

January 2010

Volume 1
Issue 5

Campus Beat

University of the Pacific—Department of Public Safety

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Special Points of
Interest:

Driving in Fog
Page 2

Driving in Rain
Page 3

Fall Semester Public
Safety Statistics
Page 4

New Years Resolution for being Safe on Campus

- I will** not leave my personal belongings unattended.
- I will** lock my door at all times, even if I am gone for only a minute.
- I will** not let strangers into the residence hall, room, or apartment.
- I will** know the escape plan from my hall in case of fire or other emergency.
- I will** have the Public Safety emergency contact number in my cell phone contact list.
- I will** report any suspicious person(s) or activity to the Public Safety.
- I will** lock my office door when I leave my office.
- I will** secure my lap top with a security cable when left unattended.
- I will** not leave anything in my vehicle when parked.
- I will** not leave my keys in my vehicle.
- I will** not use alleyways as a short cut when walking off of campus.
- I will** update my contact information on Pacific Connect.
- I will** run in familiar areas and avoid running at night.
- I will** regulate my consumption of alcohol and always have my drink in my view.
- I will** develop a plan including letting friends know of my plan when going out at night.
- I will** use a U lock and not a cable lock when securing my bicycle.
- I will** not text while walking as it leaves me vulnerable.
- I will** avoid giving out personal information such as your address and phone number over the internet.
- I will** meet any dates I arranged on the internet in a public place.

Fools in the News

Connecticut police are reporting that two thieves stole eight catalytic converters from the parking lots of several automotive businesses in Branford, Conn. After the crime they stopped and asked a police officer for directions to the freeway. After getting directions, the pair drove away and the officer noticed that the license plate on the car they were driving was covered with some sort of material. The officer became suspicious and stopped the two as they entered the freeway. The officer stopped the two and found the catalytic converters, metal cutting saws and blades in the car. At that point he knew that he had found the catalytic converter thieves. Both suspects were arrested for the theft of the car parts.

Driving in Fog



Fog can be thought of as a cloud at ground level. It forms when the temperature drops to the dew point (the temperature at which air is saturated), and invisible water vapor in the air condenses to form suspended water droplets. Fog can reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less, creating hazardous driving conditions. If you can't postpone your trip until dense fog lifts -- usually by late morning or the afternoon -- follow these tips:

- **Drive with lights on low beam.** High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and actually impair visibility even more.
- **Reduce your speed** -- and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- **Listen for traffic you cannot see.** Open your window a little, to hear better.
- **Use wipers and defrosters** as necessary for maximum visibility.
- **Use the right edge of the road** or painted road markings as a guide.
- Be patient. **Do not pass lines of traffic.**

Do not stop on a freeway or heavily traveled road. If your car stalls or becomes disabled, turn your vehicle's lights off, and take your foot off of the brake pedal. People tend to follow tail lights when driving in fog. Move away from the vehicle to avoid injury.



Tips and Techniques for Driving in Rain

Rain is blamed for thousands of accidents yearly. Many of these accidents are preventable, but are caused by intrepid drivers who don't realize that fair- and foul-weather driving are fundamentally different.

When the road is wet, the film of the water on the asphalt causes tires to lose traction. Less obvious is the fact that rain reduces driver perception — it's harder to see through the rain — and also decreases visibility through its action on headlights, windshields and the road itself. While most people know to slow down in the rain, there are definitely other tips that will help keep you, and those who share the road with you, from becoming a statistic.

Exercise extreme caution after a long dry spell. During a dry period, engine oil and grease build up on the road over time. When mixed with water from a new rainfall, the road becomes extremely slick. Continued rainfall will eventually wash away the oil, but the first few hours can be the most dangerous.

Allow for more travel time. You should plan to drive at a slower pace than normal when the roads are wet. Keep in mind that traffic is likely to be moving slower as well. There's also the possibility that your pre-planned route may be flooded or jammed. Whatever the case, rushing equals higher risk.

Brake earlier and with less force than you would normally. Not only does this increase the stopping distance between you and the car in front of you, it also lets the driver behind you know that you're slowing down. Also, be more meticulous about using turn signals, so that other drivers know your intentions, and take turns and curves with less speed than you would in dry conditions.

Most of America's roads are crowned in the middle, which means that the water will run off to the sides. If possible, **stay toward the middle of the road** to avoid deep standing puddles.

Check and replace windshield wipers as necessary. Drive with headlights on.