

Safety Reminder

Title: Driving Safety Message

Date: May 25, 2011

We recently had a vehicle accident that occurred when a public driver failed to yield the right of way to our company driver.

The company driver was traveling in the outside lane of a four lane highway with a turn lane. There were several gravel trucks in the left lane that were turning left at the next intersection. The public driver was in the turn lane heading south trying to turn across the two northbound lanes into a place of business. One of the gravel truck drivers waved for the public driver to proceed and she came across the left lane into the company driver's lane. Company driver braked immediately and stopped quickly, but not before he struck the public drivers right front fender and bumper. There were no injuries and minimal damage to the company vehicle. The gravel truck driver that flagged the public vehicle forward fled the scene before the police officer arrived. The public driver was issued a citation for failure to yield and the police officer stated that he would have issued the gravel truck driver a citation also if he had remained at the scene.

Company driver was doing a lot of things right, he was in the lane of least resistance and traveling well below the speed limit. His awareness was high as he approached this very busy intersection. He did not see the public vehicle until it was entering his lane and he reacted quickly.

- **Never take advice from other drivers when that advice conflicts with using your Smith System Keys.**
- **Never let other drivers be your eyes and ears when driving**
- **Do not give flagging directions to other drivers when not assigned the duty of flagman.**
- **Do not accept flagging directions from a person that is not a designated flagman.**