



January, 2009

**PRUSIK USA**  
SECURITY CONSULTING



## SECURITY NEWS

Prusik Security Consulting officials will be attending the Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel course offered by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, February 26<sup>th</sup> in Tulsa, OK. This is a 1-day training course designed to educate rural public safety officials and personnel in maritime jurisdictions who may respond to incidents in those jurisdictions, thereby increasing their ability to defend it.

The Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel course will describe the characteristics of the U.S. Maritime Transportation System, list threats to the U.S. Maritime Transportation System and the major provisions of relevant U.S. maritime security regulations.

The course will also cover maritime environmental safety issues and explain major features of the Homeport website and the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) program.

For information on how Prusik Security Consulting can provide security solutions for your organization send inquires to: [securityinfo@prusikusa.com](mailto:securityinfo@prusikusa.com).

## Safe Driving in Winter Conditions

By Justin Oldham  
President/ CEO

Good drivers know the special hazards of winter driving, but should be reminded about the danger of skidding when speed is too high. One of the most terrifying experiences in winter driving is the skid. If it happens at high speed, the result could be a disastrous crash.

Most skids could be avoided by adjusting to the conditions, and it is possible to recover from skids if you know how. Steering is steady, with no abrupt change in direction and, especially, no abrupt braking. Plan ahead of time for lane changes; check your rearview mirrors, check your blind spots and signal your intentions to traffic behind and swing over in a long, gradual tangent. If you go into a skid, remember two cardinal rules -- don't steer against the skid and don't hit the brakes. Instead, steer in the direction the vehicle is sliding until you feel recovery of traction, then slowly straighten the wheels and keep rolling. If braking is necessary before rolling traction is recovered, apply the break peddle carefully so as not to lock the wheels and intensify the skid. Since accidents are so common in winter, the expert driver makes a double allowance for the sake of safety. First, drive on slippery roads at reduced speed; and second, increase following distance behind the vehicle ahead. This gives an extra space cushion for safe stopping, in case there is trouble ahead.

Braking distance depends directly on the kind of contact the vehicle tires make with the slippery surface of the road. Your tires should have good tread surfaces. There will be times that snow tires, and even chains, may be best to help keep your vehicle under control during those blustery winter storms. **Always use extra precautions when driving in snow and/or on ice.**

## 5 Ways to Improve Your Workplace Safety in 2009

By John Robishaw  
Planning Dept. Mgr. / Safety Officer

When we think of workplace safety, we tend to think of heavy industry (mining, manufacturing, etc), but that is a mistake. If you're a small business and you have employees, workplace safety is a topic you've got to find some time to address, because every small business has workplace safety issues. For Instance, if one of your employees is on his hand and a knee dusting the reception office and an object falls from a higher shelf and strikes him on the head, you have a workplace safety issue. In most states he would file for a worker's compensation claim, and possible file civil suit. If there is a pattern of such workplace safety issues, then he could also file a claim with OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). If the issue relates to a worker disability, there is a possibility of an American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) Claim. So, what do you do about workplace safety claims?

### 1. Employee Education

There are regulatory agencies of the government that require you to provide employee education of specific workplace hazards. Your industry or corporate headquarters may require additional training mandated by law. Internal training primarily focuses on meeting these requirements so employees can be protected in the workplace. You many also choose to augment internal training with outsourced companies that specifically develop courses for your facility. Whether its company mandated training, or outsourced training to improve your standards and performance, a good quality employee education program is a necessary tool to preventing workplace safety issues.

## TRAINING NEWS

Prusik Training Center is currently developing the Clandestine Laboratory First Responder Awareness course for the Stilwell Emergency Medical Services in Stilwell, OK. The CLFRA course is a 1-day course available for law enforcement (8 hrs of CLEET CEU), and will be taught by the Mobile Training Team. PTC will provide a/v equipment, student handouts, Clan-Lab manufacturing training aids, PPE and decontamination equipment. PTC is applying curriculum specifically to the local agencies and their Standards of Operation.

