
Safety & Working Conditions Study Committee

Safety E-Times

Issue 4

April 2006

This is the 4th issue of the Dane County Safety and Working Conditions Committee's newsletter Safety E-Times. The Committee has existed since 1973 and consists of union and management members from various county departments.

Members:

Mark Twombly – **Chair**
Sheriff/WPPA Sup
267-1561

Bill LeGore – **Vice Chair**
Airport
246-3389

Penny Munson – **Secretary**
Clerk of Courts/Local 720
266-4200

Members at Large:

Bill Huisheere
Human Services/Local 2634
242-6441

Laura Huttner
Human Services
Facilities Management
242-6260

Joel Wagner
Sheriff WPPA Non Sup
284-6149/6157/6164

Dan Behrend
Highway
266-4014

Don Wallin
Highway/Local 65
266-4011

John Talis
Corporation Counsel
Atty. Association
266-9006

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267-4191

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Vacant:
Nurses/United Prof.
Trade Union
Management Position
Risk Management Staff

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FAMILY EMERGENCY KIT

Know matter what the season, or where you live, every family should have at least one Family Emergency Kit.

Choose a sturdy, easy to carry box and include the following items:

1. Portable radio with spare batteries
2. Candles and water proof matches
3. First aid kit
4. List of emergency contact numbers
5. Rubber Gloves
6. Flashlight with spare batteries

Your kit should be kept in your emergency shelter, i.e. basement, root cellar, etc or in a place that is easily accessible for you to grab and take with you. Some families have more than one kit, one in the basement and one to take with in case there is a need to evacuate the house.

The Environment and You

Have you given it a thought “hmm, I wonder what I could do to help the environment easily in my normal everyday activities at home and at work which might also benefit me too?” Well, there is a lot that you can do and there is a website out of Canada that can help you...www.davidsuzuki.org. Or, you can use the 10 basic and most effective ways to conserve nature and still improve your quality of life. The ten are:

1. Reduce home energy use by 10%: A more energy-efficient home will lower your utility bills and reduce your impact on the environment.
2. Choose an energy efficient home and appliances: New refrigerators use 40% less energy than models made just 10 years ago.
3. Replace dangerous pesticides with alternatives: Small children and pets are especially vulnerable to the dangers of chemicals, plus the run-off into our sewers reduces the chemicals running back into our streams and lakes.
4. Eat meat-free meals one day a week: The production and processing of grains requires far less water and land than does meat.
5. Buy locally grown and produced food: Buying locally reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants from food transportation. A study reported that the average meal travels 1,500 miles from the field to your table.
6. Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle: A typical SUV uses almost twice the fuel and nearly twice the emissions of a modern station wagon.
7. Walk, bike, carpool or take transit: Researchers in California found that the air we breathe in our cars can be up to 10 times more polluted than outside air.
8. Choose a home close to work or school: This reduces the amount you drive, which lowers the emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants to the air. It also gives you more time to do other things instead of driving time.
9. Support car-free alternative transportation: Using public transportation, car pooling, riding a bike or walking to work, shop by phone or mail, and possibly telecommuting means less pollution, gridlock and urban sprawl.
10. Learn more and share with others: By working together we can inspire our elected officials to incorporate environmental conservation into policies and working with our neighbors and other organizations to implement good earth works.

There are many other ways to help conserve nature. The Air Resources Board of California has a website that gives out 50 Things You Can Do to help improve air quality. Some of them are drive less, drive smart, choose air friendly products, save energy, use recycled products, look out for small stuff like don't smoke and clean your home to remove dust and molds, and last Speak Up for clean Air That web site is www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/50things.htm.

participants to mark the location of any underground facilities in your planned work area.

Diggers Hotline will give you a control number as a record of your call and tell you which participants will receive your request. In MG&E territory, they will mark their lines with a combination of spray paint or chalk plus flags or stakes with attached ribbons. The markings – yellow for gas, red for electricity include the initials for identification.

You may need to contact other utilities and municipalities that are not Diggers Hotline participants directly.

Overhead Line Awareness

Diggers Hotline also helps you avoid problems with overhead electrical facilities. If your equipment can reach higher than 14 feet aboveground, and will be used within 25 feet of overhead facilities, Diggers Hotline will direct your request to participating utilities.

If your call indicates a possible problem with overhead lines, participating utilities will contact you within 3 working days to explain the safe working clearances required for your project.

If you are seeking more information, you can check the MG&E website:
mge.com/home/safety/diggers.htm

Diggers Hotline.....

It's that time of year again, when we start thinking of planting a tree, roto-tilling a new garden, putting up a fence or getting ready to start that outdoor construction project. That means it is also time to call Diggers Hotline 1-800-242-8511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 3 days prior to starting any project that includes digging.

Why? By calling first, you may:

- Prevent serious injury from accidental contact with underground or overhead lines
- Prevent an interruption of service
- Save you trouble and expense later on.

For example, you pour concrete for a foundation over a utility line. You may have to pay for relocating the underground lines if they ever need servicing. Painful in the pocket experience!!!

You should call at least 3 days ahead. For quickest service call between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. So, if you call on Tuesday, you should be able to do the work on Saturday. This provides time for Diggers Hotline to contact all participants and for all



Thunderstorm Safety

Whether at work or home there are safety measures we all should follow during a thunderstorm.

