

June 2010

RM News & Notes

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

Texting Bill Goes to Governor

[Senate Bill 360](#) has now passed both houses of the Legislature and has been signed by Governor Perdue.

This bill prohibits individuals from using wireless telecommunications devices for sending or receiving text messages while operating a motor vehicle.

Specifically the new law states:

"No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send, or read any text based communication, including but not limited to a text message, instant message, electronic mail, or Internet data."

In addition the new law also prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device.

"No person who has an instruction permit or a Class D license and is under 18 years of age shall operate a motor vehicle on any public road or highway of this state while engaging in a wireless communication using a wireless telecommunications device."

It is scheduled to go into effect on July 1st, 2010.

To read the bill: [Senate Bill 360](#)

Note: This new law will be in addition to the current School Bus Driver Law:

****The use of a mobile, wireless or cellular phone or other communication device by a school bus driver while there are one or more children or other passengers on the school bus shall be prohibited.***

Emergency & Operations Division Risk Management Department

Darlene M. Bartlett CRM, ARM
Risk Manager

706-868-3363

dbartlett@columbiacountyga.gov

Janice A. Matthews CPS/CAP
Administrative Assistant

706-312-7475

jmatthews@columbiacountyga.gov

Web Page

<http://www.columbiacountyga.gov/home/index.asp?page=2440>

	Page
"Personal Safety Tips"	1
"Message from the Risk Manager"	1
"Internet – True or False"	2
"Policy Highlight"	3
"Upcoming Events" in June, July, August	4

Message from the Risk Manager

Anybody out there ever been caught by an internet hoax? You know the warnings, words of wisdom and advice, tear jerker and horror stories from well-meaning friends and families who just want us to be prepared and informed. It's easy to get caught up in the moment, thinking we've got something new and exciting that we need to share with everyone in our mailbox. Before you hit "Forward", and especially before taking any kind of action based on the story, please remember that not everything you see in print is accurate and some suggestions may even be harmful. Take a minute and check out the information to determine if it is true and accurate. Sometimes we pass along a story because it originated from a reputable source. Problem is, if you've ever forwarded information from your computer with your name on it or perhaps has a "business card" or signature attached, down the road, you might become the "reputable source" that gives credibility to the story, especially if you are someone of authority or well known reputation. Be careful what you pass along to others as factual information. I know I've been suckered in a time or two and have found snopes.com to be extremely helpful in gleaning out the hoaxes as opposed to good information. I'm sure there are other good verification sites out there. Find one you like and use it before you get caught by an internet hoax.

Darlene

Internet – True or False

Tick Removal

Household lore replete with **false** tick removal suggestions to persuade it to release its bite:

- Covering or coating the embedded arachnid with a substance it will find objectionable
- Touching lit match or hot needle to the tick's rear
- Tickling its underside

However, those in the know about tick removal warn against those home remedies. Countermeasures of such nature don't work to encourage ticks to detach from skin. In fact, they may make matters worse. By stimulating the creature to release additional saliva or regurgitate their gut content, acts that increase the chance of its transmitting a pathogen to its host. These arachnids feed by burrowing their heads into skin, a method that introduces their body fluids into their victims. If those fluids are disease-laden, those microbes will be passed to the ones being dined upon. However it usually takes 12 to 24 hours of feeding before an infected tick can spread disease to its host, so speedy removal of these parasites is therefore key to avoiding tick-borne illness, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Ehrlichia.

How to remove a tick:

- With tweezers, grasp the parasite close to the skin and pull straight out. If you must use your fingers rather than tweezers, cover them with a tissue and wash them afterwards.
- Do not twist or jerk the tick; this could cause the creature's head to separate from its body, leaving its mouthparts lodged in your skin.
- Wash the bite with antiseptic and place the tick in a plastic container marked with the date in case it is later needed for verification of illness.

How to avoid ticks:

- Avoid tick-prone areas whenever possible. i.e., wooded, brushy, and grassy areas, especially in May, June, and July.
- When in areas where ticks may be present, wear clothing that covers that arms and legs, with cuffs fastened and pants tucked into boots and socks.
- Use a tick repellent that contains DEET and reapply it every 1-2 hours for maximum protection.

After any outdoor excursion into areas where ticks are commonly found, adults should check themselves and their children. Your four-legged friends should be checked for ticks too, because dogs and cats can also be felled by the diseases spread by these blood sucking creatures.

Mosquito Repellents

False - Home remedies to repel mosquitoes are effective ways to defend you from West Nile Virus.

They may repel mosquitoes somewhat but they don't work very effectively for very long.

- Bounce Fabric softener sheet
- Taking Vitamin B-1, eating bananas, applying Vick's Vaporub, using Avon skin-so-soft gel w/alcohol or applying pure vanilla.
- Planting marigolds or getting a frog in your yard.

FIGHT THE BITE - If mosquitoes are still flying there is still a danger from West Nile virus. Infected mosquitoes spread West Nile virus that can cause serious, life-altering, and even fatal disease. Keep using insect repellent, wear long sleeves and long pants and dump out standing water in the yard where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Helpful Tip - Gardening can be a battle against pests! Don't go into that war without proper armor – your handy insect repellent can help keep the bugs off of you!