For course information, or for courses that can be developed for your organization through the Mission Specific Training Program, contact PTC e-mail: [traininginfo@prusikusa.com](mailto:traininginfo@prusikusa.com).

## FIREARMS NEWS

Parabellum Combat Systems is finishing the development of the PCS “Storm Rifle” SR416 lower receiver to be released April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Wanenmaker Tulsa Arms Show, at the Tulsa Expo Center, in Tulsa, OK. The PCS SR416 is a replica of the HK416 lower receiver, and will accept all AR15/ M16/ M4 style stocks, grips, and accessories. The recommended upper receiver is the POF P416, which can be purchased with the SR416 lower receiver – barrel lengths 10 to 16 inches – for a complete rifle configuration.

For more information of the SR416 receiver send inquires to: [parabellum@prusikusa.com](mailto:parabellum@prusikusa.com).

### 2. Conduct Meetings

Simple common-sense applies – conduct periodic meetings. A 1-hour meeting twice a year, discussing workplace safety can prevent many issues. Ask your employees, “do you see any unsafe acts”, and “is there anything here that makes you nervous about safety”. If anyone is going to complain, it will be one of your employees, and they have many answers to the issues you face. They’re not going to easily volunteer information, unless you create a safe and friendly environment for them to do so. You want to be very neutral about what they tell you. For example, if one of them tells you they have an allergy to a cleaning product or other item, then don’t take it lightly – deal with it. The best solution to workplace safety issues is preventing them before they happen. Once an employee gets injured, your options get extremely narrow. So having a meeting, perhaps over sandwiches, could save you thousands of dollars in legal liability down the road.

### 3. Develop a Workplace Safety Policy

A good safety policy promotes employee awareness, sets attainable goals and objectives, and rewards employee performance when those goals and objectives are achieved. Reaching goals and objectives measures progression and compliance for businesses that have corporate policies and regulatory standards to meet. Most states have a State OSHA volunteer program, where they send someone to your location and conduct abbreviated field audits of your operation. This is totally proactive – there is no intent of fining for violations – merely point out to you the issues that are present, and give you specific tips on how to comply with OSHA regulations. Of course, they will follow-up periodically to ensure you do comply. The volunteer program is a relatively painless way to comply with regulations, if you are in a situation where you may have multiple safety complaints. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has many available tools on their website, <http://business.uschamber.com/>, which address many workplace safety issues that most businesses deal with.

### 4. Facilitate Communication

A good plan isn’t any good unless is it communicated to all employees. From the top of the hierarchy to the bottom, it must be understood by everyone. After you have conducted your meetings, you must follow-up with your people. You need to know that they understand the purpose and intent of the workplace safety policy as it pertains to their daily tasks and duties. Sending reminders to your employees is a good way to ensure your safety procedures are being communicated. For example, a monthly e-mail with safety information is one way to ensure everyone is getting the information. Another way is to print flyers and brochures and distribute them in supervisor and/or employee mailboxes.

### 5. Employee Accountability

Safety is everyone’s responsibility. Managers must talk safety everyday to everyone. For a management meeting, make an agenda that starts with safety topics, so the supervisors will know that safety comes first in all duties, including meetings. Then, let your employees know your expectations. For instance, you may use the Manage by Walking around (MBWA) method to supervise your employees. This method allows you to observe your employee’s performance, and make on-the-spot corrections when you see an unsafe act. Managing by Objectives (MBO) is another way to ensure quality of work. MBO is most effective in empowering employees to take “ownership” of projects and stimulates creativity, which could improve employee participation in your safety meetings.

You have a responsibility to keep your business thriving and providing your customers with products and services – just as your responsibility to your employees of a safe workplace – and to your business for federal and state regulatory compliance. When someone in your organization bumps their head while cleaning the reception office, remember, workplace safety is both a legal and ethical responsibility. From safety training, to safety meetings, to policy development and communication, to holding your employees accountable to comply with those policies; all reduce personnel injuries, worker’s compensation claims, and other legal actions concerning your business.