



800 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 1500
Topeka, KS 66612

Safety Bulletin: March 2016

Let's Talk About Safety

Date _____

Location _____

Discussion Leader _____



Agenda: **PARKING LOT HAZARDS**

Parking lot areas can be a dangerous mix of pedestrians and motor vehicles at any facility. If accidents are to be avoided, everyone must be aware of the potential hazards and take practical steps to reduce the risk of collision.

Vehicle operators need to remember that the restricted lanes and spaces in a parking lot allow no room for evasive action if speed is too high for instant stopping when impact is imminent. Because of this, when driving through high pedestrian areas, such as parking lots, employees must move slowly and approach every intersection with caution.

Pedestrians in these high traffic areas must avoid distractions and stick to designated walking areas. Pedestrians must use their eyes and their ears to safely navigate these areas. The use of cell phones or music players can impair one or both of those important senses making an accident more likely. By sticking to designated pathways and remaining constantly vigilant employees can reduce their risk of being struck by a vehicle significantly.

Both drivers and pedestrians should be aware that parking lots often contain areas of limited visibility or even blind corners. Drivers should be prepared to stop at a moment's notice as they approach these areas. Pedestrians should never enter an intersection or walkout from between vehicles without first looking both directions for approaching traffic.

In order for parking lots to remain safe, drivers and pedestrians must remember what is potentially at stake. A vehicle striking a pedestrian is very likely to cause serious injury or even death. Being late to work or in a hurry to get home is never an excuse to disregard the safety of yourself or others. Drivers in a hurry tend to speed while pedestrians feeling a time crunch tend to take short cuts or dart out from between vehicles or into intersections without checking for traffic. Regardless of whether an employee is playing the part of a driver or a pedestrian, being in a hurry can have tragic consequences.

Just like with other safety topics, it is important for everyone to be reminded of their responsibilities when it comes to parking lot safety on a regular basis. Unsafe actions, regardless of where they occur, should be addressed and corrected for the safety of everyone involved.

Unsafe conditions, just like unsafe acts, should also be addressed when they are identified. If there are certain areas of a parking lot where hazards are increased by factors that can be controlled, they should be reported. This may include simple things such as ensuring that landscaping remains well kept and does not interfere with a driver or pedestrian's ability to see approaching hazards or installing mirrors and designated pedestrian crossings where appropriate. In extreme cases this could even include changing the layout of the parking lot to address a hazard that could not be adequately controlled through other means.

The majority of parking lot accidents are caused by a combination of inattentive or distracted pedestrians and drivers failing to reduce their speed to a safe level. By taking steps to address these two issues tragic accidents can be avoided.

1. What safety problems have you observed on our jobs?

2. What job related injuries have we had since our last meeting?

3. Today's Topic:
