

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



November Safety Info

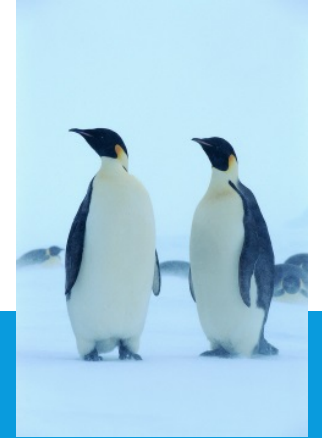
- Thanksgiving: Stay safe in the biggest traffic of the year!
- Cold weather is here: Dress and prepare accordingly
- More cold weather reminders and tips
- Report accidents and close calls
- Doing non-standard operations? Review safety/operations prior to using tools

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAFFIC *HEAVIEST OF THE YEAR*



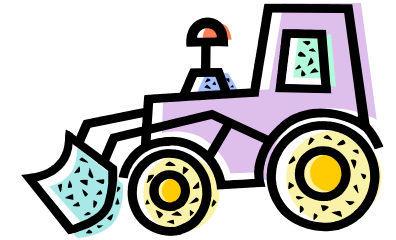
- Thanksgiving is the heaviest volume of all transportation.
- We should be planning for the long holiday, probably call-out for incidents.
- **Big contributors to accidents: fatigue, distractions, marathon trips, unfamiliar routes, substance abuse, speeding - trying to 'make time', darkness hours, overloaded 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
- bicycle, occupational – transportation driving
- Highway Road Rage incidents are increasingly violent. Use extreme caution with other drivers acting irresponsibly. Back off, give space. Do not engage in confrontational behavior.
- THINK before acting. Maintain a sense of personal security. Holidays can cause stress and cause people to do inexplicable actions.

COLD IS ALREADY CREEPING IN!!



- Early Winter?? No problem as long as you're PREPARED!
- Dress in several light layers. Cotton & wool are preferred. Waffle pattern thermals are also effective.
- Use 'long johns'- they're comfortable and make a big difference in heat retention
- Warm air trapped between garment layers is what insulates best
- The more severe the conditions, the more we need specialty gear – think: wind, rain, ice, snow, etc.
- The longer the outdoor exposure, the more garment engineering we need for protection & comfort.

MORE COLD WEATHER TIPS



- Spray outdoor padlocks and hardware with WD 40. This lubricates; removes water that can freeze and break your key.
- Use fuel line deicer, especially for vehicles that stay outdoors.
- Buy a long reach ice scraper and broom.
- Ergonomic handle on a snow shovel can help minimize back pain. Pay the extra few bucks for a good tool.
- If you're not used to shoveling, start slow, take a break often.
- Handling tools outdoors in cold- use high grip gloves. You're aiming for grip vs. insulation. The work activity will ensure enough circulation to keep you warm.
- Bonus safety tip: Watch your fingers when opening/closing heavy gates, doors, drawers, tool box lids, etc. Especially outdoors, in WIND! Wear gloves, use a solid grip on handles, keep fingers clear. Then again, the cold will help numb the swelling.

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 eyes and dry air.
- Keep loose ends tucked in – draw strings, scarf, etc.
- Nuclear Winter – keep a selection of light garments handy

SPECIAL OPS – COMPETENCY & TRAINING

- Small stuff: chain saw, chop saw, angle grinder, skill saw, sawzall, etc.
- Battery operated tools – Especially chain saws can need training
- 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
- Wear PPE suited to the task
- Look at: weights and distance, forces, volumes, weather, etc. Ask yourself: “What could go wrong?”

