DEFENSIVE DRIVING

In the past 10 years there have been approximately 14,000 civilian worker traffic fatalities. The number one cause of accidents are unsafe acts followed by unsafe conditions. Some of these unsafe acts are speeding, fatigue and distracted driving.

Unfortunately, we can not control the unsafe conditions. The six conditions that are out of your control are Light (too much or too little), Weather, Road Conditions, Traffic, Vehicles and Other Drivers. Although you can not control these conditions being prepared and alert will help in keeping you safe.

Some helpful tips to avoid unsafe conditions are:

Wear sunglasses, Use your visor, Increase following distance, Keep your windshield clean, Keep both hands on the wheel, Watch for slick roads (ice, rain, snow), Pay attention to changing road conditions, Be sure to inspect your vehicle frequently, Take your time & learn the controls before driving an unfamiliar vehicle.
May 2018:
DEFENSIVE DRIVING continued

Distracted Driving is the number one unsafe act that causes accidents. Don’t let the actions of others distract your driving.

There are three types of distracted driving:
- Visual-taking one’s eyes off the road
- Manual-taking one’s hands off the wheel
- Cognitive-taking one’s mind off the task of driving

If you are distracted you are unable to follow the Standard Accident Prevention Formula:
- Recognize the Hazard
- Understand the Defensive
- Act Correctly in Time

The although eating, putting on make-up, being fatigued and speeding are all unsafe acts which can cause an accident the number one cause of distracted driving are cell phones. Having a conversation while driving is just as dangerous as handling the phone. The reaction time is delayed for a driver talking on the phone as much as it is for a driver who is legally drunk. A driver texting takes their eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds which is the equivalent to driving 55 mph across a football field blindfolded. Think about that!

As your employer it is not only our responsibility to have a cell phone use while driving policy it is also our job to make sure this policy is understood by all of those who are driving our company vehicles or transporting their consumers in a vehicle. If you have any questions regarding this policy please contact a member of the Safety Committee or your Supervisor.

If you have any safety concerns you can contact any member of the safety committee by emailing us at donsafety@donservices.org.