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# Safety Solutions

## The End of an Era at Evergreen Safety Council

*By Eric Tofte, Director of Training and Consultation ESC, and Tina Bacon, New Driver Training Programs Manager, Roadway & Traffic Programs Coordinator*

An end to an era is soon approaching us here at Evergreen Safety Council. Tom Odegaard is retiring.

Tom became Evergreen's Executive Director in September, 2003, replacing the previous Executive Director, Monty Lish, which were some big shoes to fill. Tom did a great job filling them.

During his nearly 15 year career with Evergreen he had several major accomplishments. His first, and probably biggest accomplishment, was that he could handle the crazies known as "the staff," especially his ESC trainers.

Although the program existed before he came on board with ESC, Tom took our Pilot/Escort Vehicle Operator (P/EVO) course to new levels. Working with WSDOT, and meeting with industry leaders, Tom grew the course into a nationally recognized program, ensuring Evergreen Safety Council as the leader in that training.

Under Tom's guidance, the P/EVO Course, along with the Flagger Certification Course, became endorsed by the American Association of Safety Councils in March of 2014—further cementing Evergreen Safety Council as a leader in quality safety training.

Tom played a major role in the development of a Washington State specific flagger training video, "Work Zone Safety Depends on You." He spearheaded the effort and partnered with the Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust to receive a Labor & Industries (L&I) SHIP grant. This video has been placed on the L&I video site to help refresh and remind flaggers of the importance of their job and how to be safe.

He helped guide ESC through the economic downturn of 2008. In 2012 ESC had to start the process of finding a new home. Tom worked tirelessly looking at various buildings throughout the Puget Sound to find our current location. The new home provided three training rooms, a computer lab, and our own motorcycle range where training can occur seven days per week. He orchestrated the move so that we were able to keep business open and had very little disruption to our customers.

During his tenure he increased our presence in the community and continued to grow our training programs. Elected President of the American Association of Safety Councils (2010 - 2012), he is also a member of the Washington Governor's Industrial, Safety & Health Board. Working with staff he helped bring the nationally recognized Certified Occupational Safety Specialist (COSS) program to ESC as well as developing a New Driver Training Program for both teen and adult drivers. Tom also got Evergreen approved as a Department of Licensing Testing Center for cars, motorcycles, and 3-wheel vehicles. Most recently he helped institute the Professional Safety Academy, a series of specialized safety courses that can be taken independently or as a series for certification as a Safety Specialist. He also helped procure a Susan Harwood grant for 2017-2018, with ESC being awarded a Targeted Topic Training Grant for "Construction Road Zones."



Evergreen Safety Council, like many companies, has had a lot of up and downs over the years. Tom has stayed constant and steady. He has been a friend. He takes the time every day to talk to each of his staff members to see how we are doing. He allowed the staff to celebrate accomplishments both personal and professional, provided encouragement when we needed it, and showed compassion when we lost friends of the Council.

While he will be missed by all of us at Evergreen Safety Council, he certainly deserves his retirement. His hard work and diligence have greatly benefited us. His contributions to our overall strategy and the daily operation of Evergreen with the guidance he has provided will be sorely missed.



**Did you know?...** In 2015 alone, **3,477 people were killed**, and **391,000 were injured** in motor vehicle crashes involving **distracted drivers**. During daylight hours, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones *while* driving.



### 6 Myth-Busters for the New Distracted Driving Law

By Stephanie Dyck, Director of Operations

1. You are allowed to **call 911** in an emergency situation.
2. A **primary offense** is whenever a trooper observes drivers making contact with their phone other than the one touch/ swipe. This is what troopers will be mainly focused on. Primary offenses will now be reported to your **insurance companies**.
3. **Food, drinks, grooming, and smoking.** All of these things are **secondary violations**/observations. It is pretty common to eat, drink, smoke, or do any other number of activities while driving. These activities are allowed as long as they do not interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle. If the driver does commit another traffic offense **and** is dangerously distracted, then they are subject to another \$99 fine.
4. **GPS and music.** A good rule to follow, start both of these things before anything else. Drivers are allowed one touch/ swipe as long as your device is connected to Bluetooth.
5. Authorized **emergency personnel**, including troopers, are exempt from this law. **Uber, Lyft, and other ride share services are not.** (Meaning, they also must abide by the one touch/swipe rule).
6. **CDL holders** will still operate according to Federal Motor Carrier Regulations (The CDL will be disqualified after two or more convictions of any state law on hand-held mobile telephone use while operating a CMV).

