



# PEACOCK GROUP SAFETY MEETING

<http://www.pcoc.org/>

## Number One Cause of Auto Accidents for California Pest Control Operators

The number one cause of automobile accidents for California Pest Control Operators are rear-end accidents. You and your drivers are following too close, driving too fast, and are distracted by cell phones, two-way radios, and map reading. More than 80% of your automobile accidents are caused by you or your employees using a cell phone, two-way radio, or reading a map.

### Why We have Auto Accidents: Men make mistakes, Women have lapses

Dr. Reason has developed an extensive study of human error, based largely on the accident experiences of continuous-process industries, such as nuclear power and commercial aviation. Errors are defined as failure of planned actions to achieve the intended result, and they can be of two types: 1) mistakes, that is, the intention was not appropriate; and 2) lapses, that is, the action performed was not the one that was intended. Dr. Reason has used the error model as a base for survey research on drivers' errors and violations. Among other findings, men of all ages reported more mistakes and women more lapses. (Reason, J. (1990). *Human Error*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.)

## AUTO SOCIETY ADDRESSES MOBILE GADGET CONCERNS

The Society of Automotive Engineers, in cooperation with the Big Three U.S. automakers and a number of federal regulators and independent researchers, is studying the harmful effects of new automobile gadgetry, such as Global Positioning System-based navigation systems, cell phones and dashboard-mounted PCs. "The bottom line is we're very cognizant of driver overload and driver distraction," says the director of advanced engineering at GM's Delphi Automotive Systems. The SAE is drafting voluntary guidelines for the manufacture and installation of such devices in the hope of staving off federal regulation. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recently issued a 300-page report on safety problems related to cell-phone use. (Wall Street Journal 18 Mar 98)(Quoted in Edupage, written by John Gehl ([gehl@educom.edu](mailto:gehl@educom.edu)))

## MOST FREQUENT UNSAFE DRIVING ACTS

Safety researchers poured through more than 1.5 million police investigated crashes in 11 states looking for the most frequent behaviors or "unsafe driving acts" (UDAs). The results found violation of right of way, speeding, and following too close as the top three UDAs. (Streff, F.M. (1991). Crash avoidance: New opportunities for behaviour analysis. *Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis*, 24, 1, 77-79.)

### More Safety Stuff On-Line

Insureds of the PCOC Insurance Program (The Peacock Group Inc.) have access to more than 160 safety meetings, and other safety products on the Peacock Group Website. We will be re-modeling our website this spring, with our entirely new Peacockgroup.org website to be launched in early summer. Insureds will have access to even more safety meeting and many more resources. One of the many benefits of being with the number one insurer of Pest Control Operators - the partnership of the Pest Control Operators of California,

