

DOAS Loss Control Bulletin

June 2010

Topic of the Month... Vacation Safety

Vacations can have some injury exposures and if an employee or family member gets injured, they really can't be productive at work or at home. Here are a few vacation safety tips.



Road Safety – This time of year may be a great time to refresh your driver safety by completing your annual review of the DOAS driver safety videos at [DOAS-Auto Program](#). Driving in another country can be very stressful and even dangerous. Before your trip, get information on what driving is like in your destination. Once there, pay close attention to all road signs. If the signs are in a different language, this will make things more difficult. Avoid going out in a car with a rental-company logo on the bumper or windshield, which automatically announces you as a tourist; this makes you more vulnerable to attacks by thieves. And for the same reason, make sure you don't leave your maps, hotel documents and guidebooks in the car. If it's possible to roam your mobile phone in the country do it, and if not, get one to use internationally. It will be useful especially in case of emergencies at your destination and for making contact with your base back home.

Airport Safety – Always keep an eye on your luggage and never leave it unattended. To avoid someone else picking up your carry-on bag, try not to place it on the conveyor belt until you've been security checked yourself and right about to walk through the metal detector. Once you put it on the conveyor belt, keep a close eye on it.



Hotel Safety – Keep valuables in a safe and always know where your closest safety exits are in case of an emergency.

Sight-Seeing Safety – Children aren't aware of the dangers around them and won't act any differently in unfamiliar surroundings. Place a safety card in your child's pocket including your name, contact details and hotel information. Don't wear expensive jewelry or carry expensive bags, cameras or laptops. Always, always keep a close eye on your bags. It's a good idea to actually carry your cash, identification and credit cards in your pocket and not in your main bag. Be especially careful with your bags when sitting down at restaurants. It's a common scam for thieves to steal bags from right under someone's seat when they're dining and happily preoccupied chatting. Stay on the main roads and near people at all times. Try not to wander down lonely roads or alleys even if they are short cuts.

Out of Country travels – To ensure everyone enjoys the trip, check with the CDC website in advance for any recommended inoculations and/or medications to take with you on your trip. A little prevention here can make the difference between having a great vacation and a visit to Montezuma's revenge.

Weather – June 1 ushered in the beginning of **Hurricane** season, so take that into consideration for your vacation plans as well. Traveling or not make sure you have an emergency plan in place for Hurricane season. **Lightning** is another consideration while participating in outdoor activities whether for recreation or for work. Every year about 50 people are killed by lightning in the U.S.; about 300 more are injured – many seriously. **The best place to be when lightning strikes is inside a large, enclosed building.** Buildings that can be unsafe: picnic and golf shelters, baseball dugouts, patios, carports and open garages. **As much as you would like to crawl into a tent to stay dry during a wild storm, a tent is NEVER safe!** The National Weather Service (NWS) says if there are less than 30 seconds between the time you see lightning and hear the thunder, you should be inside. **Avoid water and open spaces. Wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunder clap before resuming activities.** To find out more about lightning safety visit the [National Weather Service lightning education area](#). Enjoy your downtime and come back safely!



Thanks for your time. Let's work together to make Georgia a safer place to work.

DOAS Risk Management Services Division Loss Control Office

Contact us by email: losscontrol@doas.ga.gov or call (404) 656-6245 for additional information.