

SAFETY THEME

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., – A Service Organization of the ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA and the GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

The Safety Theme program is designed to help you get an important safety message across to all employees in a simple-to-use format that can be completed each month.

Monthly Poster Theme

Make copies and post them wherever you will get the most impact.

Training Calendar

Safety Coordinator I (8:00 am to noon)

Tifton, Tift County	February 18
Cartersville, Bartow County	March 3
Statesboro, Bulloch County	March 10
Macon–Bibb County	March 17
Cornelia, Habersham County	March 23

Safety Coordinator II (8:00 am to noon)

Tifton, Tift County	February 19
Cartersville, Bartow County	March 4
Statesboro, Bulloch County	March 11
Macon–Bibb County	March 18
Cornelia, Habersham County	March 24

Safety Coordinator III (8:00 am to noon)

Tifton, Tift County	February 20
Cartersville, Bartow County	March 5
Statesboro, Bulloch County	March 12
Macon–Bibb County	March 19
Cornelia, Habersham County	March 25

Safety Theme Article

The article expands on the poster message for the month. Make copies and hand them out to each meeting participant.

In This Issue:

Participant Sign-In Sheets: Use the sign-in sheet to document your safety training.

Suggested Agenda for the Monthly Safety Meeting:

- > Assemble the participants.
- > Hand out copies of the article and pass around the sign-in sheet.
- > Read the Safety Theme aloud.
- > Discuss aspects of the theme relevant to the department, with examples. Ask for ideas and encourage participation.





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January 2020

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The Weather
Outside is

Frightful!

The Weather Outside is Frightful

“The Weather Outside is Frightful”, the lead phrase to a great holiday song. If you find yourself out driving in frightful weather, it might not be so cozy. Winter can cause many problems. Whether it’s rain, freezing rain, wind, or snow, drivers must be prepared to face the hazards winter driving brings. Without proper preparation, these conditions could lead to a tragic accident.

The most frequent reasons for winter weather-related accidents are:

- Limited or reduced visibility.
- Limited or reduced traction.
- Aggressive braking on a slick road.
- Inability to judge safe speed for conditions.
- Poor negotiation of a curve.
- Failure to prepare vehicle properly.
- Failure to plan route properly.
- Failure to adapt to changing weather patterns.

Proper planning, preparation, and driving can result in successful completion of a trip. Here are some tips drivers can use to help reduce the risk of a crash while driving in the winter.

Driving

Plan your trip accordingly. Check weather forecasts and possible construction areas along your route, chart fuel and meal stop locations, and allow extra time for traffic delays.

Compensate for poor traction by slowing down and making all movements gently. Never drive faster than conditions allow!

Double or triple your following distance and *never* tailgate. Try to build as much separation between you and other vehicles. Keep at least a ten second following distance when driving on snow- and ice-covered roads – *avoid driving in packs*.

Black Ice

Black ice is a weather phenomenon in which an extra-thin layer of ice forms on the road. Its shine can fool drivers into thinking it’s water. This shiny ice surface is one of the most slippery road conditions. Black ice is likely to form first in shady spots, at intersections, and under bridges and overpasses.

Approach bridges and overpasses cautiously. They are often the most dangerous in the winter, since they freeze before roadways.

Brake gently to avoid skidding. If antilock brakes happen to lock, release them to avoid sliding. This will help to regain steering.

If you begin to skid:

1. Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, quickly
2. Then steer in the direction you want your vehicle to go
3. Before the rear wheels stop skidding, shift to drive and gently press the accelerator
4. Do not slam on the brakes

Stay alert. Keeping a window slightly open to provide fresh air is a good idea

Turn on your lights and keep them clean

Turn off the cruise control. Don’t use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads. Watch for melting or hard-packed snow and strong side winds

Check for ice by feeling the back of your mirror and watching the spray off tires

Don’t ask your vehicle to do more than it can. If you don’t feel comfortable driving, park it.

Most importantly . . .

Always, always, always wear your seat belt.

Do you have a **teen driver** in your family or household? There are many resources for teens on driving. A great book for them (and you) is *The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need To Know But Don’t Know To Ask*, by Karen Gravelle, written for teens just beginning their driving career.





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Local Government
Risk Management Services
3500 Parkway Lane . Suite 110
Norcross, Georgia 30092

A Service Organization of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association

This Issue:

Winter Roads

