



SAFETY/SENSE

The Monthly Newsletter of Delaware **Safety** Council

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National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 15-21



OFFER NOW

Company and Individual Healthcare Plans

Letter From Executive Director — Stacey Inglis

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Dear Members and Friends,

We have expanded our Membership value proposition. We now offer our Members both individual and company healthcare plans that are not available in our market to non-members, yet.

From comprehensive MEC Plans that cover part-time, hourly and seasonal employees to MetLife Dental and Vision plans, we have our company Members and their employees covered.

For those individuals who faithfully return to our driving classes every three years, if they join as a Member they too have access to dental, vision, ACA plans, Pet, Travel insurance and more.

For over a century we have cared about our Member at work, at home and on the road, these new benefits support that mission.

Now is the time for our Members and Friends to spread the word and support our Membership drive.

Stacey

Executive Director/CEO
Delaware Safety Council

Member of:





HONORING *JOE SAFETY*

Joseph W. Vattilana, Sr.

We all know people who are so closely associated with their job that they embody that position. The title of *Joe Safety* was about as fitting as a title can be for anyone. To us at Delaware Safety Council, Joe was one of our most valued Flagger instructors and recipient of the *Outstanding Volunteer of Year Award*, from the Delaware Safety Council in 1996.

Joe worked for many years at the Delaware Department of Transportation. He was considered an expert in highway safety where he published several safety manuals and received numerous awards and commendations related to his work. He eventually

retired as the *Chief State Safety Inspector* for the Department of Transportation.

Joe started in 1963 working as a heavy equipment mechanic, rising to Chief Safety Inspector in 1984. In that role, he literally wrote the book on work zone safety changing the thinking and perception toward safety practices throughout the state, region, and nation. He is remembered for establishing safety demarcation devices on Jersey barriers and coining the phrase "black ice". Joe authored the safety manual *Pass the Word* in 1986. In 1990 he developed the first policies that would be published in the

"Delaware Traffic Control Manual" which has been referenced in FHWA manuals and transportation publications across the nation.

Joe also served as President of the New Castle County Fire Chiefs Association from 1986-1987 and President of the Delaware State Fire Chiefs Association from 1993-1994. Joe joined the Talleyville Fire Company in 1948 and served for 75 years receiving the Talleyville *Lifetime Emeritus Award*. A statue of Joe was placed in front of the Talleyville Fire Company honoring the company's fallen firefighters and his late wife Gladys.



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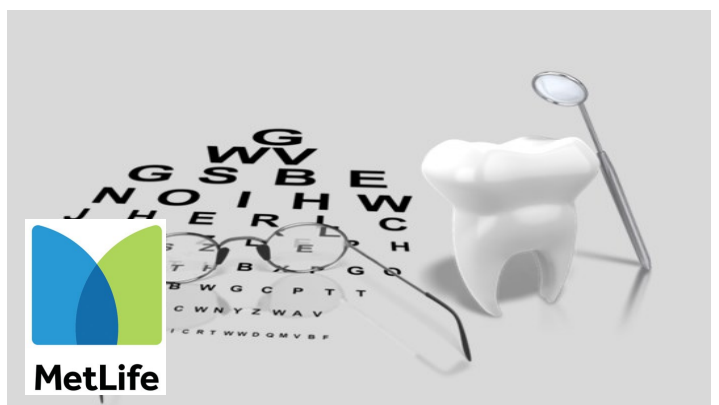
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Safe Shopping Crime Prevention Tips

Criminals look for the easiest opportunity when deciding to commit a crime. Shoppers, particularly women, can be vulnerable to such crimes as theft, robbery, and assault. The following crime prevention tips or recommendations are designed to make shopping as safe of an experience as possible.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing who and what is around you can help you avoid being surprised. It also allows you time to react if something does appear suspicious.

Display confidence. Criminals choose the victim who looks like the easiest target. That choice is partially based on their perception about your abilities to react to an attack. If you walk with purpose, scan the area around you, and make casual eye contact with others, you are displaying confidence.

Trust your instincts. Your body will tell you when someone or something is suspicious. If you have an intuitive feeling something is wrong, do not second-guess yourself. React immediately and take action to reduce your risk.

