

# Safety Talk

## Winter Parking Lot Safety

As we all know, winter driving creates its own set of safety concerns. Whether you live in South Dakota or South Carolina, winter brings slippery, dicey driving conditions with it. You might think that once you make it to a parking lot the danger is over, but unfortunately ice and snow can make a parking lot quite dangerous as well. Whenever you're in a parking lot, you have to be aware of your safety as both a driver and a pedestrian.

While driving in a parking lot:

- Radios, cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off or at the very least ignored when entering a parking lot. This helps you to stay alert for other vehicles, bicycles, light posts and pedestrians.
- Don't race for a parking spot, there will be another one. Obey the speed limit in a parking lot; although it may not be ticket-able offense, it helps keep everyone safe in a parking lot.
- If available, choose a parking spot that will allow you to pull out rather than have to back out. This eliminates the need for backing out and it's just easier and can be safer for the driver.
- When you must back out of a parking spot be sure to look carefully all around for people, other vehicles and any traffic that may be approaching.

You've parked your vehicle and now you must walk through the parking lot to get to work or the grocery store. To be safe be sure to:

- Wear shoes with good sole traction and ankle support. Staying on your feet can help you avoid breaking a bone from falling in a slick parking lot.
- Don't carry large, bulky or heavy loads. They can affect your balance or interfere with your vision.

## Safety Talk

- When the ground is icy or snow covered, take your time! By walking more slowly you give yourself a bit more time to react to a change in traction. Having your arms and hands free allow for better control of your balance.
- Be sure that you're seen by drivers. Don't proceed if you feel that the driver can't or doesn't see you. This is especially important if your jacket or outerwear is difficult to see, like a dark jacket at night makes it very difficult for a pedestrian to be seen by drivers.
- Never just walk through a parking lot in any direction. Use crosswalks and other designated paths; this is where drivers are expecting to see pedestrians.
- Don't use your phone or other electronic devices while walking through a parking lot. Your attention is on the device not the potential cars that may be driving at you.
- Obviously, NEVER step out in front of a moving vehicle and expect them to stop- even if you're in a crosswalk. Keep yourself safe.

Many of these safety tips are good advice no matter what time of year it may be. They are really important in the winter when road conditions may be slippery and when the sun comes up later and sets earlier resulting in more hours of reduced light conditions.

### Discussion Questions

Why is it important to always walk through a parking lot at crosswalks or designated paths?

Why can it be safer to park in a pull-through parking spot?

# MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Safety Coordinator's Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date