

Draft 4

March 16, 2009

ECHO Questions and Answers

10 Minute Conversation

“Roadway Safety”

Note to hosts and guests: This show is taped in Minnesota, but it will be shown throughout the United States. Please speak to a national audience (not just Minnesotans).

English Host and Guest: Please modify question #1 for your audience.

- 1. This topic—Roadway Safety—is important for everyone. Why is it especially important in immigrant communities?**

Sample Answer:

- Driving is a privilege, and with it comes a responsibility to be safe.
- Even if you’re an excellent driver, you never know what another driver might do.
- Driving laws in the U.S. are different than they may be in your home country.
- Learn to read the road signs, and know the rules of the road.

- 2. What are some common mistakes drivers make?**

Sample Answer:

- Driving at unsafe speeds or too fast for road conditions.
- Driving drunk or impaired.
- Failing to wearing a seat belt or buckle children into the appropriate restraints.
- Not paying attention.
- Car problems, like bald tires or needing maintenance.
- Poor road conditions can also be a factor in crashes.

3. Why is wearing a seat belt so important?

Sample Answer:

- Every state has seat belt laws.
- Wearing a seat belt saves lives.
- A seat belt will keep you from flying out of your seat and smashing into a window or another passenger.
- People in crashes who don't have their seat belt on are often killed.
- Remember to buckle up everybody, every seat, every time.

4. With so many unpredictable drivers on the road, what are some things we can do to avoid having a crash?

Sample Answer:

- Always focus on driving. You need to be prepared to react to dangers.
- Sometimes the posted speed limit may not be safe for the road's driving conditions.
- If it's snowing, icy, raining or hard to see, adjust speeds for driving conditions.
- Know exactly where you're going before you start driving. That'll help you avoid distraction.
- Take good care of your vehicle. A poorly maintained vehicle is a safety hazard.

5. What are some common distractions that make driving risky?

Sample Answer:

- It's okay to have a cell phone with you, but do not use a cell phone at all while driving.
- Texting while driving is dangerous.
- Even using a hands free unit or speaker phone isn't safe.
- Simple tasks like talking, changing the music, eating can be risky.
- If you need to talk on the phone, pull off the road to a safe location.

6. You mentioned that it's important not to drive impaired. What do you mean by impaired?

Sample answer:

- To be “impaired” means that something has affected your ability to function well.
- Drinking alcohol will make you an unsafe driver because
 - you can't see as well,
 - your judgment and decision-making process is worsened, and
 - you cannot react as quickly.
- There are other ways a person can be impaired, like driving when you're really tired or after you've taken legal or illegal drugs.
- Any time our ability to function is impaired, it's not safe to drive.

7. What else do we need to know about safe driving?

Sample Answer:

- The key things to remember are:
 - Always buckle up. Passengers should ride in the appropriate restraint or child safety seat.
 - Pay attention. Avoid distractions both inside and outside of your vehicle.
 - Drive at safe speeds. Obey speed limits and adjust speeds for driving conditions.
 - Drive sober. Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

8. What do I do if there's a crash?

Sample Answer:

- First, check for injuries.
- Call 911.
- If you can, get out of the roadway.
- Exchange contact information with anyone else involved.
- Don't leave the site of the crash until the police arrive. If the other party tries to leave, try to get their license plate number.

9. Where can we find more information on driving regulations, tips and things like child safety seats?

Sample Answer:

- You can learn more online by visiting a triple-A organization in your area.
 - (www.aaapublicaffairs.com)
 - (www.carseatsmadesimple.org)
- Check with your states Department of Motor Vehicles, where you get your driver's license, for information on your state's laws.
- There are links and resources on ECHO's website at www.echominnesota.org.

10. Do you have anything else you'd like to add on this subject?