Carry only what you need. Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. If it is necessary to carry a purse, keep it in front and close to your body. Men should keep wallets out of back pockets where they are easily stolen.

Carry wallets in front coat pockets or use a money clip as an alternative.

Don't be overburdened with packages. Carrying several shopping bags makes you look vulnerable. Request a store to hold your merchandise until you are finished with your shopping. If the store does not offer that service, place your purchases in the trunk of your car before you buy additional items.

Shop with others. The chance of being victimized drops dramatically when you are with a companion. If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90% less than when alone.

Ask for an escort. Many retailers have security personnel. Ask for an escort to your vehicle if you are uneasy about venturing into the parking lot alone.

Be prepared. Have your keys in hand when walking to your vehicle. The keys can be used as a defensive weapon and you will not waste time trying to find them when standing outside your vehicle. Carry a whistle or personal alarm. These devices will alert those around you something is wrong.

Plan ahead. Choose areas to park where lighting is good and activity is high. Valuables in your vehicle should be kept out of view. Be sure to lock the car at all times. Most auto burglaries occur on cars that are left unlocked.

Understanding the OSHA 2023 Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

The OSHA 2023 Semiannual Regulatory Agenda is broken into three primary categories: Pre-Rule Stage, Proposed Rule Stage, and Final Rule Stage. Understanding the rulemaking process and the timeline for each of these stages offers employers some important clues about when these regulations are likely to come into force.

Pre-Rule Stage

These are regulatory actions which have moved from OSHA's long-term regulatory actions plan into the rulemaking process. Often, pre-rule stage regulatory actions may remain in the pre-rule stage for years, having to go through requests for information (RFI), stakeholder comment and consultation periods, Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA)(opens in a new tab) review and approval, and potentially other rulemaking hurdles before they can be considered for proposed rulemaking, if at all. In some instances, such as OSHA's long-proposed updates to its Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Standard, regulatory actions were moved from the pre-rule stage back into the long-term regulatory actions plan.

Proposed Rule Stage

These are regulatory actions which have successfully passed regulatory reviews in the pre-rule stage and for which a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) has been published by OSHA. Once an NPRM has been issued, the proposed rule must go through a mandatory public comment period during which affected employers and other stakeholders may suggest changes to the rule, contest specific provisions within the NPRM, or provide any other feedback whether positive or negative. Public comment periods must be 60 days (opens in a new tab) at a minimum (although they may be shortened in certain circumstances) and are often extended to allow for ample stakeholder feedback. Once the public comment period is closed and OSHA incorporates those comments into a final rule, the rule must pass some final reviews and approvals including a Federalism and Unfunded Mandates analysis, impacts on state, local and tribal governments, and review by the US Office of Management & Budget (OMB)(opens in a new tab) to evaluate the economic impact to industry of the proposed rule.

Final Rule Stage

These are regulatory actions which have successfully passed full review during the proposed rule stage and may now be published in the US Federal Register. Final rules will include an effective date at which point they become law. Often, especially in instances where final rule requirements for employers are more complex, the Final Rule will specify a phased compliance timeline that will prescribe specific milestones for meeting individual provisions or aspects of the Rule, such as with the proposed updates to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HazCom) that we'll discuss shortly.

Let's look at some of the more notable regulatory actions in each of the three stages of the rulemaking process to understand what actions OSHA is currently taking, what may be coming in the future, and how to prepare your organization for changing requirements.

For a more detailed overview of the OSHA Rulemaking Process, [click here](#)(opens in a new tab).





National Teen Driver Safety Week

Now in its 16th year, **National Teen Driver Safety Week**, October 15-21, 2023, is dedicated to raising awareness and seeking solutions to prevent teen injuries and deaths on the road. This grassroots movement has brought millions of teens, parents, schools, law enforcement, advocates, and policymakers from across the country together to tackle a leading cause of death for teens in the U.S. – car crashes.

From seeking change on the local level with a seat belt check or safe driving pledge wall to meeting with elected officials, teens and others are using **National Teen Driver Safety Week** as a platform to create positive change.

