

Safety Sentinel

April 2009

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.

Tornado Safety

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately for safe shelter.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.
- Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. You should leave a



mobile home and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building or a storm shelter.

Source: www.weather.gov

April 20-24 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. On Thursday, April 23, a statewide tornado drill is planned.

Self Defense & Personal Safety Training

The Fond du Lac County Safety Committee will be offering self defense and personal safety training to interested County employees on Monday, April 27, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the City/County Government Center.



Contact Mike Marx at 929-3134; michael.marx@fdlco.wi.gov if you are interested.

Spring Cleaning the Safe Way

Falls and poisonings are the two leading causes of home injury in America. The Home Safety Council urges families to keep safe practices top of mind while cleaning your home, garage and yard.

- Keep stairs, steps, landings and all floors clear of toys and clutter.
- Replace burned out light bulbs with bright lights over stairs and steps.
- Carry loads you can see over, and keep one hand free to hold banisters and railings.
- Safely tuck telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- When washing window blinds, check that cords are stored up high, out of a child's reach.
- If you need to climb, always use a ladder.
- Follow product label safety recommendations, like wearing gloves and masks, when using harsh products.
- Do not mix household cleaning products together because their contents could react with dangerous results.

Source: www.homesafetycouncil.org

----- Cut on line and return inter-office mail marked "Safety Suggestion Box" or give to a Safety Committee Member -----

Safety Suggestion

Date: _____

Please share any safety concern or suggestion:

Name (optional) _____

Flood Safety Tips

Do Not Walk Through Flowing Water - Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most occur during flash floods. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to make sure that the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is not flowing.

Do Not Drive Through a Flooded Area - Most people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay Away from Power Lines and Electrical Wires - Electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to your utility company or local emergency manager.

Turn Off your Electricity when you Return Home - Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Be Alert for Gas Leaks - Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been aired out.

Carbon Monoxide Exhaust Kills - Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly -- cook with charcoal only outdoors.

Clean Everything that Got Wet - Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out.

Take Good Care of Yourself - Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is tough on both the body and the spirit. And the effects a disaster has on you and your family may last a long time. Learn how to recognize and care for anxiety, stress, and fatigue.

Note on Flood Insurance - Most homeowners insurance policies do NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent, or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (800) 638-6620.



Fond du Lac County Safety Committee Members

David Brandenburg, Golf Course – 929-2926
Linda Chandler, Purchasing/Risk Manager – 929-3143
Ken Fischer, Land & Water Conservation – 923-3033
Chris Frederick, Health Care Center – 907-5631
Erin Gerred, Emergency Management – 929-3288
Linda Holschbach, Dept. of Social Services – 929-3413
Diane Immel, Clerk of Courts – 929-3071
Tom Janke, Highway – 929-3488

Ann Kaiser, UW-Extension – 929-3170
Rick Kiefer, Maintenance – 929-3161
Kay Lock, Health Dept. – 929-3311
Michael Marx, Human Resources – 929-3132
Kathy Thurow, CMO – 906-5111
Sam Tobias, Planning – 929-3135
Dean Will, Sheriff's Office – 929-7604
Sue Zuber, Dept. of Social Services – 929-3968

The Signs of the Times



**This is our
office**

**FOND DU LAC COUNTY WORK ZONE
AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 6 – 10, 2009**

SLOW DOWN AND PAY ATTENTION!

Speed and inattentive driving are the leading causes of work zone accidents. Don't become a statistic, for your sake and ours.



Rules for Riding Bicycles on the Road

General rules

- Ride at least three feet from the curb or parked vehicles or debris in curb area and in a straight line. Don't swerve in and out around parked vehicles.
- Always ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Sidewalk riding for bicyclists past the learning stage and being closely supervised by adults can be more dangerous than on the road, obeying traffic laws. It is also illegal unless the community has passed an ordinance specifically permitting sidewalk riding.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Be predictable! Let other users know where you intend to go and maintain an understood course.

Narrow lanes

- Ride in the center of the lane.
- Keep at least three feet between yourself and passing or parked traffic.



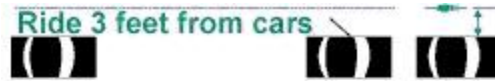
Wide lanes

- Ride just to the right of the actual traffic line, not alongside the curb.
- Keep at least three feet between yourself and the curb or from parked vehicles. Motorists should be passing you with at least 3 feet of clearance.



Don't get the door prize!

- Ride in a straight line three feet out from parked cars. You'll avoid car doors that open in front of you and you'll be more visible to other drivers.
- Don't pull into the space between parked cars. Ride just to the right of the actual traffic line, not alongside the curb.
- Ride straight, three feet from parked cars - don't get "doored."



Take the lane

You will fare better with other road users if you function like a legal vehicle operator, which you are.

- **Right turning motorists** can be a problem, but taking the lane or more of the right portion of the wide curb lane can prevent this.
- **Left turning motorists** are the cause of most adult bicyclists' crashes. Motorists claim not to see the cyclist who is traveling in a straight path in the opposite direction.
- Bicyclists, when making your own left turn look over your left shoulder for traffic, signal your left turn and change lanes smoothly, so you are to the left side or center of the through lane by the time you reach the intersection. If a left turn lane is present, make a lane change to center of that lane. Do not move to left of that lane as left-turning motorists may cut you off.
- Do not wait until you reach the crosswalk, then stop and try to ride from a stop across other traffic. If you need to cross as a pedestrian, leave the travel lanes, then get into the crosswalk, walking or riding your bicycle like a pedestrian travels, not fast, and with pedestrian signals.

How to ride

- Wear bright colors during the day and retro-reflective items at night along with headlight and taillight to increase your visibility to other road users.
- Wear a bicycle helmet on every ride to reduce your chance of head injury in event of a fall or crash. Most serious injuries from a fall or crash are to the head and most frequently, the forehead, so wear helmet level with the ground, just above the eyebrows.

Source: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

