



## WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Now that the snow is starting to fly, here is a list of useful items to store in your vehicle in preparation for a snow emergency.

- A blanket for warmth & large plastic garbage bag to wrap round yourself to conserve heat and block drafts.
- A good flashlight with fresh batteries (a small battery powered radio will save on your car's battery and keep you abreast of weather & road conditions -plus entertain you until help arrives- if you become stranded.)
- Boots & a change of clothes (plus warm socks, cap, scarf & mittens/gloves). Dressing in layers helps you adjust to temperature changes.
- Power Bars, dried fruit & nuts for food. (& a small box of tissue)
- A tin can with dry matches & a candle to melt snow for drinking. (A paper cup filled with snow & held over the candle will yield water to satisfy your thirst and keep you hydrated.)
- A compass & map to pinpoint your location.
- Shovel to clear snow from around tires.
- Sand to provide traction on ice.
- A sturdy tow rope or chain.
- Jumper Cables
- A red flag to attach to your antenna and/or **HELP** sign for display in your back window.

Remember before you venture out; check the weather forecast for any winter storm watches or warnings. If you absolutely must travel in inclement weather, always let someone know where you are headed, the route you intend to take and approximate time of arrival. If you do find yourself stranded, stay with your car. Your chances of being found are much better if you remain in your car. Crack a window open  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and run your car at 20-30 minute intervals to conserve gas. The weather can be deadly. Stay alert!

Each Month a Different Simonson Employee is Featured

### Spotlight on Joe Theisen



**Joe Theisen**

Joe Theisen is a salesperson at the Brainerd yard. He has been there for 5 years. Married to his wife Nancy for 28 years, Joe lives in Royalton in the same house they've had for 27 years. Change is in the works, however, as they are moving to Baxter in 2006. Joe likes working for Simonson because the employees are encouraged to find ways to improve their service to the customer. Simonsons listens to the employees and welcomes employee suggestions. It's a good relationship where everyone benefits.

Favorite leisure activities include golf, golf & more golf. Joe also likes to enjoy the outdoors, going for walks, watching & feeding the birds, or boating. A childhood memory is how he could hardly wait to grow old enough to be trusted to do chores & field work by himself on the family farm. Something he thinks we might be surprised to know is that before he was married, he lived for a while in the mountains of Colorado. He said it was absolutely awesome there and he learned to ski in the Rockie Mts., but he got homesick and returned to Minnesota. The best advice he received was from his father who told Joe to be non-judgmental and keep a positive attitude. He tries to live that way with help from things he learns & reads and the example of others. A project that he would do differently if he had to do it over was gutting and remodeling the main level of his house while still living there. He says the mess was awful and moving to an apartment and hiring a contractor might have been a better idea. Joe & Nancy are going to Hawaii in March. The vacation is a "perk" for 15 years employment by his wife at Hardware Distributors.

## Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

We are proud to report that the employee contribution to the Katrina Relief Fund was \$1901.60 in October. With a Simonson Lumber company match, a Total of \$3803.20 was presented to the Red Cross for their relief effort in the southern states hit by the hurricanes.

## News from the Yards

Roxanne from Hutchinson reports that the guys at that yard have had great success hunting this year. Sadie in Crosslake says the same is true for the fellows there (only some have hit their deer with their vehicle.)

Congratulations to Josh & Alicia Head who are the proud parents a new baby daughter born November 19<sup>th</sup>. Sylvia Jean Head weighed 8 lbs 2 oz and was 19 3/4" long. We wish them well.

Kim from The Design Team vacationed with her family in California and visited Disneyland & the San Diego Zoo. They had a great time.

Troy Thompson (formerly of the Brainerd yard) has moved to the Crosslake location and is working at the counter there.

Amanda Klaverkamp finished at the top for St Cloud Tech in the Section 8AA Cross Country Meet. ...And Jake Berthiaume's team (with Doug as coach) took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the "B" pool of Monticello's Football League. Congratulations!

Wayne Burgraff's daughter Krystle & his wife Marilyn were visiting in California a few weeks ago. They went to see "The Price is Right" and Krystle was called to be a contestant. Watch the episode on December 14<sup>th</sup> on CBS. If you can't watch or tape it, Krystle won and won BIG!!!

COME ON DOWN!



**Congratulations to Simonson Lumber of Alexandria. They celebrated a 1 year anniversary**

**in November. We are proud to have them as part of the Simonson team.**

**Celebrating a Simonson Anniversary  
Wendy Romine 1 yr, Heidi Eckerman 2 yrs,  
Royce Aardahl 3 yrs, & Kris Oman 5 yrs.**



## Concerning your 401k

*This is the time of year to decide whether you would like to make changes to your 401k account.*

*There are several ways to make changes:*

- *If you would like to make changes in your **payroll contribution**, please contact Human Resources (Cherie at 320-252-9385).*
- *To make **Asset Allocation** changes, contact Principal Financial Group at 1-800-547-7754 or use the Internet [www.principal.com](http://www.principal.com).*

*Call Cherie (320-252-9385) if you would like assistance in setting up your user name and password.*



Have you handed in your form for the Flexible Spending Account? You need to sign and return it even if you decide not to participate. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to have all the forms returned. Don't wait. Call Cherie at 320-252-9385. She has all the details & will be glad to help you. Thanks.

**Moved recently?** Be sure to let Cherie at Human Resources (320-252-9385) know the new address. She also needs to know about any changes (*gotten married? ..or divorced, had a baby, or a child who is now living independently*) to your W-4 tax withholding.

## Happy Birthday!

Christopher Green 12/02, Fidencio Vega 12/02,  
Glenn Lahm 12/05, Alejandro Barragan 12/06,  
Eric Eggert 12/06, Bob Rogers 12/07,  
Kevin Cronquist 12/08, Stan Kolasa 12/09,  
Willem Koopman 12/14, Steve Weiser 12/14,  
George Dingmann 12/16,  
Nora Castle 12/21,  
Eric Johannes 12/23,  
& Conrad Zellmer Jr 12/26



## Football

Week 8's winner was Darrel Borka. Week 9 was won by George Dingmann and week 10 by Randy Hadrath. Ricky Haus won Week 11. Congratulations to all our winners! Keep playing. There's still time for you to win.