Many people, including teens, think that the best way to reach young adults is to “scare them straight.” This rarely works. In fact, it can be overwhelming and cause teens to shut down. Research shows that teens understand they are vulnerable and are well aware of many risks. So, focusing on positive actions that teens can take to be safe and to keep their friends safe, can be powerful messages for teens. In fact, the best way to change behavior over time is messaging that promotes positive action.

So, the conversation started about safe driving behaviors during **National Teen Driver Safety Week** in your community, school, or workplace. Get involved by sharing safety messages with others during National Teen Driver Safety Week and throughout the year.





Save Lives, Promote Safe Teen Driving

**SIGN UP
YOUR
SCHOOL!**

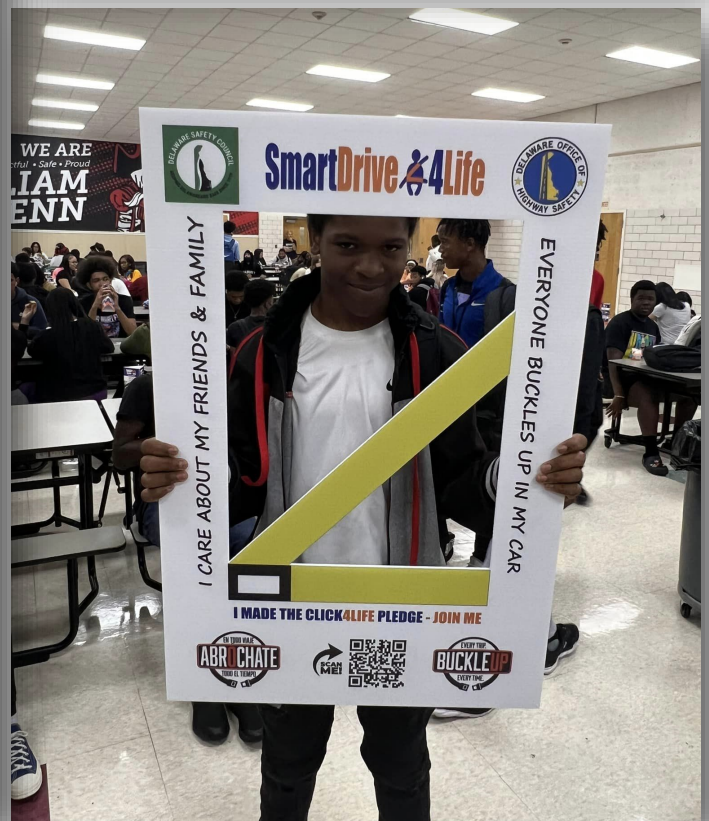


SMARTDRIVE®
a Delaware Safety Council teen driver program
smartdriveusa.org





Teachers, coaches and students at William Penn High School all want you to remember to buckle – up every trip, every time.



Parent/Teen Driver Safety Tips

By sharing their driving experience and discussing the most dangerous and deadly driving behaviors, parents can help teen drivers make smart choices and actions to stay safe on the road.

Topics to talk about include:

1. **Impaired Driving:** Driving under the influence can have deadly consequences. All teens are too young to legally buy, possess, or consume alcohol. Alcohol isn't the only substance that can keep teens from driving safely: marijuana affects a driver's ability to react to their surroundings. Driving is a complex task and marijuana slows the reaction time.

2. **Seat Belt Safety:** Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for teens to stay safe in a vehicle. Yet, too many teens aren't buckling up. Teen drivers and passengers are more likely to die in a crash if they are unbuckled.

3. **Distracted Driving:** Cell phone use while driving is more than just risky — it can be deadly. Texting while driving is outlawed in 47 states. Any phone use while driving (texting, talking, or using any social media apps) is unacceptable and illegal. Even if teens are stopped at a light.

Distracted driving isn't limited to cell phone use.

Other passengers, audio, and climate controls in the vehicle, eating, or drinking while driving are all examples of dangerous distractions for teen drivers. Headphones or earbuds are not appropriate to wear while driving a vehicle. All drivers need to be able to hear another vehicle's horn or the siren from an emergency vehicle, so they can safely move over and out of the path.

