Safety Newsletter

Southwest Area Regional Transit District

MARCH 2025

January, February, and March 2025

Quarterly Newsletter

Reminders:.

- If you have reached your capacity of your clients and there is an ADA client waiting, you must transport.
- A reminder, please no cell phones while driving!!
- Do not transport transfer chairs
- Do not leave straps in the floor place them back in the rails, it is not safe to use a trash can or anything else to hold straps, they have to be returned to the tracks for safety reasons.
- Seat belts should be worn at all times—make sure clients are wearing them.

Defensive Driving

When driving is part of your job duties, whether you are behind the wheel of a rental vehicle, a van, a company car, or an eighteen-wheeler, you are a professional driver. Most drivers can drive around the block without incident, but it takes a dedicated professional to drive perfectly for thousands of miles. When professional drivers are at the controls of any vehicle they should always remember that defensive driving is a full-time job. They take the time to complete pre-trip checklists and perform inspections that familiarize the driver with the vehicle and identifies unsafe mechanical conditions that may need repair. The driving conditions of today's roads and highways demand a higher level of skill, knowledge, and decision-making ability. A defensive driver is someone who looks for the mistakes of other drivers; not merely a person who has had the good fortune to avoid accidents.

Safety-conscious drivers:

- develop good habits and practice them continually;
- are prepared mentally and physically every time they are behind the wheel;
- comply with all traffic laws and are courteous to others;
- remember that speed, whether too slow or too fast, kills;
- adapts their driving to the current driving conditions;
- maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of them-one vehicle length for each 10 mph; and
- are aware of the vehicle's limitations.

Defensive drivers:

- have foresight that gives them the ability to size up traffic situations on the road ahead;
- start slowing down sooner and apply the brakes the instant they see a hazard developing;
- apply the brakes gradually so they don't spin or grind to a stop so quickly that they risk a rear-end collision; and
- anticipate the incorrect actions of other drivers in time to take the actions necessary to prevent accidents.

Professional drivers:

- practice defensive driving to prevent accidents, in spite of the incorrect actions of

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Rodriguez — Uvalde

Francisco Villalobos— Eagle Pass

Carlos Mallen—Eagle Pass

Michael Sanchez—Eagle Pass

Jesus Rodriguez - Eagle Pass

Armando Martinez—Uvalde

3 available Vehicle Operators from the county service area.

The Committee members will be meeting quarterly to tackle any safety issues or concerns. Feel free to bring any issues to those members as needed.

Your concerns are greatly appreciated.



Defensive Driving

Recipe/motivational quote

Safety Issues

Birthdays

Community Events

Drive Safely !

Important dates to remember:

⇨ Don't forget to clock in daily, and submit your timesheet. If you have any questions or problems with EWS, contact Magdalena Flores, Finance Assistant at 830-278-4155

Simple recipes

The Best Classic Burgers



- 1 1/2 pounds 80% lean 20% fat ground beef or ground chuck
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons seasoning salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- Optional: 4 slices of cheese
- 4 hamburger buns
- Optional: hamburger toppings - lettuce tomato, onion,
- pickles, ketchup, mustard, mayo, etc.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

- Steve Jobs



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Safety Issues

- → Slow down on speed bumps.
- → If you see a non safe issue, report it right away to our Safety & Training Technician.
- → Do not use vehicles that are not equipped with cameras. It's for your own safety.
- → Loud music and profanity music should not be played in the vehicle
- → Don't forget to wear your ID badge at all times
- → Emergency red handles on the buses are broken and they are not being reported.
- → Incident/accidents Reports need to be turned in within 24 hours that an incident/accidents occurs not days later.
- → Park buses in their designated spots. For no reason should we have vehicles parked under the canopy.
- → Mechanical failures need to be reported to the Vehicle Technicians, not to your Supervisor.
- → Make sure all clients are wearing their seat belts at all times.

- • Reduzca la velocidad de los baches.
- • Si ve un problema no Seguro, informar de inmediato a nuestra seguridad al tecnico de seguridad.
- • No utilice vehículos que no estén equipados con cámaras. Es por tu propia seguridad.
- • La música fuerte y la música profana no deben reproducirse en el vehículo
- • No olvides usar tu placa de identificación en todo momento
- • Las manijas rojas de emergencia en los autobuses están rotas y no están siendo reportadas.
- • Los informes de incidente/accidente deben ser entregados dentro de las 24 horas.
- • Estacione los autobuses en sus lugares designados. Sin ninguna razón deberíamos tener vehículos estacionados bajo el dosel.
- • Las fallas mecánicas deben ser reportadas a los Técnicos del Vehículo, no a tu supervisor.
- • Asegúrese de que todos los clientes lleven puestos los cinturones de seguridad en todo momento.

TML Comparison Report

Please note that this report reflects as of June 30, 2024

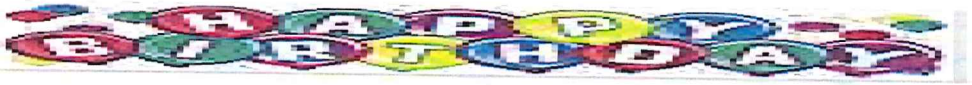
Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2023/2024	0	0	6
Contribution	$46,218	$414	$58,966
Loss Ratio	0.0%	0.0%	69.3%

Fund Year	Workers Comp.	General Liability	Auto
2022/2023	1	0	5
Contribution	$41,239	$353.00	$69,233
Loss Ratio	5.0%	0.0%	6.9%



SWART

Don't forget to visit our web site



January Birthdays

Juan M. Rodriguez -1/15

Maria Camacho—1/20

February Birthdays

Rufino Jaimes—2/7

Francisco Rodriguez—2/9

Sarina Urrabazo—2/9

March Birthdays

Cynthia Rodriguez—3/19



Stay Focused on Your Driving and the Road

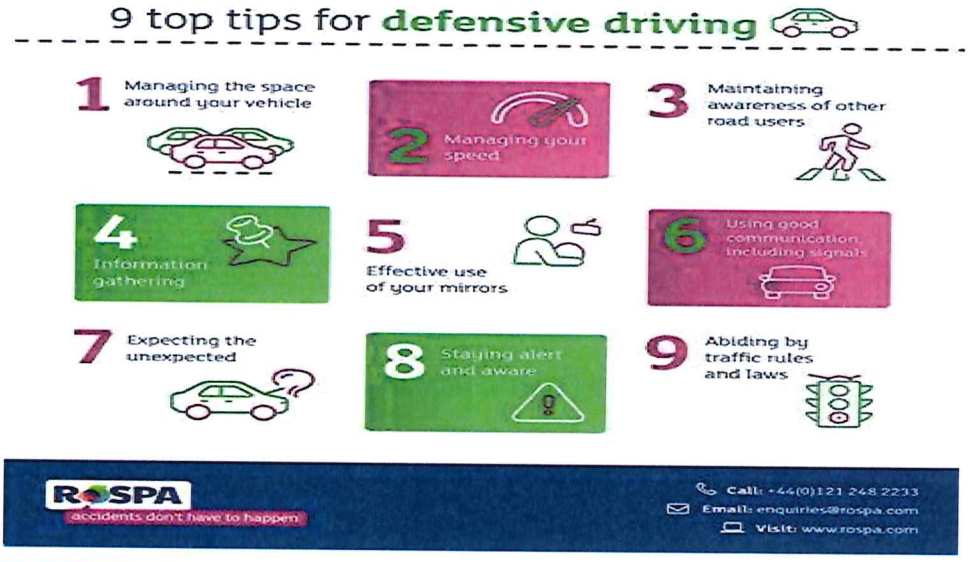
One of the most important defensive driving strategies is to stay focused and avoid becoming distracted. This means you should not use your cell phone or any other type of electronic device while you are driving. To avoid the temptation to do so, put them away.

This also means that you should pull over and rest if you are feeling tired. Driving when you are feeling sleepy can be just as dangerous as driving when you have had too much to drink.

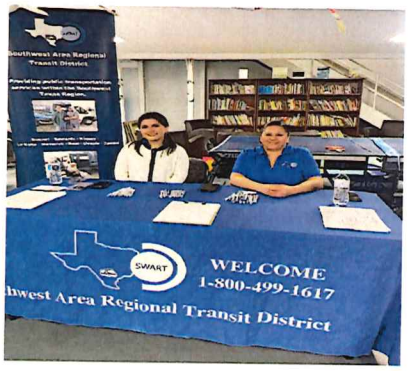
You also want to make sure that you don't start daydreaming or otherwise space out when you're driving. It's also essential that you don't get distracted by whatever is going on inside your car rather than paying attention to the road.

It is easy to become distracted by things you see outside of your car sometimes that isn't related to defensive driving. This might be an accident, something strange happening on the side of the road, or a funny road sign. Instead, you'll want to stay focused and make sure you are able to stay away from other drivers you might be distracted.

Lastly, don't try and multitask when you are driving. This means you shouldn't be putting on makeup, eating, or drinking while you're driving. If you need to do any of these activities, pull over and take a minute to do so while you are not on the road.



Community Events...



SWART participates in the Your Mental Health Matters

January 28, 2025





SWART participates in the Cervical Cancer Awareness Event

January 30, 2025







SWART participates in the Parent Meeting at Kids Are First Inc.

February 5, 2025





SWART participates in Your Next Chapter Starts Here on February 10, 2025

Community Events....



