

Defensive Driving Presentation Notes

Defensive Driving Tips:

The mindset of defensive driving is to watch out for the other driver. These are the people who are distracted, speeding, making quick maneuvers and generally are unaware of those around them. Your job when driving is to expect and have the space cushion necessary to avoid their erratic behavior.

Speeding:

- Do the speed limit. Always.
- The slower rate of travel reduces the stopping distance necessary.
- Slow down drastically in snow and ice conditions.
- When it rains, the road oil rises to float on the water making a sheet of oil on the roads.
- When traveling with a load and unbalanced weight in a vehicle, handling is compromised and speed aggravates this.
- Accident research shows that driving only 10 MPH over the limit increases your risk for accident 50%.

Avoid Left Turns:

- Avoiding left turns avoids turning across oncoming traffic.
- Most turning accidents occur from left hand turns.
- When missing your turn, attempt three right turns rather than a left turn.

Stopping:

- When stopping at intersections, stop where you can see the white line in front of you.
 - If you are hit from behind, you won't be pushed into oncoming traffic.
 - When stopped at a crosswalk you won't be pushed into pedestrians.
 - Helps avoid other vehicles sliding into the intersections uncontrolled from either collisions or loss of traction in ice and snow.
- When stopping behind vehicles, ensure you can see their tires touching the pavement.
 - Avoids hitting the vehicle in front of you if rear ended.
 - Allows you the ability to maneuver around a stalled vehicle without having to back up.

Parking:

- Avoid having to back out of a parking spot.
- Pull through parking places when you go to parking lots.
- When finding a place to park, back into the spot when first arriving where you can see everything better and pull out straight when leaving.
 - For both avoiding a backing accident and for security in a fast getaway.

Turning Lanes:

- Don't travel in solid white line breakdown lanes to turn right.
- Keep your wheels straight when in the turning lane so if hit from behind, you won't be pushed into oncoming traffic.
- Turn from the inside left hand turn lane rather than the outside turn lane to avoid a side swipe.

Distractions:

- Never text and drive. It's worse than drunk driving.
- Do not fumble with items in the car. Secure your load and items before driving.
- Have the attitude that when you're drive, you do only that. Just drive. Do not multitask.

Don't drive drowsy:

- 20 percent of all accidents have sleepiness as a contributing factor. You run the risk for every 5 times you drive sleepy; one of them will result in you being in an accident. It just isn't worth the risk with those kinds of odds against you.

Wear your seatbelt;

- There is no acceptable time in a vehicle to be unbelted. Ever.
- 70 percent of fatal crashes of teens between 15 and 17 were not wearing seatbelts.

Space Cushion

- When traveling maintain a 3 second rule between you and the vehicle in front. As vehicles maneuver in front of you while driving, adjust your new distance. Professional drivers now follow the 4 second rule due to recent collision analysis.
- In inclement weather and night time driving adjust that distance to 6 seconds.

Avoid Aggressive Drivers

- Avoid road rage conflicts. Let it go and accept that not everyone is a good driver or should be on the road. You'll live to see another day.

Keep your vehicle maintained:

- Keeping your vehicle maintained and road worthy helps avoid having to make sudden maneuvers.
- It also avoids breakdowns leaving you in traffic and vulnerable to collision.

Practice defensive driving at all times. Your reaction times vary to a multitude of different conditions in your day to day life so to keep that from resulting in an accident, drive defensively.