Please refer to [wadrivetozero.com](http://wadrivetozero.com) for additional resources and information.

## Big News! ESC Awarded OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant for 2017-2018

The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program funds eligible nonprofit organizations to provide training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces. Target audiences include underserved, low-literacy, and workers in high-hazard industries. Since 1978, over 2.1 million workers have been trained through this program.

Evergreen Safety Council was awarded a Targeted Topic Training Grant for "Construction Road Zones - heavy construction equipment, backing operations, struck-by/caught-in, caught-between, vehicle accidents."

The main purposes for this targeted training will be to:

1. train and increase construction employee awareness in this high fatality and high-hazard industry, and
2. educate and train Small Business Construction Owners, Supervisors and Safety Personnel how to develop and implement internal traffic control plans (ITCP's) that address the hazards of Roadway Work Zone Construction and large building construction work zones while eliminating the incidents caused by heavy construction equipment, backing operations, struck-by, caught-between and vehicle accidents for road way construction workers in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Idaho and Oregon).

ESC's Project Coordinator will be our new Regional Manager – Inland Northwest, Kevin Proctor.

Kevin has spent the past 25 years working in the area of Risk Management & HR in Eastern Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Kevin joined the ESC team this past summer to expand service and client support east of the Cascades.

**The 66th Annual Washington's Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference in Tacoma, September 19 & 20, was a great success! Thanks to everyone that stopped by our booth or took part in any of the three trainings or presentations we did. See you next year in Spokane!**

## SAFETY STATISTICS

There has been a 13% increase in the pedestrian death rate for 12-19 year olds since 2013. Approximately **100 children** in the United States are killed every year **while walking to or from school**, and another 25,000 sustain injuries as a result of school zone accidents.

# 13 %

Did you know...? The Most Dangerous Time to Drive is at Night.

### As we 'Fall Back' to Shorter Days, Take Extra Care on the Road

By Eric Tofte, Director of Training and Consultation, ESC

According to National Safety Council research the risk of a fatal crash is three times greater when darkness falls.

What makes driving at night more hazardous?

- **Fatigue.** A National Sleep Foundation poll showed 60% of adults have driven while they were tired, and another 37% have fallen asleep at the wheel.
- **Low Light.** Vision at night is not as good as it is in the day. Our eyes are made to better see detail in bright light.
- **Weakened Night Vision.** Many drivers may have weakened night vision and it is true that as we age we need more light. A 50-year-old driver may need twice as much light to see as well as a 30-year-old.
- **Rush Hour is now in darkness.** When Daylight Saving Time ends many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark.

While we do only one quarter of our driving at night, 50% of traffic deaths happen at night. It doesn't matter whether the road is familiar or not, driving at night is always more dangerous. A few tips to make night driving safer:

- Start taking night time driving precaution at dusk.
- Clean the windshield to eliminate streaks and glare.
- Slow down – Speed kills.
- Increase following distance. Traveling under ideal conditions at 65 mph, it would take nearly the length of a football field (316 feet) to stop.
- Don't overdrive headlights. Visibility is about 250 feet for normal headlights creating less time to react to something in the road.
- Look down and away from oncoming headlights.

The world does change when it gets dark out there and when you are operating a motor vehicle you really need to be observant and look out for hazards. Make sure you have gotten enough sleep and always pay attention when you are behind the wheel, night or day.

