



Are You a Dangerous Driver?

They swerve in and out of lanes, forget to signal turns, ignore rules of the road and engage in other rude –and dangerous- behavior. An increased number of drivers can be seen eating, reading, applying makeup or talking on their cell phone while trying to maneuver their way to work. Road rage is just one of the reactions these bad drivers incite. Are you among them? Check these 10 characteristics to see if you need to make adjustments to your driving behavior.

1. When you reach a stop sign and no one is coming from another direction, do you roll through it instead of stopping? 87% of bad drivers believe that they should be able to speed, go through stop signs and break other driving regulations as long as no one gets hurt.
2. Do you talk on your cell phone while driving instead of pulling off and stopping to talk?
3. Do you take your coffee and muffin or other food and drink on the road with you, driving with one hand while using the other to eat? Have you ever spilled food or drink and attempted to clean it up while remaining on the road? Reaching for that napkin could cost you your life.
4. If you're out shopping in a crowded area and are looking for a parking space, do you become so focused on your search that you lose sight of the cars and pedestrians around you? Drivers often forget that accidents causing substantial damage and injury can happen in a parking lot.
5. Do you hate driving behind SUVs or other large vehicles which obstruct your view?
6. Does your driving change when you go into areas known for a high police presence?
7. Does listening to music while you drive sometimes leave you oblivious to all but the music?
8. Do you find yourself in confrontations on the road, either through verbal arguments or hand gestures, because of your own driving habits or the habits of others?
9. Does your "work hard, play hard" lifestyle leave you sleeping behind the wheel at times?
10. When driving with passengers, do you turn around to talk, taking your eyes & mind off the road?

Maybe you don't consider yourself a dangerous driver or risk to others on the road, but if you find yourself saying "yes" to even one of the above characteristics, there is room for improvement. The above behavior makes your risk of an accident and injury increase substantially. Increased risk translates to higher insurance rates for everyone. Safe driving requires your full attention.

Each Month a Different Simonson Employee is Featured

Spotlight on Nels Simonson

Meet our founder, Nels Simonson, grandfather to the current owners, Michael, Stephen and Richard Hobbs. A native of Denmark, Nels' family moved to St. Paul when he was a child. Nels' father worked for the railroad eventually moving the family to Wisconsin. Nels also worked for the railroad as a youth. An industrious man, Nels tried many different & diverse occupations while remaining alert for future business opportunities. Soon an opportunity presented itself.



Nels Simonson

He bought the timber rights to land near St Croix Falls WI and built a saw mill. He also designed a shed to store and distribute his lumber eventually expanding it into a retail lumber yard. At 60, an age when many are looking forward to retirement, Nels was working harder than ever. He traveled by train and often spent nights sleeping at the St Cloud yard. Nels' reputation for honesty and quick mind for figures assured the growth and expansion of Simonson Lumber yards throughout Central Minnesota. Today, a 3rd generation continues the business and carries on the family tradition of providing quality building materials at fair prices and excellent customer service.

On Nels Simonson's 80th birthday, he was honored by the Village of St Croix Falls for his integrity, generosity, and dedication to learning. Nels preferred "thinking" and "planning for the future" to watching TV. He loved children, enjoyed stories of the American pioneers, horses and a good cigar. Simonson Lumber's founder, Nels Simonson, is an admirable role model and true American success story!

The trouble with doing nothing
is you can't stop to rest.



Celebrating a Simonson Anniversary

**Cory Guck ~ 1 yr, Ricky Haus ~ 1 yr,
Brandon Hutt ~ 1 yr, Matthew Mooney ~ 1 yr,
Melissa Murphy ~ 1 yr, Steve Schmitz ~ 1 yr,
Brandon VanDriel ~ 1 yr,
David Fanslow ~ 2 yrs,
Kimberly Wieneke ~ 2 yrs,
Wayne Holbeck ~ 3 yrs,
Roxanne Jergens ~ 3 yrs, Larry Ramey ~ 7 yrs,
Janice Saatzer ~ 7 yrs, Scott Kneeland ~ 8 yrs,
Betsy Rakotz ~ 8 yrs, Jon Wilson ~ 10 yrs,
Gary Statz ~ 11 yrs, Wayne Hartwig ~ 12 yrs,
Leon Zierden ~ 19 yrs,
Mark Klaverkamp ~ 27 yrs,
& Carolyn Tufte ~ 30 yrs,**

Congratulations to Simonson's sales people!
The Annual Sales Meeting was held on
February 17th at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell.
Roy Burkson was the speaker for this event.
Simonson CEO, Ken Fuchs, and Business
Development Director, Matt Murphy, passed
out plaques & certificates for outstanding
sales performance. (See accompanying photo
sheet) Good Job!

I've learned that life is like a roll of
toilet paper. The closer it gets to the

Happy Birthday!

Darrell Tucker 3/04,
Vincent Demmer 3/07,
Michael Hobbs 3/08,
Robert Meininger 3/14,
Richard Bock 3/18,
David Koglin 3/24,
& Ann Harren 3/29



*Irony is when you buy a suit
with two pairs of pants, and
then rip a hole in the coat.
---Dr Laurence J Peter*



Vintage St Cloud Simonson Yard

The Events Committee is busy
planning some fun activities for
this spring and summer. If you
have some suggestions, be sure to
tell your representative. They
appreciate any input you may have.

News from the Yards



We are sorry to report that the
Monticello yards pet bird passed away
unexpectedly last month. According to Justin,
"the poor thing had a weight problem." They
are hoping to find another bird soon.

Jane Kedrowski from The Design Team spent
her winter vacation with friends in Hawaii.
She said it was beautiful there.

Congratulations to Kim Wieneke of The Design
Team and Logan Green of the Monticello yard
who recently announced their engagement.
No date has been set for their wedding.

If you've heard a new voice answering the
phone at Properties when you've called, it
might have been Linda Boie. She is a "temp"
Administrative Assistant for Home Builders
Finance who sometimes covers the phones
when Janice is in meetings or otherwise
unable to.

If at first you don't succeed, then
skydiving is definitely not for you.

