3D Safety talks

FROM THE ISAO SAFETY COMMITTEE:

ARBORIST DRIVER SAFETY

In Ontario, vehicle accidents are a major cause of workplace injuries and fatalities. Whether driving to pick up material for a job, or backing up on a work site, be mindful of your surroundings. Driver distraction is one of the leading causes of traffic incidents. Drivers who are texting are over 20 times more likely to be involved in a crash or a near-crash. Drivers who are talking on a cell phone are over 4 times more likely to be involved in a crash or a near-crash. The considerations below should apply to all drivers, even if a worker is using their own vehicle as part of their work.

DESCRIBE the hazards

Arborists may spend a lot of time on the road and driving involves a number of hazards including:

- Road and weather conditions, which can sometimes change rapidly (e.g. fog, sun glare, etc.)
- Other drivers on the road
- Distractions including cell phones and passengers
- Injury from slips, trips and falls as exiting vehicles or checking loads
- Malfunction of improperly maintained vehicles
- Impairment in ability to drive safely (vision, fatigue, stress, etc.)
- Sitting for long periods and the impacts of vibration

DISCUSS control measures

The following will help you stay safe on the road:

- Follow your organization's driving policies.
- Carry a valid driver's license suitable for the type of vehicle you're driving.
- Ensure drivers and vehicles hold the proper insurance.
- Regularly inspect, service and maintain vehicles.
- Don't drive if you feel physically or mentally unable to drive (e.g. too tired, too sick, etc.) .
- Avoid drugs, alcohol and other substances that could impair your driving.
- Check weather and driving conditions before heading out.
- Walk around and visually inspect the vehicle before entering.
- Wear your seatbelt and keep both hands on the wheel.
- Adjust seats, mirrors, and the steering wheel to fit you.
- Wear proper eyewear when needed (prescription glasses, and sunglasses etc.).
- Pay attention and be aware of your surroundings including checking mirrors and blind spots.
- Use your signals so other drivers, pedestrians and others can see where you're going.
- Equipment and supplies should be properly tied down in case of collision or sudden braking.
- Put the vehicle in park, using a parking brake when necessary, and turn off the engine before you get out.
- Ensure you're lifting, carrying and lowering loads safely.
- Don't use your cell phone while the engine is on.
- Obey the speed limit and other traffic rules.
- Carry an emergency kit and inspect its contents regularly.

Remember that our vehicles can be a representation of our industry and our own organization. Don't drive aggressively, especially with your company logo on your door.

DEMONSTRATE knowledge

- Review your company policy on safe driving, discuss employee concerns with driving and review examples of near-accidents.
- Consider taking a defensive driving class.

Date: _____

Location: _____

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Presenter: _____

MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY
(Each participant is to sign below)

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ISA ONTARIO