



At this time, I would like to wish all my readers a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

I hope that everyone is going to make time to visit and spend time with friends and family. Make time to visit that one person that you have not seen for sometime. Do not forget about those that cannot get out or are unable to have a special time at this holiday season. All the best to you and yours!

Mike Kroetsch

*Most of the things that
you worry about will
not ever happen
So relax!*

Author Unknown

This time of year we all have a very busy schedule between our work life and our home life.

I stress that you always make sure that during this busy time there is always room for safety.

In saying that you should be thinking about setting a subject and date for the next drivers safety meeting.

**Your contact to
safety is at
519 748 4420**

Check out

www.transportationsafetycs.ca

For interesting information relating to road safety.

Ohio Broadens Distracted Driving Definition

From Automotive Fleet Magazine November 13, 2018

A distracted driving law that went into effect in Ohio at the end of October adds an extra \$100 penalty to a traffic violation if the driver is also found to be inattentive behind the wheel, reports the Lima News.

Currently, Ohio does have an anti-texting law, but it is challenging to enforce because officers need to prove the motorist was texting while driving.

Essentially, the new distracted driving law broadens the definition of distraction beyond texting to include any activity unnecessary to operating a motor vehicle, according to the report. That might be eating, applying makeup, making a phone call, or fiddling with the radio, for example.

Officers no longer need to spot a driver texting; rather, they just need to note the type of distracted driving that occurred when filing violation reports. The extra \$100 penalty goes into effect on top of any fines earned from the primary violation.

Violators can opt to complete a one-hour long online course and their \$100 fine will be waived.

Tennessee Hopes to Curb Distracted Driving

From Automotive Fleet Magazine November 13, 2018

Tennessee law enforcement officials have come together to cut down on distracted driving and the crashes and fatalities that result from it with a Tennessee Highway Safety Office initiative known as Operation Incognito, according to a report on WJHL.

From Nov. 13 through 17, police and other officials across the state will ride in large motor coach-style buses to get a bird's eye view of drivers, then communicate with officers in patrol cars who will pull over the motorist using cell phones. When they spot a distracted driver, they'll and issue a citation, reports WTVF.

A similar program this spring resulted in over 1,800 citations statewide.

What are Mike's thoughts on Distracted Driving?

Most people think about cell phones and texting when you mention Distracted Driving. I would expect that those are 2 of the biggest culprits. However, there are numerous other things that can be root causes of distracted driving.

Just to name a few it could be that extra-large double double you have in your hand. It could be looking at a note that you left in the passenger's seat. Changing the station on the radio, or looking for a street or street address can take you focus off the road for only a second while some hazard unfolds in your path of travel.

We are hearing more about what I will call mental distractions. By that I mean that our brain is off thinking about other things rather than the task of driving. Our lives have become so complicated resulting in numerous stresses. Those could be worrying about or kids, our aging parents, maybe it is a sick significant other or another important person in our life. It could be something as simple as making an effort to locate the store that has the one present you just cannot seem to find, or will the family dinner this year be ham or turkey?

When driving any vehicle; a wandering mind can be a dangerous thing. Bear in mind that the majority of drivers you are sharing the road with will also be distracted to some degree and creating a danger for themselves or others on the road.

Keep in mind that with shorter day light hours it is important not to be distracted as pedestrians are often difficult to see in the dark or snowy weather.

Please be safe out there set aside the distractions and drive according to the road and weather conditions.

Safety Management

Safety Management should move from ensuring that
'as few things as possible go wrong'
to ensuring that
'as many things as possible go right'.

New Years Safety Resolutions!!!!

In previous year end newsletters I have suggested that you make yourself a list of new year safety items you wish to achieve.

This year I would like to stress that your organization take a long hard look at doing this exercise.

During this past year I have had numerous opportunities from fleets to help them do up a safety action plan in order to obtain an insurance renewal.

Unfortunately this all took place at the request of insurance brokers after the current insurance company refused to renew the policy.

Many of the fleets had satisfactory to excellent CVOR records. In addition the fleets had a good loss run in relationship to vehicle collisions.

The main reason behind these fleets being declined an insurance renewal was that they did not have a safety plan in place.

These fleets were lacking on a driver hiring policy. The driver orientation program in some cases took less than an hour and was a walk around the facility, introductions to a few key people in the organization. Then a sit down to complete a few required documents for insurance and taxes.

It is time to sit back and look at what your organization is doing to be a safe fleet. Safety is a lot more than luck. It requires a plan and the plan must include skilled and competent drivers.

An important aspect of a successful safety plan is to have a safety professional share their experiences and offer insight to the Safety Action Plan.

Transportation Safety & Compliance Solutions has that experience to share with you.

Contact Mike at 519 748 4420 or mike@transportationsafetycs.ca