

Hot Topic - Safety Talk



March 30, 2012

Prevent Accidents While Parked

Don't let one moment of inattention from you or someone else end your life or make you have to live with something that could haunt you forever.

Recently our Postal Family has suffered two (2) major devastating accidents. Both involved letter carriers legally parked and working out of the rear of their delivery vehicles. In both cases the carriers were hit from behind by another vehicle. One of the employees died and the other is still being treated for their injuries.

We ask that you and your supervisors re-visit the selection of each of your park points to reduce your exposure to traffic unnecessarily, while working from the rear of your delivery vehicle. Look for a safer location to park your vehicle, like a nearby side street with less traffic. Always take that extra precautionary measure to stay safe and park in an area with less traffic. Remember to allow at least 20 feet from an intersection or 30 feet when at an intersection that is regulated by a traffic light.

Do not talk on a cell phone or use headphones to listen to music. We want you to be able to hear your surroundings. Stay alert and be ready for the unexpected. All your senses must be working to their fullest. If someone is speeding or swerving or braking, being able to hear that vehicle may make the difference and give you those extra seconds you need to move into a safer area.

Use Flashers and Strobes when parked and working from the rear of your delivery vehicle. This will increase your visibility to other drivers.....but remember to turn them off when you are ready to pull away.

Also, please remember you can always share concerns with your supervisor regarding safety hazards on your route.

Safety and Health Headquarters

Your **safety message** from United States Postal Service.

