

# 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

### Contracts for Local Governments

Tifton, Tift County	May 7
Statesboro, Bulloch County	May 9
Macon-Bibb County	May 15
Cornelia, Habersham County	May 21
Cartersville, Bartow County	May 23

### Health Promotion Leader II

Cartersville, Bartow County	May 7
Gainesville, Hall County	May 8
Macon-Bibb County	May 9
Tifton, Tift County	May 15

## 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.



**LGRMS**  
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**ACCG | GMA**

April 2019

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## **Distracted Driving Kills**



# April is National Distracted Driving Month

Local governments in Georgia continue to see motor vehicle incidents account for 25 percent of losses. These losses show on both the workers compensation and the property and liability side of coverage. On the workers compensation side, that may also mean serious injury or death for our employees.

Of those losses, 64 percent originate with law enforcement. However, other departments such as fire, public works, and water utility, also experience heavy motor vehicle incident claims.

Distracted driving is the number one cause of motor vehicle incidents across all departments (and nationwide). Local governments should focus on making employees aware of the dangers and implications of distracted driving. Common bad habits such as cell phone usage and texting often lead to accidents, even with slow-moving vehicles. Proper training for specialized vehicles also helps prevent incidents.

## **The Incidence of Distracted Driving – Particularly Cell Phone Usage and Texting – Continues to Increase as a Cause for Collisions**

Anything that divides your attention or prevents you from behaving or reacting in a normal manner is distracted driving. These include things that take your eyes off the road; mental distractions; or physical distractions such as taking your hands off the steering wheel.

Driving safely requires your full attention and an awareness of possible hazards. Studies show that at any given daylight time across America, 660,000 drivers are using their cell phone or other electronic device. That means they do not have their mind or eyes on the road. Are they on the road with you?

## **52% of Those Who Died Were Not Wearing Occupant Restraints**

Buckling up and making sure your passengers do the same is a personal choice. Justifications such as “I’m only going a short distance” or “It’s uncomfortable” are excuses. Increase your survivability by 50% by wearing your seatbelt.

## **Speed Kills**

The National Safety Council has an acronym for preventing collisions: RUA. This stands for **Recognize** the Hazards, **Understand** the Defense, and **Act Correctly** in Time. It is that last part that is the key. Think of it this way: the faster you go, the less time you have to recognize a hazard; the faster you go, the less time you have to initiate a defense; the faster you go, the less time . . .

Think about how you drive. Can you change some possible bad habits to good defensive driving habits? Slow down, increase following distance, focus on driving not other tasks such as using your cell phone, buckle up. Even if you are an excellent driver, other drivers share the road with you. Talk to your LGRMS Field Rep on how they can help you make your employees more aware of safe driving habits.





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***This Issue:***

# ***Distracted Driving***

