

# SAFETY

## Tools of the Trade

*Today's SH&E professional must be prepared to address all types of hazards across diverse industries and work settings.*

**With the broad range of hazards** present in modern-day workplaces—not to mention increasing stakeholder expectations—SH&E professionals must continuously expand their knowledge and increase their skills.

Whether it's fleet safety, employee training and motivation, construction, equipment selection or hazard communication, SH&E professionals rely on industry best practices, tested guidelines and practical suggestions to protect workers and send them home safely each day.

That's why ASSE's *Professional Safety* journal has created this special collection of short articles by leading vendors in the SH&E industry to provide practical suggestions, guidelines and advice to help you make the most of your safety efforts.

We hope you'll consider this yet another "takeaway" from ASSE's Safety 2007 Conference & Exposition—something you will refer to often and share with your colleagues and workers. Enjoy your time in Orlando. **PS**

### SAFETY TIP 1

## GET THERE Safely

Here's the scenario. A driver traveling northbound approaches an intersection with a red light. As the driver nears the intersection, the light turns green. He enters the intersection and is slammed into by an eastbound vehicle that ran the red light. The driver is seriously injured and faces a long rehabilitation.

Two weeks before the crash, that same driver approached the same intersection. As he approached, his light turned green. On this day, however, before entering the intersection, he scanned to his right and noticed an eastbound vehicle that was not slowing for the red light. The driver applied his brakes and avoided the collision.

In the crash scenario presented, the driver is not at fault. However, the fact that he avoided the crash 2 weeks earlier suggests that he could have avoided this crash. The driver faces a long, painful journey back to health. Finding fault will not change that fact. Preventing this crash would have eliminated much pain and suffering.

Individual driver responsibility is a key element in an effective driver safety initiative. Drivers must hold themselves accountable for their own driving actions. This is not to suggest that in the event of a crash they confess all of their driving errors, only that drivers must look at this differently. They must honestly assess whether they could have avoided the crash.



Drivers can take several measures to help them make better decisions while driving:

- **Pay attention.** Distractions lead to crashes. Remove items that may distract you—cell phones, computers, briefcases, food—from the driving area. If it's not within your reach, you won't be tempted to use it while driving.

- **Don't drive angry.** Do not let the actions of other drivers affect how you drive your vehicle. If you do, you relinquish control of your vehicle to the other driver. Also, if you are angry before you start to drive, deal with it before getting behind the wheel. Taking your anger out while you are driving can lead to disaster.

- **Don't rush.** Allow extra time for bad weather, road construction, school buses and traffic. If you are running late, call ahead—with the vehicle safely parked—because it eliminates the pressure of getting there on time. The person you are meeting does not want you to crash because you were rushing.

The "It wasn't my fault" mind-set should be replaced with one that says, "What do I need to do to stay out of harm's way?" Drivers must realize that arriving home safely is the most important task they accomplish each day. **PS**

Contributed by Phil Moser, Advanced Driver Training Services. Learn more at [www.adtsweb.com](http://www.adtsweb.com).