Uvalde Housing Authority Presentation

January 23, 2025,



Nueces Canyon CISD Career Fair

January 29, 2025





3rd Annual SWTXC Wellness Fair

February 5, 2025





Morales Junior High Career Fair

February 7, 2025





Carrizo Springs Junior High & High School Career Fair

February 19, 2025



Sabinal High School Career Fair

March 21, 2025





Dimmit Community Resource Fair

March 25, 2025



Uvalde Memorial Hospital Groundbreaking Ceremony March 26, 2025

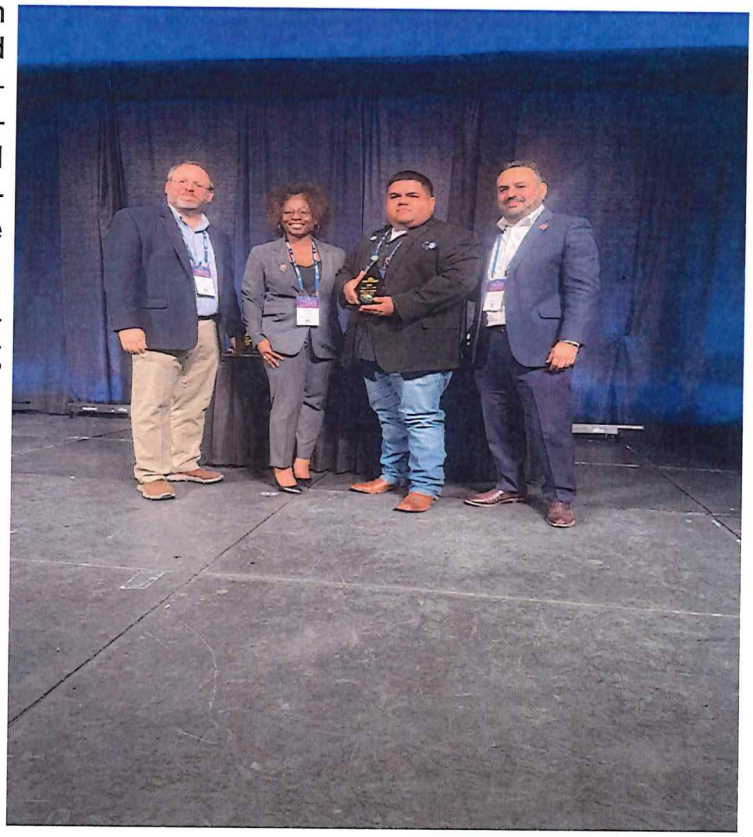


SWART is proud to announce that our **Vehicle Maintenance Team** received high honors at the **2025 Texas Transit Association (TTA) Conference** held in McAllen, Texas.

Leading the charge, **SWART Vehicle Maintenance Technicians Armando Martinez and Michael Sanchez** clinched **1st place** in the newly introduced **Texas State Paratransit Vehicle Maintenance Roadeo**, earning the prestigious **"Champions"** title. Competing against top transit systems—including **VIA San Antonio Paratransit, Valley Metro Paratransit, and South Padre The Wave**—the duo demonstrated exceptional skill and knowledge. Under the guidance of their coach and **Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Jesus Rodriguez**, Armando and Michael outperformed their competition by more than **50 points** across key evaluation areas, including a **written exam, vehicle pre-trip inspection, HVAC system diagnostics, and engine repair.** Their hard work and expertise were formally recognized at the TTA **Awards Banquet** on **March 8th**, held at the **McAllen Performing Arts Center.** The event also honored winners from various transit categories, including **Large System Vehicle Maintenance, 40-Foot Vehicle Operators, 35-Foot Vehicle Operators, and Paratransit Vehicle Operators.** Remarkably, both Armando and Michael have been with SWART for just **six months**, making this victory even more impressive. Armando and Michael are pictured with TTA Executive Director Allen Hunter and Metro McAllen General Manager Mario Delgado.

esus Rodriguez was honored as the **2025 Texas State Rising Star**—a testament to his dedication and leadership in transit maintenance. Pictured alongside **TTA Executive Director Allen Hunter, TTA President Serena Stevenson (Waco Transit), and Metro McAllen General Manager Mario Delgado**, Jesus's journey with SWART is nothing short of inspiring. Starting as a **vehicle washer five years ago**, his **commitment, innovation, and technical skill** propelled him through the ranks, first as a **Vehicle Maintenance Technician** and now as **Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.**

These achievements reflect **SWART's unwavering commitment** to These achievements reflect **SWART's unwavering commitment** to excellence in vehicle maintenance and transit operations. We are excited about the future of our **Vehicle Maintenance Department** and look forward to fostering the next generation of talented professionals who will bring their expertise, passion, and innovation—not just to SWART, but to the broader **Texas transit industry.**



Congratulations to our outstanding team!