to allow adjustment in temperature swing – use oversize high visibility vest.
- Helmet liners are recommended; chin straps should be REQUIRED to keep your hat on when outside your truck in hard hat areas and jobs.
- Eye protection can help keep your face warm, protect from blowing dust in eye, dry air.
- Keep loose ends tucked in – draw strings, scarf, etc.
- Nuclear Winter – keep a selection of light garments handy

# THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAFFIC *HEAVIEST OF THE YEAR*



- Thanksgiving is the heaviest volume of all transportation.
- We should be planning for the long holiday, probably call-out for incidents.
- **Big contributors to accidents: fatigue, distractions, marathon trips, unfamiliar routes, substance abuse, speeding - trying to 'make time', darkness hours, overloaded vehicles, road conditions, work zones, etc.**
- Not all drivers are 'responsible'. Pressures build that can overcome sense of proper driving habits.
- Safety Factors include: Seat Belts, Day-Time Running Lights, Defensive Positioning, time of day, volume, etc.
- Remember: **SATURDAY** is statistically the worst day for crashes.
- **NIGHT driving** increases risks; impaired drivers more common at NIGHT

# SPECIAL OPS – COMPETENCY & TRAINING

- Small stuff: chain saw, chop saw, angle grinder, skill saw, sawzall, etc.
- Battery operated tools – Ryobi chain saw for example
- More complex equipment – Lull; cherry picker; aerial lift; basket – license, training from dealer
- Specific training required: fall protection; confined space
- Common activity: lifting & handling; shovel, sledge hammer; post driver; manhole cover; upper body; legs
- PPE suited to the task
- Look at: weights and distance, forces, volumes, weather, etc. Ask yourself: “What could go wrong?”



# HOLIDAY SEASON



- Home Safety review- decorations; ladders; trees; electrical;
- Winter – check heating appliances; stoves, chimney; pipes; vents; filters; etc.
- Check smoke alarms; CO detectors; other according to your location & activity
- Vehicle emergency kit- flares; high viz vest; warning light; jumper cables; other
- Weight in vehicle is important- weight distribution; tire maintenance
- Celebrate responsibly; Uber or camp over
- How to spot an impaired driver
- No texting while driving, **walking**, work zone, etc. DISTRACTIONS ABOUND!