



TOOLBOX TALK #20

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 20

COURTESY ON THE HIGHWAY

How many times have you heard that driving is a privilege, and not a right? Some people in the construction industry even have had this explained to them by a judge. Many of us, from time to time, have occasion to drive a company vehicle. In this case, driving is more than a privilege. Operating company vehicles in a safe and courteous manner is a condition of continued employment. It's your number one priority when you are behind one of our steering wheels.

This is important and everyone needs to listen up, because we all have driving habits and there isn't anyone here who has never pushed a speed limit. But all the rules change in a company truck. In our vehicles the driver is the sole representative of our company to every other motorist on the road. We spend good money to buy quality equipment and have company information painted on the trucks. We do this with the expectation that any personnel who operate one of these vehicles will do so with unrestrained enthusiasm in promoting a safe, courteous company image.

That's one aspect of job related driving. The second, and more important, is safety. Traffic accidents can kill people and cause tremendous suffering. What's worse, we have no control over who gets hurt in an accident. It might be you or me. It might be some stranger on his way to a "dog fight". Or, it might be a young mother with her child. And as with several other safety issues we've talked about, you don't have to be the one doing something wrong to be the one hurt. Watch out for other drivers, drive defensively, obey all traffic signs, and keep your distance. You will never know how many accidents you have prevented, but you may save somebody's life today just by driving safer than the person next to you.

One final point: I know how it feels to get cut off by some dolt and then see his middle finger come out the window. Whatever passions such people create, when it happens on the job, we ignore it. This would be our company policy for you at any time if we had the authority, but when you are representing us we do have that authority. Never, under any circumstances, respond to a rude or aggressive driver other than to get out of his way and let him go.

Facilitator Notes: *Don't even mention the words insurance or liability. This talk should have no regards to legal or financial matters. Driving company vehicles may be a condition of employment for some workers, but even when it is not, loss of driving privileges can reduce opportunities for company advancement. Speak firmly on this subject. Highway accidents represent our nation's greatest waste of human potential.*

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet