Our Commitment to Safe Driving

We endorse a safe driving culture to protect life and limb, establishing the obligation of employees in helping to deliver a safe driving environment. The Polarcus management seeks to establish a partnership where the employer and the employee adopt a safe approach to the practice of driving as they would to any other work related practice.

All Polarcus employees who will drive a motor vehicle will;

- Question the need for the journey and where possible consider alternative solutions to limit the impact to the environment.
- Hold a valid Driver’s License for the vehicle being driven and carry the license with them at all times.
- Drive within the speed limit at all times. Drive the vehicle at speeds that are safe for the conditions and recognize that at times this may be below the posted speed limits due to local conditions, such as rain, snow or visibility.
- Wear a seatbelt at all times, including all stages of pregnancy. Ensure passengers do the same.
- Drive with headlights on at all times to increase the visibility of the vehicle.
- Adjust headrests so the top of the headrest is even with the top of the head.
- Avoid the use of alcohol prior to driving and under no circumstances be over the legal blood-alcohol level for the class of license. Never drive under the influence of medications which may cause drowsiness, have an effect on alertness levels or driving performance. Alternative transportation such as taxis, chauffeured hire cars and/or public transport must be considered.
- Plan a realistic driving schedule and stop for appropriate rest breaks to ensure alertness and no fatigue.
- Hand held mobile phones and all types of hands free devices must not be used when operating a motor vehicle. If a call must be taken, pull off the roadway when safe to do so and stop your vehicle in a safe location before answering or placing a call.
- Drive defensively, avoid risk taking, be courteous towards other users of the roadway, including cyclists and pedestrians.

Ensuring your commitment to safe driving will help ensure, the safety and well-being of yourselves, the passengers as well as the others sharing the road at any given time.

Background to; Our commitment to safe driving

Driving at the speed limit – research indicates that as speed increases, the ability to detect hazards decreases, stopping distances increase, maneuvering to avoid collision becomes more difficult and potential severity increases should a collision occur. A 10% reduction in mean travel speed is likely to result in a 36% reduction in fatalities.
Wearing a seatbelt – The use of seatbelts may reduce fatalities up to 50%. It is proven beyond a doubt that the use of seatbelts saves lives and reduces the possibility of serious injuries.

Use of headlights during the daytime or daytime running lights – Recent studies have indicated that the use of headlights during the day time or daytime running lights would prevent;

25% of fatalities in multiple vehicle daytime collisions.

20% of casualties in multiple vehicle daytime collisions.

13% of multiple vehicle daytime collisions.

Use of headlights during the daytime or daytime running lights, increase a drivers peripheral perception of vehicles and make it easier for a driver to estimate the difference to the vehicle using the headlights or daytime running lights.

Proper height of a headrest – Headrest position is important in helping to reduce the risk of whiplash in rear impact collisions. A poorly positioned headrest can cause up to six times the risk of whiplash injury compared with a properly adjusted headrest.

Use of alcohol and other drugs – The use of even small quantities of alcohol can severely impair the skills necessary for driving. Some medications (prescription and over the counter) may have the same effect. Driving under the influence is a crime.
A driver with a blood-alcohol level of .05 is twice as likely to be involved in a crash as a driver who has not been drinking.
The risk at a blood-alcohol level of .08 is four times that of a sober driver.

Fatigue – Driving when tired can be as dangerous as when driving under the influence of alcohol. Driver fatigue affects concentration and reaction time. Fatigue is a factor in close to 25% of casualty collisions and approximately one in every three single vehicle crashes on rural roads.

Use of mobile phones while driving – The risk of being involved in a fatal crash when using a mobile phone while driving is close to 10x higher than when not using a mobile phone. The general lack of concentration when using a mobile phone while driving, leads to such actions as driving around corners too fast and a delayed braking reaction time.
Although mobile phone use when operating a motor vehicle may still be legally allowed in many countries, tests and data gathered has proven mobile phone use with or without a hands free device is dangerous. Persons become easily distracted by mobile phone use when operating a motor vehicle while the person on the other end of the phone line has no idea of the road conditions the driver is experiencing, unlike a passenger in the car who can see the road conditions and may even be able to warn the driver of impending danger and/or stop the conversation as conditions change.

Defensive driving and being courteous towards other users of the roadway – Defensive driving is a form of training for motor vehicle drivers that goes beyond mastery of the rules of the road and the basic mechanics of driving. Its aim is to reduce the risk of driving by anticipating dangerous situations, despite adverse conditions or the mistakes of others. This can be achieved through adherence to a variety of general rules, as well as the practice of specific driving techniques such as:

Driving at a safe speed and within the posted speed limits.

Not tailgating, following to close behind.

Not driving to close alongside another vehicle or inside the other vehicle’s blind areas for an extended period of time. Blind areas are close by the rear quarter of the other vehicle where you may not be visible in the side mirrors, directly behind the other driver’s shoulders.

Yielding right of way when necessary to give way to other through traffic when merging on main roads.

Being courteous while driving will lessen the chance of road rage and others becoming aggressive towards you on the roadway.

Signal all turns or lane changes.

Don’t cut anyone off.

Don’t tailgate.

Refrain from driving slowly in the outside lane of the highway. On a multi-lane highway it is best to consider using the outside lane for passing other vehicles and once clear merging back to the center or inside lane.
Don’t engage! One angry driver can’t start a fight unless the other driver is willing to join in. Avoid eye contact, avoid using hand gestures and steer clear when it is safe to do so. If you feel the other driver is following you, GET HELP, if you have a cell phone use it to call the police. If you have no phone drive towards a safe place such as a police station, gas station or a public place where there are people around. Don’t get out of your car if the aggressive driver confronts you, use your horn to attract attention. These actions will usually discourage an aggressor.

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