

“BRAKING NEWS”

Member Company Newsletter

SPRING 2008

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DEFENSIVE DRIVING TIP

SPACE BEHIND

It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind your vehicle. However, you can help keep the driver at a safe distance by keeping a steady speed, and signaling in advance when you slow down. Follow these safety tips:

- Try to find a safe place out of traffic to stop and pick up or drop off passengers.
- If you want to parallel park and there is traffic coming behind you, put on your turn signal, pull next to the space, and allow vehicles to pass before you park.
- When you have to drive so slowly that you slow down other vehicles, pull to the side of the road when it is safe to do so, and let them pass.
- If you are followed too closely or tailgated by another driver, and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until the road ahead is clear and then reduce speed slowly. This will encourage the tailgater to drive around you. Never slow down quickly to discourage a tailgater to drive around you. This will only increase your risk of being hit from behind.

SPACE TO THE SIDE

You need space on both sides of your vehicle to have room to turn or change lanes.

- If possible avoid driving next to other vehicles on multi-lane roads. Try to move ahead or drop behind the other vehicle.
- Keep as much space as you can between yourself and oncoming vehicles.
- Make room for vehicles entering on a multi-lane roadway.
- Keep extra space between your vehicle and parked vehicles.
- Give extra space to pedestrians or bicyclists, especially children. They may move into your path quickly and without warning.

Remember: You are the only person who can control your behavior behind the wheel. Always maintain personal control, no matter what other drivers do!

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE MAKE EVERY SECOND COUNT!

As you all know, TransNet's Risk Manager, Maria Church, recently conducted a Fire Evacuation Training for drivers and monitors at each carrier location between November 2007- February 2008. Below is a outline of the topics that were discussed during this training.

Most Important- Know your Exits. **Where is my Belt Cutter?**

1) Is Evacuation Necessary?

Evacuation should only happen when the risk of being on the vehicle exceeds the risk of being outside. If smoke or fire is present, **evacuate** the vehicle before using the fire extinguisher. Do not attempt to try to put out the fire yourself.

2) Choose Best Exit Routes

- A. Front/Rear Door
- B. Windows
- C. Roof Hatch only when vehicle is on it's side and exits are blocked
- D. Wheelchair Door with lift is **Not** an option

3) Communicate to Passengers

- A. Need to Evacuate
- B. Which Exits
- C. Where to go Once Off Vehicle

4) Assess Passengers

- A. Ambulatory First
- B. Non-Ambulatory Second
- C. Use Belt Cutters to Cut Belts
- D. Wheelchair Clients- Do not remove client with chair (chair stays)

5) Avoid Smoke Inhalation

- A. Stay Low



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Kenny Motzer- Main Line

Kenny Motzer has been the afternoon dispatcher for Main Line Transit since June 2007. Previously he was an exemplary driver for Tri County Transit and would fill in for dispatch as well. His personal goal is to always do the best possible job he can with what is available. "It's a challenge to get everything done on time," he says, but he enjoys dispatching. Ken admits on busy days he misses driving. However, on bad weather days he is equally glad to be behind a desk at dispatch. He enjoys the camaraderie of working with his fellow office staff and all the Main Line drivers. He is careful, methodical and detail-oriented with a quick wit.

Ken resides in Royersford with his wife, Linda. They have two grown children and two grandsons. He enjoys sports, especially Penn State Football and holds season tickets. Also, he enjoys going out to the American Music Theater in Lancaster. He is a credit to the office staff and can always be counted on for sage advice and honest answers, no matter how difficult the question or situation.



Peter Fallon- Mid County

Peter Fallon is a part-time wheelchair van driver for Mid County Transportation since October 2006. He enjoys working with the people and helping as much as he can.

Peter has three children, 5 grandchildren, and Tucker the dog. He loves working on the computer and has provided Mid County with details of all the van routes from his computer to help his fellow drivers.

Peter also enjoys photographing wildlife.



James Folk- Tri County

Jim has been driving for Tri County Transit since November 2006, and since that time has proven to be reliable, courteous, and a real team player. No job is too difficult. He is married and some day plans to have a family. In his spare time he designs web pages for the Internet. Jim also spends his free time volunteering for the Upper Pottsgrove Fire Co. where he is a member of the fire police. When asked what his favorite part of his job is Jim said, "I enjoy being on the road and everyone I work with is good to me."



