



# Idealease Safety Bulletin

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March 16, 2012

## WARMER Weather is Here!

### *The first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>!*

In the last week, I have personally observed two vehicles run traffic control devices. Take time now to meet with your drivers and discuss the upcoming days ahead as the temperature will increase and we will see the sun more often. For most of us, it has been a long winter. Caution your drivers on complacency and inattention. As a safety director, it seemed that my worst accidents occurred during the months of March and April. My drivers had spent the entire winter, being alert for changing road conditions, traffic and weather. When the road conditions improved and the weather was extremely enjoyable, it was then that they let down their guard down an accident occurred. Take the time to caution drivers and reinforce good defensive driving behavior.

### **Another issue that our drivers will face with warmer weather is:**



### **National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 23-27.**

Each year in April, National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is held to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety and mobility issues in work zones. Since 1999, FHWA has worked with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to coordinate and sponsor the event.

### **10 Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones**

- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** (Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.)
- **SLOW DOWN!** (Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.)

- **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU.** (The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So, don't tailgate.)
- **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** (The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.)
- **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** (The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.)
- **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** (Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone.)
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** (Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try barge in.)
- **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEBSITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION.** (Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time. Check the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse - <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu> - for information on work zone delays throughout the country.)
- **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** (Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.)

## Registration is now open on line for the 2012 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!

Upcoming seminars to be held in March

- March 20- Ventura, CA
- March 21- Los Angeles, CA
- March 22- Santa Fe Springs, CA
- March 27- Atlanta, GA
- March 28- Chattanooga, TN
- March 29- Nashville, TN
- April 03- Hyattsville, MD
- April 04- Baltimore, MD
- April 05- Charlottesville, MD

### NEW FOR 2012 SEMINARS!!!!

This year during the seminar you will receive Drug and Alcohol Supervisor Training. This training meets the requirements of FMCSA CFR 382.603 that requires all supervisors of commercial motor vehicle drivers to have the training for reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing.

*To view the full schedule of all seminars in 2012 and to register for a seminar click on:*

[www.Idealease.com/safety](http://www.Idealease.com/safety)