

April 2019

Dear RETRO Members;

April is **Distracted Driving Awareness Month** and the [National Safety Council](#) reports the many people die needlessly each year because drivers continue to use their cell phones while driving, handheld or hands-free. Texting while driving is even worse because it causes you to take your eyes off the road! Reinforce your company policy of no cell phone use to employees that are driving company vehicles!

First topic is: **Safety Meetings** - Why have safety meetings? Well, it is a requirement of L&I and secondly it shows that management is serious about safety, not just giving it lip service. These meetings get employees involved in the safety process and increase the number of eyes and brains engaged in safety. It is not a hard thing to do and it doesn't have to be an hour long. Pick a topic or a tool and discuss how to use it safely.

If you need help with topics, please contact me and I will use our resources to get you what you need. There are some great videos on [RS SafetyTV](#) as well as the [RS Safety Library](#).

The second item is: **Distracted Driving** - Roadways are unpredictable and safe driving requires your full attention. For this reason, cell phone use or texting while driving should be avoided and is illegal in the State of Washington. Accidents from these incidents cause time loss of employees, increased insurance rates, as well as a company vehicle being out of commission for a while. If you have company delivery drivers, you need to explain the dangers of cell phone use while driving and that you are taking action by implementing policies that would prohibit both hands-free and handheld devices prevent cell phone distracted driving. The National Safety Council recommends those policies apply to all company employees. Make calls before you leave the parking lot or rest stops, but not while you are on the road!

The National Safety Council also has a series of short videos that answer common questions about cell phone use and driving. An excellent selection of distracted Driving videos can be found on [RS SafetyTV](#). Additional information on this subject can be found in the [RS Safety Library](#).

Finally – **Lock Out/Tag Out**. – This sounds like a game, but it is serious when working with machinery. Servicing and maintenance of machines or equipment can expose those service workers to hazards during the unexpected startup or release of stored energy from electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other sources in machines and equipment. Hazards like these can lead to serious injuries. An example could be a bench grinder that needs a new wheel. You should unplug and tag the plug, or if hard wired, turn off the breaker at the panel and lock the



breaker in the off position. Can't lock it? Then tag it so that someone will not turn the breaker on. The idea is to leave notice that someone is working or that the equipment needs repair. It doesn't have to be electricity. It can be anywhere you have stored energy – car batteries, hydraulics, etc. You don't want to have the machine power on or the pressure in the line cause the hose to snap back at you.

Here are some good LOTO videos on [RS SafetyTV](#) to help you with your safety meeting.

Here at WRA, we want all employees to take the time and be safe! If you have questions or would like additional assistance, please contact me.

Thinking safety for you,

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