



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Mobile District

Safety Bulletin

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**Mobile District
Safety and Occupational
Health Office**

Did You Know?

Non-dairy creamer is flammable.

THINK

**DO IT RIGHT THE
FIRST TIME!**

PLAN AHEAD

Defensive Driving Training

In the last safety bulletin, we discussed Position Hazard Analyses (PHA's) and the fact that they had to be developed for all COE employees, identifying tasks associated with their jobs, and the hazards and controls associated with these tasks. We've also discussed Activity Hazard Analyses (AHA's) and when they are required. IF it was identified in an employee's PHA that he/she must operate a motor vehicle as part of his job assignment, are you aware of the requirements that apply? Are you, your employees or your contractor personnel required to operate USACE/Army motor vehicles as part of their job - and remember, this includes employees using their vehicles or even rental vehicles while on official business (either on or off USACE projects) as well as contractor personnel that operate USACE-owned vehicles, then read on to find out what requirement applies.



18.B.02. The principles of defensive driving shall be practiced. Operators of Army motor vehicles shall received Defensive Driving Training every 4 years.

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SURE, NOW YOU NOTICE ME

Every time someone conducts a survey to determine what is most effective in increasing an employee's desire to work better, faster, safer and with more satisfaction, money is never in the top answers. What is? Appreciation through recognition of their contributions. When it comes to safety, what does it take for most employees to receive the personal recognition they need and desire? Three examples:

- 1) Carol places a hard hat on her head over 2,000 times a year. No one notices. However, one day, because she is in a hurry, Carol forgets to put her hard hat on and her behavior finally receives recognition.
- 2) John, a supervisor who rarely has to fill out accident reports because his crew members work safely, does a poor job completing his first one this year. His recognition: a returned form with the word "incomplete" stamped on it.
- 3) Though David's department obtains some acclaim for going six months without a lost-time or OSHA recordable injury, only after he becomes a vital statistic and ruins his department's record does he receive the personal recognition he needs and desires. Unfortunately, it doesn't feel pleasant this time.

Of course you can't ignore safety violations. But if the main way people get "safety attention" is when they make mistakes, are forgetful or use poor judgment they will NOT have positive attitudes toward your safety program.



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Whacked

"A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist toward the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment, he had been happily listening to his walkman."

-- Associated Press

Driving in the Rain

Losing control of your car on wet pavement is a frightening experience. Unfortunately, it can happen unless you take preventive measures.

You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Steer and brake with a light touch. When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.

If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front. If your car has ABS, brake firmly as you "steer into the skid."



While skids on wet pavement may be frightening, hydroplaning is completely nerve-wracking. Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your car's weight can push it out of the way. The water pressure causes your car to rise up and slide on a thin layer of water between your tires and the road. At this point, your car can be completely out of contact with the road, and you are in danger of skidding or drifting out of your lane, or even off the road.

To avoid hydroplaning, keep your tires properly inflated, maintain good tread on your tires and replace them when necessary, slow down when roads are wet, and stay away from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. This could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally; the car's computer will mimic a pumping action, when necessary.

A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures!



Defensive Driving Training, continued from page 1



The Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office has made this easy for you to accomplish. You can access this training by going to: <https://samintra.sam.usace.army.mil/> and taking the required Defensive Driving Training.

It's computer based, interactive training that can be completed via a computer. It even allows you to complete this training in multiple sessions to better accommodate your schedule!

Please make this information available to all applicable employees.

Contractor personnel will need to make their own provisions to have Defensive Driving Training provided.