



Safety Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.



Know Before You Go



Make it a practice to know where your next stop is going to be before you leave home, the office or the previous service call. Otherwise said, knowing where you are going and having a clear understanding of the route you will be taking can reduce your accident exposure. Reading a map or interpreting directions can be a difficult and often frustrating task. Add to this, the normal act of driving a vehicle and you have the recipe for disaster for you or others on the road.

Route planning involves more than just planning your schedule and identifying the directions required to get you to and from one service call to the next. Route planning begins with selecting the route of least resistance. The route of least resistance is defined as the most efficient and safest means to get you from one place to the next. This determination is based on more than the miles and includes such elements as traffic patterns, construction, weather conditions and your service schedule. Regardless of the chosen route, it is critical that you have a good understanding of the directions before you ever get on the road.

Having a good understanding of the route you are taking will make you a safer driver by eliminating distractions and frustrations. In addition, an effective route plan will improve your response times, reduce the wear and tear on equipment and reduce sudden stops, turns and u-turns.

Things to consider in route planning include but are not limited to the following:

- Take extra care when going to a new location.
- Be aware/alert to conditions that may have occurred since the last visit.
- Avoid making abrupt stops or turns.
- Always use your signal and provide plenty of advance notice of your intentions.
- Park your vehicle in a visible location.
- Recognize that passing a location or missing a turn can be a good decision.
- Use all your resources and don't be afraid to swallow your pride.
- Plan your route to avoid heavy traffic flow whenever possible.
- Ask your co-workers about preferred routes and share your experience as well.
- PULL off the roadway and STOP if you need to read a map. Do not read a map while driving.

Even with every precaution taken, an occasion may arise in which you find yourself lost or in need of clarification. Should this occur, stay calm, review your directions, call your office and ask for directions. Remember, it is better to be a few minutes late than to become involved in or create a vehicle accident.