4. **Speed Limits:** Speeding is a critical issue for all drivers, especially for teens who are less experienced. Males were more likely to be involved in fatal speeding-related crashes than females.

5. **Passengers:** Passengers in a teen's vehicle can lead to disastrous consequences. Research shows the risk of a fatal crash dramatically increases in direct relation to the number of passengers in a vehicle. The likelihood of teen drivers engaging in risky behavior triples when traveling with multiple passengers.





National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties - to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. It is designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the state observe School Bus Safety Week.

School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation's students, and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day, and National School Bus Safety Week serves as a reminder for students, parents, teachers, and the community to keep school bus safety in the forefront. Here are tips to keep our children safe at the bus stop

In September, 8 students from the Red Clay School District were taken to Nemours Children's Hospital and the driver to Christiana Hospital after a [school bus crash](#) in Hockessin on Milltown Road.



SAFETY TIPS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

For your safety as well as the safety of the children on your bus, always follow these recommended procedures at highway-rail grade crossings:

1. **Slow down**, test your brakes and activate your four-way hazard lights about 200 feet before the crossing. (If your vehicle has a manual transmission, downshift before you cross.)
2. **Check for traffic around you.** Make sure your intentions to stop are clear. Use a pull-out lane if one is available. Flashers, if necessary.
3. **Prepare the bus:** Put the transmission in neutral, press down on the service brake or set the parking brakes (depending on your district's policy). Turn off the AM/FM radio and all other noisy equipment; ask passengers for quiet.
4. **Stop where you have the best view** of the tracks, no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail. Check beyond the tracks for traffic congestion, a signal or stop sign. Be certain the containment area across the tracks is large enough to hold the entire bus, plus 15 feet.
5. Open the service door and driver's window. **Look and listen for an approaching train in both directions.** Proceed only after checking the crossing signals.
6. **GO.** When certain that no train is approaching on any track, do not hesitate. Cross in low gear and do not change gears while crossing.





Test your knowledge with

Operation Lifesaver, Inc.'s

[School Bus Driver eLearning!](#) (Click Link)

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

School bus driver decisions directly impact their communities. If a route includes railroad crossings, it's important to know what to do when you see railroad signs and signals.

Special Procedures

Police Officer or Flagman at the Crossing

Obey directions if there's a police officer or properly-identified railroad flagman at the crossing. If you believe the signals are malfunctioning and there is no flagman present, call your dispatcher, report the situation and find out how to proceed. Some crossings have an 800 number posted on or near the crossbuck for reporting problems; use that to quickly identify your location.

Obstructed View of Tracks

Plan your route so it provides maximum sight allowance at highway-rail grade crossings. Don't try to cross tracks unless you can see far enough down in both directions to know that no trains are approaching. Take extra caution at "passive" crossings without gates, flashing lights or bells. Even with active railroad signals indicating the tracks are clear, look and listen to confirm it's safe to proceed.

Containment or Storage Area

If it won't fit, don't commit! Know the length of your bus and size of the containment area at any highway-rail intersections along your bus route. Pay attention to the amount of available room when approaching a crossing with a signal or STOP sign on the opposite side. In case you need to stop, make sure the bus has enough containment or storage area on the other side to completely clear the railroad tracks.

Evacuating a Bus

If your bus stalls or is trapped on tracks, evacuate immediately. Get everyone off the bus, **move far away from the tracks**, but move in the direction from which the train is coming. This procedure will keep the evacuating students away from the point of impact between the train and the school bus.



THE MOST IMPORTANT STOP OF THE DAY.

STEPS TO SAFELY CROSS RAILROAD TRACKS

- ① **Slow down, activate flashers and stop.**
Stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the crossing.
- ② **Eliminate distractions.**
- ③ **Look and listen** for trains by opening right-side door and driver's window.
Look carefully in both directions for approaching trains.
- ④ **Once you begin crossing the tracks, do not hesitate.**
Cross without stopping.
If stuck on the tracks, evacuate immediately and call the number on the Blue and White Sign.



HELP STOP TRACK TRAGEDIES

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Make good decisions.
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