



Safety Sentinel



Fond du Lac County Safety Committee Mission Statement

It is the Fond du Lac County Safety Committee's mission to provide safety awareness, education, and advocacy to all Fond du Lac County employees, while recognizing it is both the employer and employee's responsibility to maintain a safe work environment.

October 2018

Health Department Offering Flu Vaccines

Our flu vaccines have arrived and the Health Department will be offering flu vaccine to county employees. If you are covered through the county insurance, please bring your UMR card so we can submit for payment (for you or anyone in your family who is covered under our plan). If you do not have county insurance, we will offer flu vaccine free of charge to the employee, but family members will need to pay for their vaccine; cost is \$30. The CDC recommends flu vaccine to anyone who is 6 months of age or older. Vaccine will be offered in the Health Department, East Clinic Room as follows:

Monday, Nov. 12, 3-5 pm
Monday, Dec. 10, 3-5 pm

Harbor Haven and *Acute Unit* employees: Vaccine is available within your departments; check with your supervisor.



We greatly appreciate use of the above clinic locations; it is a much more efficient process for us than handling walk-ins throughout the day.

In addition, you can check [our website](#) for additional school and public clinics.

If you have additional questions, please call us at (920) 929-3085.

Fall Driving Tips

Autumn leaves drift by the window and right into the street. Driving in the fall presents its own colorful set of problems. Decreasing daylight and wet leaves create challenges for the unsuspecting driver. Here are some tips to help you navigate fall driving hazards.

Patches of fallen leaves can be just as treacherous as patches of ice. Fallen leaves retain large amounts of water and can create a slippery surface. Drive slowly through them and avoid hard or panic braking.

Fall brings the first frost. Be aware of slippery conditions that occur with frost. At freezing or near freezing temperatures, the moisture on bridges and overpasses will become ice much more quickly than the approach roadway. The roadways hold heat and the bridges do not; you can go from wet roadway to ice in just a fraction of a second.

Be particularly careful around school buses. Your responsibility in the presence of a bus with an extended stop arm and flashing red lights is to stop and remain stopped until the warnings are withdrawn, regardless of your direction of travel. The only time a driver is not required to stop when approaching the front of the school bus is if the bus and the vehicle are on separated roadways.

Frost, sunshine, wet leaves on the road, school buses, and kids horsing around on the way to school can be a disaster if they come together at the wrong time. Please recognize the hazard and drive accordingly. ~ Continued on Page 3



Fall Season Safety Tips

As the air turns cooler and leaves drop from the trees, it's important to keep a few important fall safety tips in mind. With proper precautions and safety awareness, your family can enjoy that crisp autumn weather while avoiding some of the dangers that come with the season.

Fire Safety Tips for Fall - When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces, and heaters to keep warm. There's nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind:

Service Your Furnace - Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

Use Fireplaces Safely - Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended, and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

Use Caution with Space Heaters - A space heater can be an effective way to warm up a chilly room, but it's essential that you read the instructions on the unit before you use it. If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters.

Reconsider Leaf Burning - The [Air Defenders](#) reports that burning leaves produces dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals and urges homeowners to avoid disposing of leaves this way. If you decide to burn leaves, wear a protective mask. Burning leaves should only be attempted far away from a house or other structures on a homeowner's property. Always check the weather forecast before starting to burn leaves. This activity should not be attempted in windy conditions.

Exercise Candle Caution - Candles are a great way to give a room that warm glow, but they can also

cause fires. According to the [National Candle Association](#), almost 10,000 home fires start with improper candle use. Never leave candles burning if you go out or go to sleep, and keep your candles away from pets and children.

Autumn Home Maintenance Safety Tips - Fall is the time for yard clean-ups and readying your house for the cold winter ahead. Keep these safety tips in mind as you work:

Look Up Before Pruning Trees - If you have decided that your yard needs to be spruced up by trimming your trees, be sure to look up and survey the area carefully before you start. Make careful note of where power lines are located before you set up your ladder so that it is positioned away from them.

Use Caution on Ladders - Wearing appropriate footwear is important when using a ladder; shoes or boots may be wet, causing you to slip as you climb the ladder. The ladder should be positioned on a flat surface before use. Be sure that the tools you are using are specifically designed for this purpose and are in good condition before starting work.



Clean Up Fallen Leaves - Keep your driveway and walkway clear of falling leaves. Wet leaves can create a hazard for pedestrians in the fall by making sidewalks slippery. Later in the season, snow may mix with leaves to increase the risk of falling. Homeowners should mulch or rake up fallen leaves and dispose of them according to local regulations. [Fond du Lac Leaf Collection information](#)

Safely Enjoy the Beauty of the Season - By keeping these important fall safety tips in mind, you can be sure you are doing everything you can to protect yourself and your family from seasonal dangers. This will leave your mind free to enjoy the beauty of this glorious season.

