Purim safety

With Purim only days away, we must remind ourselves that, though this is a Yom Tov of fun and goodwill to others, it is also a time when we must be extra diligent about our **safety**. Unfortunately, due to careless behavior and thoughtlessness, Purim often ends in **tragedy**. By being aware of circumstances and taking a few precautions, we can have a **safe and happy Purim.**

ON THIS DAY THERE ARE MANY INEXPERIENCED DRIVERS ON THE ROAD. Teenagers and boys home from Yeshiva, who may have licenses but very little driving experience, are all too happy to do the family driving.

BE EXTRA CAREFUL ABOUT OBEYING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. In our rush to distribute the Mishloach Manos, we often make serious misjudgements.

Be alert to the fact that, in their excitement, **CHILDREN MAY NOT BE CAREFUL WHEN CROSSING THE STREET.** Always be on the lookout for youngsters jutting out from in between cars.

BEING THAT WE ARE CONSTANTLY IN AND OUT OF THE CAR, WE MAY BE LESS CAREFUL ABOUT BUCKLING UP. Remember most accidents happen within close proximity of our homes. Even if you will be driving only a short distance, all occupants of your vehicle must be seatbelted!

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT SOMEONE HAS BEEN DRINKING ALCOHOL, BY NO MEANS SHOULD YOU ALLOW HIM TO DRIVE. Never permit your children to get into a car that will be driven by someone who may have been drinking, no matter how it may inconvenience you.

IF YOUR SON WILL BE COLLECTING TZEDAKA ON PURIM, DO YOUR HOMEWORK. Make sure that the group he will be going out with will be carefully monitored and will follow a specific set of rules that will ensure his safety. This should include strict prohibitions about drinking alcohol, a responsible adult to make sure that the boys are not reckless when darting through traffic, positively no standing in the back of trucks or vans with open doors and no riding on the outside of vehicles.

Wishing all of Klal Yisroel a happy, healthy and safe Purim.

And remember, **PREVENTION** is the first step to **RESCUE**.