Parking Lot Perils

Safety Talk

A lot of things can go wrong between the time you steer your vehicle into the company parking lot and the time you reach the front door of the building.

Traffic accidents, falls and assaults are just a few of the perils of workplace parking lots and garages.

Here are some suggestions for avoiding hazards:

- Slow down when driving through a parking lot. Excessive speed is the cause of many accidents in these congested areas. Cover your brake pedal with your foot so you can react quickly in an emergency.
- Be alert to inattentive pedestrians, vehicles backing out of parking spaces and traffic at uncontrolled intersections
- Pay attention to where you are parking. Can you find the vehicle promptly upon your return? Will this be a safe place to walk when you get off work after dark?
- Do not block hydrants or park in areas reserved for emergency vehicles.
- Lock your vehicle when you get out. Before you step out, look around you. As you approach your vehicle to get back in, look in and under it for an intruder.
- Have your keys ready as you approach your vehicle.
- Walk to and from your vehicle with companions. Security escorts should be available during night shifts.
- When you are walking, never assume a driver sees you. Don’t get so wrapped up in conversation with a co-worker that you step out in front of a vehicle.
- Watch your step. Rough road surfaces, raised curbs and icy conditions can all cause falls. Stick to the pedestrian walkways. Report any pedestrian hazards so they can be fixed.
- Wear sturdy shoes with low heels and non-slip soles for your

commute; change your shoes when you get to work, if needed.

- Conduct a circle check of your vehicle before backing out of a parking space. Look for any driving obstacles.
- When you leave the parking lot and enter the street, stop and look both ways before proceeding. Watch for pedestrians if you are driving across a sidewalk.

The combination of motor vehicles and pedestrians in an area poorly controlled by traffic signs makes the typical parking lot perilous. Poor lighting, isolated areas and rough walking surfaces add to the dangers. Stay alert as a driver and as a pedestrian