Ken Weigert- Bux-Mont

Ken has been a driver at Bux-Mont since November 2002. He started out as a driver and has worked his way up into one of Bux-Mont's regular Rovers as they call them. Ken comes in at 5:00 AM every morning and helps get the day started. Some days he works in the office. Some days he is on the road. Some days he is training new drivers and some days he even goes out on breakdowns. Ken has become very versatile in his job at Bux-Mont.

Ken graduated from the Florida Bible College where he met his wife Mary. They have been married for 35 years and have 3 sons and 1 grandchild. Ken enjoys acting in his spare time and is an Elder in his church. His favorite thing to do in his spare time is spending it with his grandchild. He has spent 22 years in computer and maintenance.





Kenneth Beatty- Norristown

Ken Beatty was a professional truck driver for 35 years before he joined Norristown Transportation approximately two and a half years ago. He came there with enthusiasm and experience.

He continues to be enthusiastic about his career choice and enjoys the variety of clients that he meets, especially the foster grandparents. He also enjoys the camaraderie of his fellow employees.

Ken's hobbies include toy collecting, knife collecting, and watching horror movies. Ken states, "I've always enjoyed driving and meeting new people is a plus."

On 2/29/2008 Ken Beatty had a frightening and stressful experience. Enroute to Philadelphia, traveling the Schuylkill Expressway with a wheelchair client on board, he heard a "ping" noise in the engine compartment. The vehicle immediately downshifted. He pulled off to the side of the road and called for assistance. He could not have the vehicle towed with the client on board and he could not lower the lift since the bus was alongside a guardrail.

Ken handled the situation excellently. **Kudos to him!** With police assistance he carried the client and wheelchair to another vehicle and continued on his way. Thanks, Ken, for a job well done.

KUDOS

On April 23, 2008, Tri County Transit driver, Harry Crump, was awarded the "Superstar of Transit Award" at the Pennsylvania Public Transit Association Annual Awards Dinner in Hershey, PA. Harry Crump is the driver for the Community Coaster and was nominated by The Partnership Transportation Management Association (sponsor of the Community Coaster).

Peter Taylor, a driver from Bux-Mont Transportation Co. recently received a plaque from the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to show their appreciation for his outstanding service to their students.



CLIENT DROP-OFF PROCEDURES **Can Your Client be left Unsupervised?**

Please remember when dropping off MR and ADC clients at their residence a responsible adult must be present at the client's drop-off location. **The responsible adult must either approach the vehicle or be visible to the driver.** Exceptions will occur if the parent/guardian signs a written consent form certifying that the passenger may be left unsupervised at his/her residence.

All families and residential providers are aware that they must be available to receive the clients. In the event that a responsible adult is not present, please radio dispatch for further instruction on how to proceed.

ACCIDENT FACTS

Last year we had a total of **46** preventable auto collisions. The total number of preventable accidents was reduced by 13% compared to the previous year. With your help and a "CRASH FREE ATTITUDE" lets focus on reducing those accidents for 2008!

During the months of June, July and August of last year there were 25 auto accidents. **Nine** of the accidents reported during that period were preventable. Preventable accidents were reduced by **40%** in comparison to the previous year.

Let's see if we can reduce preventable accidents for this June, July, and August by 50%.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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l k f n s m t h c t o t l h o y e
e r i g n i t e o a r f s s n s u
c a r b o n m o n o x i d e e e c
i p e n i l o s a g u r s m g g s
w s w f s d m b s g a e u e y s e
d c a f o o l e n z v f r r x t r
t h l r l e o i a a c i v g o a a
e r l d p t t h c i f g i e o y p
o s e e x x n u x n b h v n i l e
g r i l e o a o e d e t e c t o r
b r l r e t t u c t l e b y l w p
m l a l i s a f e t y r e k o m s
v l n o i t n e v e r p i d c s n
h n n s t r l u p o x r n e e v t
c x s m w t d a u b c i t p e i s
a a t t o t e c r a w l t l s k l
w f e s s o e x s n g f s s v s r

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carbon monoxide
crawl
drill
evacuation
emergency
exits
firefighter
gasoline
hazards
odor

assist
ignite
oxygen
prepare
belt cutter
fire
toxic fumes
rescue
smoke
smolder

safety
spark
stay low
survive
window
explosion
firewall
extinguish
prevention
detector

