



# MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

April, 2011

*Safety Tips: Yard  
Sales & Driving*



Yard sales, garage sales, or estate sales all are gaining in popularity. It reminds me of the old saying, “One man’s treasure is another man’s trash.” None-the-less, some folks, particularly ladies, live from Saturday to Saturday to frequent these offerings.

However, several things can happen and none of them are good. When traveling through any neighborhood, one never knows when someone might step out in the street between vehicles and the driver of the vehicle may not see them in time to react. An incident has happened and a person or persons might be injured.

Following are some hazards that can occur and tips on how to combat these hazards:

- **Collisions caused by inattention** – While driving around looking for the sale and seeing something that you can’t do without, pull over to the side and stop before looking at the item. Also, as you are driving through neighborhoods, drive slowly, but not so slow that you might pick up a tailgater. This can be equally dangerous.

- **Hidden Children** –

It is very easy for children to become obscured at a busy garage sale by parked vehicles. Always use extra precaution when driving past stationary vehicles near garage sales.

- **No loading zones** –

Try to avoid double parking. In many areas it is illegal. If you are loading a large item into your car or truck and need to back up, get a spotter or a person to assist you in navigating the area.

- **Unsecured Loads** –

Make sure that the bounty that you purchase is tied down and secured in good order so that you won’t lose it. If you have an item larger than your vehicle, borrow or rent a vehicle larger to carry it securely.

- **Locating the Yard Sales** –

Before you leave for a sale, take the time to map out your route. Follow the directions, but have a friend go with you to look at your written plan. It is dangerous for you to drive and look at the directions.