One last thing, consider providing driver training to your employees who drive on company business, either in a class or online. A safe driving refresher every couple of years can benefit even experienced drivers.



### Driving Safety Around School Buses

By Eric Tofte, Director of Training and Consultation, ESC

It's that time of year again—it is starting to get dark earlier and kids are going back to school. Every year you hear about drivers not being safe around school buses, so here are some tips from State Farm Insurance and the NSC on driving around school buses:

- If you're driving behind a bus, allow greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop if the lights start flashing.
- Keep an especially close eye on students as they're getting on and off the bus—stragglers might run!
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert and SLOW DOWN if you're near a bus. There is never a good enough reason to speed, especially when there are children nearby.
- Do not pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload students. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop. In most states the only time it is okay not to stop is if there is a median, barrier, or unpaved stretch between you and the school bus.
- Know and understand traffic laws and speed limits near a school bus and schools. Oftentimes, the laws change during school hours or when children are present.



There are double the pedestrian accidents on Halloween than any other day of the year. So don't forget to keep your eyes peeled 👁️ for Trick or Treaters and

**Have A Happy Halloween**

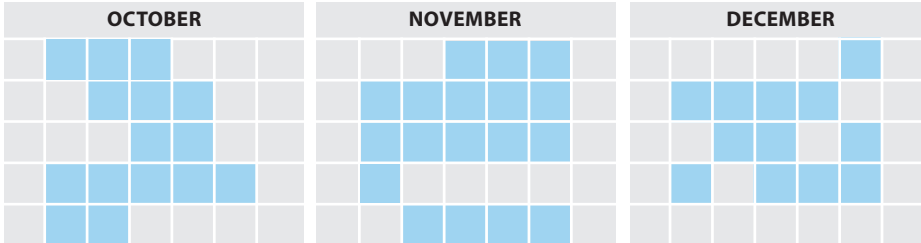


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**or [www.esc.org](http://www.esc.org)**

# Calendar of Events

### Oct

- 2 - 4 Safe Supervisor - Kirkland WA
- 2 - 4 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification - Spokane WA
- 10 - 12 P/EVO Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA
- 12 Understanding Workers Comp - Kirkland WA
- 18 EverSafe Driving Instructor Recertification - Kirkland WA
- 19 P/EVO Instructor Recertification (webinar) - Kirkland WA
- 23 Traffic Control Supervisor Recertification - Salem OR
- 23 - 24 EverSafe Driving Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA
- 23 - 24 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA
- 24 Accident Prevention / Safety Committees - Spokane WA
- 24 - 26 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification - Salem OR
- 25 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 25 Inspections / Audits & Recordkeeping - Spokane WA
- 26 Compliance vs Best Practices - Kirkland WA
- 27 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 30 - Nov 1 First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA

### Nov

- 2 Flagger Instructor Recertification - Chehalis WA
- 3 Lead Renovator Refresher - Kirkland WA
- 6 - 8 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification - Kirkland WA
- 7 Workers Comp - Spokane WA
- 8 Compliance vs Best Practices - Spokane WA

### Nov (continued)

- 9 Traffic Control Supervisor Recertification - Kirkland WA
- 9 Workplace Security & Safety - Kirkland WA
- 10 First Aid/CPR Certification - Kirkland WA
- 13 - 17 COSS Safety Certification - Kirkland WA
- 17 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 20 Transportation Safety - Kirkland WA
- 28 Workplace Security & Safety - Spokane WA
- 29 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 29 Transportation Safety - Spokane WA
- 30 - Dec 1 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA

### Dec

- 4 Traffic Control Supervisor Recertification - Portland OR
- 4 - 6 Flagger Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA
- 5 Environmental Safety - Kirkland WA
- 5 - 7 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification - Portland OR
- 12 Environmental Safety - Spokane WA
- 13 Lockout/Tagout / Machine Guarding - Spokane WA
- 15 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 18 Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO)/Machine Guarding - Kirkland WA
- 20 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 21 - 22 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA