

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

City of Boynton Beach, Florida
Volume 8, Issue 2

Risk Management Department
Summer 2009

RISK MANAGEMENT MUSINGS

Some recent thoughts:

First, I want to thank all those who sent me their thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. They are greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to those who assisted the Risk Management staff during my absence. This was also greatly appreciated.

Health is a wonderful thing. Everyone needs to do a better job in managing their health and the health of their family members. Don't wait until it's too late.

The state legislature just passed a bill making failure to wear a seatbelt a primary offense. This means that the police can pull you over just for that offense. You don't have to be speeding, or running a red light, or violating any other traffic laws. Simply not wearing your seatbelt means you can be pulled over and ticketed. A word to the wise.

CHUCK MAGAZINE, RISK MANAGER

New Defensive Driving Training Course Coming!!

To establish a Safe Driver Program, the City has updated the Administrative Policy Manual (APM). The goal is to improve driving performance and the understanding of unsafe driving maneuvers.

One of the procedures based on the APM Chapter 12.01.18, Risk Management Safe Driver Program:

"All operators of city-owned vehicles and personally-owned-vehicles (POV's) used for city business will attend the city-sponsored Defensive Driver Training course at least once every two years."

Keeping this in mind a new drivers training course will be unveiled beginning July 1, 2009. This course should be able to be completed in under two hours including the short test at the end.

State of Florida Seat Belt Laws

In a car crash you are much more likely to be killed if you are not wearing a seat belt. That is why **Florida has seat belt laws**. The law states that the front seat passengers must wear seat belts. This law applies to any car manufactured since 1968. In addition, all passengers under 18 years old must wear a seat belt or be otherwise restrained by a child car seat. It is against the law to operate a vehicle if all the passengers do not meet these standards.

The cost for a seatbelt violation is \$101. Below is a summary of the Florida seat belt law. For a child that is not properly restrained the violation is \$151.

Summary of Mandatory Seat Belt Laws
Seat belt laws apply to all cars, pickup trucks, and vans operated on Florida roads.

All passengers in the front seat must wear a seat belt.
All passengers under 18 must wear a seat belt

Law update – It is now legal for the police to pull drivers over for not wearing a seat belt as a "primary offense" effective July 1, 2009.

Florida Child Restraint Requirements

Children 3 and younger must be secured in a federally approved child-restraint seat.

Children 4 through 5 must be secured by either a federally approved child restraint seat or safety belt.
The Driver is responsible for buckling up the child.

Why is it Important to Wear a Safety Belt?

Seat belts protect you from being thrown from a vehicle. If you are thrown from a vehicle your risk of death is five times greater.

By securing you in your seat, a seat belt protects you from being thrown into other people in the car and parts of your car. In addition, seat belts keep the driver in their seat so they can control the car.

Always Wear your Safety Belt

The Florida safety belt laws apply at all times. Regardless if you are on a short trip in your neighborhood or driving hundreds of miles on the turnpike - always wear your seat belt.

www.dmvflorida.org

Leadership....

Is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible. COLIN POWELL

Health Beat



Most of us value our health and fitness for ourselves and our family; however, almost two thirds of our children are overweight and even fewer participate in some sort of physical activity on a regular basis.

As this disturbing statistic rises, schools are cutting physical education classes, store shelves are stocked up with unhealthy foods, and television, internet and gaming time could be spent doing a physical activity in the past.

Cooking with your family can be a rewarding challenge even with young children so they may learn in helping to decide and prepare a healthy cuisine. Hopefully, these experiences and tastes will follow them through adulthood.

Engage your family into going outside to get regular exercise doing simple things like washing vehicles for a water play day. If there are any ideas your children might have or would like to do, make it happen and do it on a regular basis.

Be a role model for your children. Studies have shown that overweight and sedentary parents are likely to raise their children the same way. Become a healthy person by eating good foods and maintaining an energetic life with a positive attitude.

