

Penn-Delco Bus Driver's Quick, Calm Reaction Avoids Disaster

On March 19th, Penn-Delco bus driver Dave Seleyo was transporting several students and a Sun Valley faculty member when he experienced what all drivers dread. Mr. Seleyo, who has been employed in the District Transportation Department for seven years, was returning to Penn-Delco from a 10 hour round-trip journey from Seven Springs, PA, approximately 50 miles west of Pittsburgh. In the district van he was driving were three Sun Valley students, a student from Marple-Newtown School District, and Sun Valley Consumer Science teacher, Elaine Kaskela. They were attending the annual Family Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.

One hour prior to the end of their trip, among rush hour traffic, Mr. Seleyo noticed less than 50 yards ahead of him a large truck swerving on the same side of the Pennsylvania Turnpike that he was traveling on. In the fraction of a second, five deer darted across the highway and were on top of the traffic immediately in front of him. Mr. Seleyo began to ease his vehicle off to the side of the road at the initial sign of trouble. The car directly in front of him struck one of the deer head on, completely disabling the vehicle. Several other vehicles were also damaged and were forced to pull off of the road. However, due to his quick and calm reaction Mr. Seleyo was able to maneuver his van out of harm's way.



“It could have been a lot worse, but we were very fortunate,” stated Mr. Seleyo. “I was concerned the deer that struck the car in front of us was going to come over the top and hit us, but because I was already moving out of the way we avoided any damage. This kind of thing is something all of our drivers are prepared for. I’m just happy it worked out alright.”

“Dave managed to avoid the deer and the swerving cars with such finesse the students had no idea how close they came to an accident,” stated Mrs. Kaskela. “All told, about eight vehicles were damaged.”

“As a member of the transportation team, Mr. Seleyo demonstrated what we strive for which is ‘Safety First’ when it comes to transporting Penn-Delco’s most valuable asset - our kids. Mr. Seleyo’s attention to his duties and quick thinking is a testament to his training and the Penn-Delco Transportation Department,” stated Transportation Supervisor, Al Groer.