Source:

http://safety.lovetoknow.com/Fall_Season_Safety_Tips

By [Kate Miller-Wilson](#)



Fall Driving Tips – continued from Page 1

Fall weather can present challenges to drivers. Rain, fog, sleet and wet snow require full driver attention. Remember the "two-second rule" when following other drivers, and in severe weather increase your following distance. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.



As you know, the sun rises later and sets earlier as fall approaches. Your commute to and from work may find you driving directly into the sun. Fall driving

can be beautiful but glare can also make it dangerous. Be sure your windows are clean, inside and out, and have sunglasses handy. When you lower your visor, push it all the way forward, then pull it back to the proper position - don't leave the edge of the visor inches from the bridge of your nose where it could cause injury in a crash. If you're driving away from a low sun, glare will not be a problem for you, but it can be for the drivers approaching from the other direction. It may help to use your low beam headlights, allowing you to be seen more readily.

The decreasing daylight may also mean that some drivers will be commuting in twilight or dark conditions. A driver's vision, including depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision, is compromised in darkened conditions. Diminished visual ability, brought about by the natural aging process, leaves the older driver more vulnerable to night driving hazards. The human body becomes more relaxed and less alert in the dark, becoming more easily lulled and drowsy. However, there are ways to minimize the hazards associated with driving in the dark:

- Prepare your eyes for night driving. When you step out of a brightly lit building into a darkened environment it takes anywhere between two and five minutes for your eyes to begin adjusting to the change in light conditions and it takes a full 30 minutes to fully adjust. Allow your eyes that little extra time to adjust before driving into the dark.

- Make sure your headlights, tail lights and turn signals are all working properly. Turn your headlights on as soon as the light begins to fade. Always use low beams when traveling in foggy conditions; the light of your high beams will simply be reflected off the moisture in the air right back at you.
- Check the aim of your headlights. Badly aimed headlights reduce the distance you can see and possibly blind oncoming drivers. If you think your headlights are not aimed properly, have them adjusted. You can adjust them yourself by checking them against a blank, flat surface while parked on a level driveway, or take them to a professional.
- Common sense along with the basics of safe driving (always wearing a safety belt, driving alert and sober, and driving at safe and legal speeds) can help you travel safely in the fall.

Source: Minnesota Safety Council;
www.mnsafetycouncil.org/facts



To get free real-time travel conditions, go to <http://511wi.gov> or call 511.

Fond du Lac County Safety Committee

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Avoiding a Collision with a Deer

Fall and spring are active seasons for both pleasure driving and wandering deer. Put them together and you have a costly accident.

Many people don't realize how much damage can be done to a car if it hits a deer. Drivers need to be particularly cautious of deer foraging near roadsides and the Fall season's shortened daylight — it's a very dangerous combination. Unfortunately, more drivers are on the road at the very times when deer are most active — dawn and dusk. An adult deer can weigh more than 200 pounds and a car striking one can not only incur thousands of dollars in damage, but can cause the car to veer off the road.

Here are a few basic cautions for drivers:

- Visually scan a wide swath of the roadside.
- Slow down when approaching a deer standing near the side of a road and be prepared. If startled, it can bolt onto the roadway and into your path. If necessary, honk your horn and flash your lights to try to scare the deer.
- Deer Crossing signs are there because it has been determined that this is an area they use to congregate and migrate. Take the signs seriously, particularly those installed specifically for this time of year.
- Be cautious in wooded and agricultural areas where there is little distance between the road and the woods.

- Deer whistles or ultrasonic deer avoidance systems attached to vehicles have never been proven to work by independent studies and may give drivers a false sense of security.
- Be particularly careful at dawn and dusk and when driving either over a hill or around a curve, where visibility is limited. Use your high beams to give you a greater area of visibility and allow you to see the deer's eyes sooner. When driving after dark, watch for eyes, particularly in the road ditch and side of the road.
- Be alert for more deer than you may see at that moment. Where there is one deer, there are often more nearby. If one deer crosses the road, the others will often follow or it may attempt to cross back to re-join the others.
- In many instances, it is best not to swerve around the deer since the deer may move in the same direction. You may also inadvertently hit another vehicle, or go off onto a dangerous shoulder. Unless certain of those road factors, it is often best to simply brake and continue in your lane of traffic.



Source: Direct Response Corp, Dec 2006

Return via inter-office mail marked "Safety Suggestion Box," give to a Safety Committee member, or put in Safety Suggestion Box at the City/County Govt. Center, 4th floor lobby.

Safety Suggestion

Date: _____

Please share any safety concern or suggestion:

Name (optional) _____

MM:ak



Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfpa.org/public-education

