

# Glatfelter Brokerage Services

## Safe Schools Agenda

**Route to:**

- \_\_\_ Superintendent
- \_\_\_ School Business Off.
- \_\_\_ Athletic Director
- \_\_\_ Supt. Bldgs/Grounds
- \_\_\_ Site Administrators
- \_\_\_ Transportation Dir.
- \_\_\_ Lunch Director
- \_\_\_ Classroom Teachers

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*A monthly service provided to help you with your efforts to make your school safe for students, staff and the public*

### *Winter Driving Tips*

*Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety tips for your employees to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.*



#### **Prepare**

- **Maintain your car:** Check the battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers. Keep your windows clear and add no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir. Check your antifreeze.
- **Have on hand:** Flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush, ice scraper, warning devices (like flares), and blankets. For long trips, add food, water, medication, and cell phone.
- **Stopped or Stalled:** Stay with your car, don't ever over exert. Put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light. If you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- **Plan your route:** Allow plenty of time. Check the weather and leave early if

necessary. Be familiar with the maps and/or directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

- **Practice cold weather driving:** During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot. Steer into a skid. Know what your brakes will do. Stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes. Stopping distances are longer on water covered roads and ice. Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

#### **Protect Yourself**

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly. Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag. Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

#### **Prevent Crashes**

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue; get plenty of rest before the trip. Stop at least every three hours and rotate drivers if possible.

## *Driving Habits, How Good Are Yours?*

*The first GMAC national Drivers Test study of 4,900 licensed drivers revealed that millions of Americans lack basic knowledge of rules of the road and safe automobile operation. The study also evaluated everyday driving habits, revealing dangerous driving behaviors.*

**According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), a nonprofit research organization funded by auto insurers, areas where respondents to the study showed lack of knowledge or a propensity for unsafe practices are also common causes of auto accidents.**

The survey asked 20 standard written driving test questions (taken from state driving tests). The second section asked 20 behavioral and situational driving scenarios and insurance related questions.

Some of the key findings:

- One in ten drivers on the road today failed to demonstrate adequate knowledge of the rules of the roads. If tested today, they would fail a test similar to one required to get a driver's license.
- Rhode Island and the Northeast have the least knowledgeable drivers.
- Younger drivers (18-24 years of age) are most likely to fail a written driver's test.
- At least 20% of drivers do not know that a pedestrian has the right of way at a marked or unmarked crosswalk. According to IIHS, research shows that 43% of all pedestrian injuries and 22% of fatal injuries to pedestrians occur in collisions with motor vehicles at intersections.



- The nation's least knowledgeable drivers (the Northeast) are the most likely to speed.
- Younger drivers are most likely to speed.
- One-third of drivers who drink admit that they would drink and drive even if they suspected they were over the legal limit.
- Half of all Americans do not know how to merge into heavy traffic.
- Sixty percent change lanes on a highway without using their blinker.

The study is a terrific resource for your next safety meeting to raise awareness of the need for defensive driving and as an aid in helping staff to review their driving habits, as well as the rules of the road. See the following:

- [http://www.gmacinsurance.com/SafeDriving/2006/NDT2006\\_ES.asp](http://www.gmacinsurance.com/SafeDriving/2006/NDT2006_ES.asp)
- <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2005/05/26/55472.htm>

You can also take the survey at the GMAC site, which is a good way to begin the safety meeting. You might also obtain copies of your state DMV driving rules for all staff members.

**If you would like to receive the Safety Agenda electronically or if your email address changed, please fax your changes/requests to Lynn Green at 610.458.1050 or email her at [lgreen@glatfelters.com](mailto:lgreen@glatfelters.com).**