Educate your children on your family health history. Be honest so they may learn to be aware of issues that may arise. Encourage them to talk to you about any worries or concerns, such as dieting, body image, sex and relationships. Health is a broad range of physical and emotional areas and by having an open dialogue will help your children with you, another family member or a medical professional is another aspect adding value to our health.

More-On Safety

An off-duty police officer, familiar with radar guns, drove through a school zone within the legal speed limit when the flash of a camera went off, taking a picture of his license plate.

The officer, thinking the radar was in error, drove by again; even more slowly. Another flash. He did it again for a third time, at an even slower speed. Same result.

"This guy must have screwed up the settings," the off-duty officer thought.

A few weeks later, when he received the violations in the mail, he discovered three traffic tickets:

Each for not wearing a seat belt!

Hot Car Alert!!!!

While we always focus on the safety of driving, there are other less well known "hidden dangers" of vehicle safety that could put your children at risk. Your car has the obvious risk of crashes, but, what if you leave a child in a hot car? Did you know that on average, increases in temperature for a period of time are the following:

- 10 minutes = 19 degree increase
- 20 minutes = 29 degree increase
- 30 minutes = 34 degree increase
- 1 hour = 43 degree increase

Parents mistakenly leave a child in the car for various reasons; running a quick errand, the child falls asleep and is not heard and parents just plain forgetting because of the hustle bustle of life or thinking the other caregiver took care of them. Other ways a child might succumb to this is they will sneak in cars to play and can not get out or even get trapped in the trunk.

The danger of a child getting overheated is not limited to the only risk. Leaving a child in a running car does not make your child any safer, your child could be abducted or get out of their car seat and put the car in drive.

So don't leave your child in the car even for a few minutes, it's not safe and against the law in Florida.

Statistics by Department of Geosciences

SAFETY EQUIPMENT USAGE

In 2007, Florida experienced 1,972 traffic deaths of drivers and passengers in Seat Belt Equipped Vehicles (SBEV). The tragic note of this, is 61% (1,201) of these people killed were not wearing seat belts.

Forty-one percent of motorcyclists and their passengers killed were not wearing helmets while 79% of bicyclists killed were not wearing helmets.

Sixty-two percent (83 of 134) of the children ages 0 to 17 years old killed were not using safety equipment.

City Employees Only : Be the 7th caller at 742-6043 and say "Safety First" to win \$10.00 on Tuesday, June 16th at 10:00 am.

In 2008, Boynton Beach had a total of 322 Seat Belt Violations and Palm Beach County had 1,387, according to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

National Safety Month

June is National Safety month; as an employee, how can you help in making it a safe month for June and all future months?

One way is to wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Some statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics are:

84% of workers who sustained head injuries were not wearing their hard hats. 40% were required to wear them.

99% of 770 workers who suffered face injuries were not wearing their face protection.

77% of workers with foot injuries were not wearing their safety shoes or boots.

About 60% of the workers with eye injuries were not wearing eye equipment.

A majority of these workers were injured while performing their routine jobs at regular jobsites.

Two employee incidents occurred in the City within the last year while wearing proper PPE:

Police Officer Richard McNevin in the line of duty on August 17, 2008 was chasing a suspect when the suspect turned and shot Officer McNevin in the abdomen. Thankfully, Officer McNevin had his PPE (bulletproof vest) which minimized the damage to his abdomen and survived.

Utility worker Keith Ellis on December 11, 2008 was installing a new 600 lb. pump when it fell on his foot. Fortunately, for Mr. Ellis he had his safety boots on, and again, minimized the damage to a fracture in his foot.

For the City to have an effective safety program, all positions need to be assessed to determine if any hazards are present that require the use of PPE. If hazards are present, the correct PPE must be selected and employees MUST use it. Training is necessary to employees who are required to wear PPE, for the proper use, fit, type, limitations, adjustments and proper maintenance of such equipment.

Keep this month and all months safe. Wear your PPE!

Statistics from Bureau of Labor Statistics

Red Light Runners!

A violation for running a red light is when a driver enters the intersection after the light has turned red or without coming to a complete stop when making a right on red or following right of way requirements at a lighted intersection.

A driver who inadvertently is in the intersection when the light changes to red (i.e. waiting to turn left) is not considered a red light runner.

In 2007 there were 107 fatalities, 5,879 injuries, 1,464 property damage crashes in the State of Florida contributing to a disregard to traffic signals.

The number one reason for running red lights is drivers are in a hurry and late for wherever they are going. As a driver, give yourself ample time to get to your destination.

Keep in mind, many cities in the area are installing cameras at intersections to thwart red light runners including Boynton Beach. These cameras will take a photo of the license plate of the vehicle and send the ticket to the vehicle's owner.

So be careful at lights, you never know who's watching.

Statistics from Dept of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

This Norwich Union customer collided with a cow. The questions and answers on the claim form were:
Q: What warning was given by you?
A: Horn
Q: What warning was given by the other party?
A: Moo

When travelling down the freeway, the first bug to hit a clean windshield will always land directly in front of the driver's face.

[Quigley's Law of Highway Driving quotes](#)

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Published by
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Stella Awards

(The "Stella Awards" rank up there with the Darwin Awards. Stella Liebeck is the 81 year old lady who spilled coffee on herself and sued McDonalds. This case inspired annual awards for the most "frivolous lawsuits in the U.S.")

Mary Ubaudi of Madison County, Ill. Ubaudi was a passenger in a car that got into a wreck. She put most of the blame on the deepest pocket available: Mazda Motors, who made the car she was riding in. Ubaudi demands "in excess of \$150,000" from the automaker, claiming it "failed to provide instructions regarding the safe and proper use of a seatbelt." One hopes Mazda's attorneys make her swear in court that she has never before worn a seatbelt, has never flown on an airliner, and that she's too stupid to figure out how to fasten a seatbelt.

Railroad Driving Safety Tips!

Following these few safety tips at a railroad crossing are very valuable and could save your life:

Always EXPECT a train!!!

Cross tracks at only designated roadway crossings.

Never drive around lowered gate – it's illegal and deadly.

Never race a train – even if you tie – you lose.

If your vehicle stalls on a track, get everyone out of the vehicle and call 9-1-1.

At multiple tracks, watch for another train on other train tracks.

Keep in mind that trains cannot stop quickly.

Do not proceed across the tracks until the gates raise and the flashing lights stop.

1997 Darwin Award Winner

Confirmed true by Darwin

(Named in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution to commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it.)

(23 May 1997, Kansas) A Wichita woman who allowed her 10-year-old son to back the family car down the driveway stumbled while directing the boy and was fatally run down when he stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake. At about 5:30PM the woman's son and a friend wanted to play basketball in the driveway, but the car was in the way. The mother stood behind the car helping guide the maneuver. She stumbled after walking backwards into a bush. The 28-year-old accident victim died at the scene Friday. Her name was withheld by authorities.

The boy was physically unhurt.

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street.

"But officer," the man began, "I can explain,".

"Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back..."

"But officer, I just wanted to say...."

"And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!"

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

Coping with Worry

Theresa: Doctor, I get so nervous and frightened during driving tests is there anything you can give me.

Doctor: Just try not to worry about it. You'll pass eventually.

Theresa: But I'm the examiner.



Driving Word Search

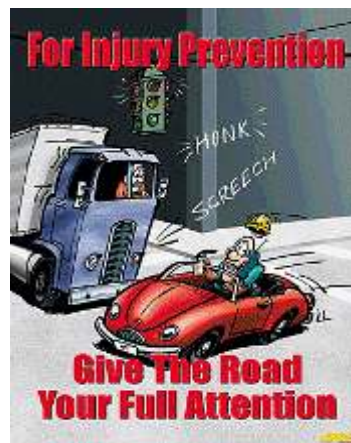
Find each of the words listed in the grid below and circle them. Return to Risk Management for a chance at a \$25 gift card from Publix.



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PASSENGER
PEDESTRIAN
RACE
SAFETY
SEAT
SEATBELT
SIGNALS
SLOW
SPEEDLIMIT
STOP
SUV
TICKET
TIRE
TRAFFIC
TRUCK
VEHICLE
VIOLATION
WHEEL

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CITY EMPLOYEES ONLY: Congratulations to Tammy Stanzione for answering last issues puzzle correct and winning a gift card for Publix. All employees that turn in a correct puzzle to Risk Management will be included in a drawing to win a \$25 gift card. Drawing to be held Thursday, June 18th at 4:00.

Fraud Hurts Us All

There are two types of fraud involving workers' comp:

Claimant fraud is where an employee may receive wage benefits under false pretenses.

The dishonest claimant may lie about the injury occurring on the job, or the injury itself.

In addition the dishonest worker may overstate the extent of the injury or receive money from other sources while lying to the insurance company about any income.

Premium fraud occurs when employers use a variety of schemes to defraud their workers' comp carriers by not paying for workers' compensation coverage at all, or by paying less than they should.

The primary scams involve under-reporting of payroll, misclassification of workers, paying workers in cash while identifying them as subcontractors, or having no coverage at all.

Workers' compensation fraud is a serious offense. In 1998, the penalties for W/C fraud were increased.

Now a person can be charged with up to a first degree felony, and the statute of limitations was increased from three to five years.

W/C fraud hurts us all.

It puts employers out of business, increase overall health care costs and the W/C premium costs for all businesses.

It is incumbent on anyone who suspects insurance fraud to report such activities to the Fla. Dept. of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud.

You can contact the department at

www.fldfs.com

or call their toll free hotline:

1-800-378-0445

Excerpted – EMI – Safety Matters

Congratulations to the following who scored 100% on both sections of Defensive Driving Training:

Karen Abramson	Library
Catherine Cherry-Guberman	CC
Michael Dauta	Whse
Andrea Johnson	Rec
Sam Kendrick	SW
Robert Kruse	Fire
Debbie Majors	CM
Julian Martin	Fire
Judith Pyle	CC
Perry Staiano	Utilities
Kathleen Zeitler	Dev

Hurricane Safety Tips!

Pre-Season Preparation

- Enter the season prepared.
- Know all evacuation routes living near the coast.
- Make sure your home meets building codes for withstanding hurricanes, and they have storm shutters.
- Have proper tools, supplies, and a first aid kit.
- Have plenty of batteries and flashlights.
- Always have plenty of non-perishable foods on hand.

When a Watch or Warning is Issued

- Leave low lying areas.
- Protect windows with plywood or storm shutters.
- Secure outside objects.
- Make sure you have plenty of fuel and water.
- Have several days supply of food and water for each family member.
- If called to evacuate, do so immediately.

Before the Storm

- Be ready to put your plan and preparation into action.
- Pay attention to local weather reports on radio, television, or the internet.
- Have house boarded up, have storm shutters in place.
- Have plenty of food and water.
- Make sure all your tools, supplies, and first aid kit is available for use.
- Have a secure room available.

During the Storm

- Stay in the Secure Room.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not use the phone or candles.
- Monitor weather and Civil Defense Bulletins on either regular or NOAA radio.
- Have supplies on hand.
- Remain indoors when the eye moves over your area because the storm will resume shortly.

After the Storm

- Make sure that all is definitely clear outside and the storm has completely passed before going out.
- Report downed power lines and stay away from them.
- Use stored water and food.
- Be patient. Things will take a while before they get back to normal.

Excerpted: www.hurricaneville.com

2009 Hurricane Names

Ana	Henri	Odette
Bill	Ida	Peter
Claudette	Joaquin	Rose
Danny	Kate	Sam
Erika	Larry	Teresa
Fred	Mindy	Victor
Grace	Nicholas	Wanda