AT HOME:

1. Draw blinds and shades over windows to prevent glass from shattering into your home due to blown objects or hail.
2. Unplug and avoid using electric appliances. Avoid using the telephone. Telephone lines and other wires can conduct electricity.
3. Avoid taking a shower or bath or running any water. Metal pipes and plumbing will conduct electricity in the event of a lightning strike.
4. Turn off and/or unplug your air conditioner/s. Power surges can overload and damage the compressors.

OUTSIDE:

1. Get off of rivers, lakes, beaches, etc. and find shelter.
2. Take shelter in permanent, enclosed structures when possible. Avoid picnic shelters, baseball dugouts and bleachers. These structures are normally in the open and a good target for lightning.
3. If no reinforced structures are nearby take shelter in a car/truck or other hard topped vehicle and keep the windows closed.
Myth: Rubber tires provide no protection from lightning so avoid contact with metal surfaces inside and outside the car.
4. If in the woods find an area protected by a low clump of trees. **DO NOT** stand under a large tree in the open.
5. If no shelter is available, go to a low-lying, open place away from trees, poles or metal objects. Be alert for possible flooding. Squat low to the

ground and cover your head. **Do not lie flat.** Have as little contact with the ground as possible.

If you are in a field and you feel your hair stand on end; immediately crouch and make yourself the smallest target possible.

6. Avoid tall structures. Lightning strikes the tallest object in the area.
7. Avoid golf clubs, tractors, fishing poles, bicycles and camping equipment.



SEAT BELT SAFETY

STATS

In the U.S. approximately 1,800 children ages 14 & under are killed as passengers in vehicles, and more than 28,000 are injured.

Seatbelts saved an estimate 9,500 lives in the U.S. each year. This number could significantly go up with increased seatbelt use.

Seatbelt use is the highest among children ages 0-4. But approximately 82% of child safety seats are used improperly.

Seatbelt use is lowest among drivers ages 16-25. Pickup drivers in all age groups are the least likely to wear seatbelts.

Seatbelt use in rural areas are lower than the National Average while rural traffic crashes accounted for 60% of the total fatalities on our nations highways.

The fatality rates in rural areas more than double the fatality rate in urban areas.

More fatal occupants were ejected from vehicles in rural crashes compared to fatal urban crashes. Of those rural fatalities involving injections 93% of pickup occupants were unbelted.

LAW

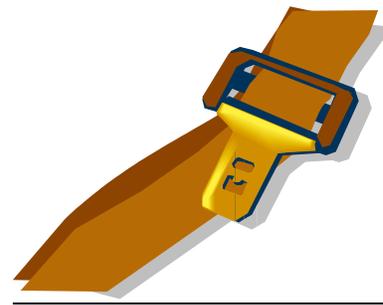
All drivers and passengers over the age of 4 must wear safety belts. Children under age 4 must be restrained in an appropriate child safety restraint.

How to Properly Wear/Use a Seatbelt

1. Always wear the shoulder **and** lap belt
2. Never place shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back
3. Children age 12 and younger should be placed in the back seat and properly restrained.

So we've given you the law and the stats, the rest is up to you.

But, before you drive off, think of this. Everyone has families, friends, co-workers, etc. who enjoy your company and look forward to seeing you in the future. Don't be selfish, buckle up and enjoy the rest of your life with those who care. And please apply this to your personal vehicle as well as your work vehicle.



BIRD FLU SCARE

There has been much in the news lately regarding Bird Flu. Much more than we could fit into this newsletter. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a great web site that can answer your questions/concerns.

www.cdc.gov

DANE COUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM

This is a new awards program formulated by the Dane County Safety and Working Conditions Study Committee. Our thanks to Bill LeGore for all his hard work on this program. The program will recognize both a Department and an individual employee annually. The Department award will recognize the Department that has achieved the “safest” work area for the year based on employee injury data and programs for reducing injuries. The individual employee award will recognize an individual who has identified a work hazard and/or proposed a solution to an existing safety issue. The individual award will come from nominations. The nomination process for individuals will begin in September so watch your e-mail.

Please look for the letter that was sent to all employees/managers/supervisors regarding this program. If you do not have access to e-mail it should be posted at your work site.

If you have not seen the letter regarding this program please contact a member of the committee and we'll be sure to get you one.

Safety Trivia

This Issue's Question:

By volume Carpet is the 2nd largest item filling our landfills in the United States these days, what is the number #1 item we are filling the landfills with by volume?

Please submit your answer to Penny Munson or Laura Huttner for a chance to win a prize.

e-mail: Penny.Munson@wicourts.gov or Huttner@co.dane.wi.us

Inter-D mail: Penny Munson, Dane County Courthouse, Room 7107

Laura Huttner, Human Services, Northport Office

A winner will be randomly selected from all the correct responses received by May 26th, 2006. We'll publish the correct answer and the winner's name in the next issue of Safety E-Times. Good luck!

Check out our Intranet Site!

The Safety & Working Conditions Study Committee's Intranet website is located at:

<http://dcinet/resources/workingconditions/index.html>.

The Intranet website is specifically designed for you to access more safety information. You will find the committee's meeting times, agendas, and minutes along with useful links to more safety information. The Intranet site also allows you to contact the committee with your suggestions and comments.

There is even an [Anonymous Contact Form for Dane County employees](#) to report safety problems or concerns.