How to use DEET products safely - Consumers can reduce their own risks when using DEET by reading and following products labels.

- Read and follow all directions and precautions on this product label.
- Do not apply over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do not apply to hands or near eyes and mouth of young children. Do not allow young children to apply this product.
- Use just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Do not use under clothing.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water. Wash treated clothing before wearing it again.
- Avoid over-application of this product. Use of this product may cause skin reactions in rare cases. To apply to face, spray on hands first and then rub on face. Do not spray directly onto face.
- Do not spray in enclosed areas.

Policy Highlight

Combined Policy Handbook / Health and Safety Section

Policy Number 511.1 / Claims / Health and Safety, Page 1 of 3

- 7) The Risk Management Department will not accept claims from employees for the loss, theft, damage or destruction of personal property not directly related to Columbia County operations and for which Columbia County would have legal liability.

Discussion points regarding this Policy:

If you choose to use or bring personal property to work or in a county vehicle, if something happens to it, the county will generally not repair or replace.

For example: I sometimes use my personal camera if I leave home and go directly to a claim site afterhours. I could drop my camera or it could otherwise become damaged while conducting county business but the county would not pay for my personal property. Perhaps you drive a county vehicle: Suppose your county vehicle is broken into while parked in the government center parking lot and personal property is stolen along with county equipment. Or perhaps there is a vehicle accident and you have personal items that are damaged. We would replace the county equipment that is required, but we would not reimburse you for your stolen or damaged personal items.

Just be aware before you bring or use your personal property to work. It is **your** personal property and up to you to safeguard and protect it. Columbia County has no coverage or responsibility to replace or repair it if it is lost, damaged or stolen; even if you are using it for work.

Internet Hoaxes

- **Ponzi Schemes**
Threats to Investors.
- **Nigerian scam**
Generally targeted at small and medium sized businesses, as well as charities.
- **Phishing scams**
They are one of the larger sources of identity theft.
- **Overpayment hoaxes**
Often, it is related to international fees to ship a car overseas.
- **Lottery scams**
Lottery scams, especially international lottery scams.
- **Low cost software hoaxes and scams**
There are lots of scams involving low cost software offers, that is either stolen, counterfeit, or non-existent (a phishing and/or identity theft scam).
- **Beta testing software hoaxes**
There are literally thousands of variants of this hoax. Perhaps the most popular is the Bill Gates email chain letter.
- **Alabama legislature changes the value of Pi**
A story of how the Alabama state legislature supposedly voted to change the value of the mathematical constant pi from 3.14159 to the round number of 3.
- **Neiman Marcus Cookie Recipe**
Did Neiman Marcus really charge a customer \$250 for a cookie recipe? There are many variants of this hoax.
- **Shark attacks helicopter hoax**
An email hoax made the rounds with a photo of a shark supposedly leaping up to attack a British navy diver hanging from a helicopter ladder, and was dubbed National Geographic's "Photo of the Year."

Internet Truths

- **Works Bomb**
Beware of finding a plastic bottle left in your yard which when moved or disturbed can explode: The "Works" Bomb is Drain-O and Tin Foil, mixed inside of the bottle. The chemical reaction between the Drain-O and Tin Foil makes a volatile build up of gases and subsequently detonates the bottle with a great amount of force. Once the detonation occurs, the chemical substance that is in the bottle is actually boiling liquid. The amount of force that is generated at the time of the explosion is enough to sever fingers and also delivers 2nd and 3rd degree chemical burns to the victim. The chemicals can possible cause blindness and the toxic fumes can be harmful
- **Fly the Flag Campaign**
Congress dedicated September 11 as Patriot day calling upon government officials and the people of the United States to observe the day by displaying the flag of the United States.
- **E-mail reproduces the interview with documentary filmmaker Pierre Rehov about the psychology of terrorism.**
About the Middle East, primarily focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **Debit cards issued to Hurricane Katrina evacuees have been used to purchase luxury or entertainment items.**
Each card carried a monetary value of \$2000. Program had to be discontinued after evacuees expressed frustration with the process.
- **Using gasoline to get rid of lice is dangerous.**
It poses no mystery that this little bit of medical know how has been handed down to succeeding generations as a valid home remedy.

Up Coming Events

Each program is advertised by Risk Management and is available to employees of Columbia County Board of Commissioners and the city employees of Grovetown and Harlem. Additionally, the Defensive Driving Courses may be attended by immediate family members of employees, on a space available basis, for a nominal fee.

Pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to register contact Risk Management. 706-312-7475

Safety Review Board **July 8, 2010**
Safety Officer Meeting **No June meeting**
 July 14, 2010
 August 18, 2010

Defensive Driving **No**
Course – 8 hour **Summer**
 Classes

Defensive Driving **Due to a**
Course – 4 hour **Scheduling**
 Conflict

CPR/AED/First Aid **August 26, 2010**

County Office Closed: **July 5, 2010**

JUNE 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



July 4, 2010
Independence Day

Fathers' Day June 20, 2010

