

CARES

IMPORTANT STEPS TO DEFENSIVE DRIVING

DON'T TAILGATE

Give yourself space and use the 2 second rule. This is the most important defensive driving measure. When the car in front of you passes a fixed object, say one thousand and one and one thousand and two. If you reach the object prior, you are too close. Add a one thousand and three, at night or in poor driving conditions.

KNOW VEHICLE BLIND SPOTS

These are areas to the right and left of your vehicle you can't see in your mirrors. Always have your mirrors adjusted to limit them as much as possible. Before changing lanes, turn your head as necessary to overcome blind spots. Be aware of other vehicle blind spots, which are larger for trucks. Defensive drivers don't linger in other vehicle blind spots or pace alongside other vehicles if avoidable.

KNOW THE SAFE WAY TO PASS

Never pass on a curve, a hill, a no-passing zone (solid yellow line), construction area, or where any other conditions make it unsafe. If safe, follow these 3 steps:

Maintain a safe distance behind the vehicle. Signal and check your blind spots.

Move into passing lane and move ahead of the vehicle. Signal and check your blind spots.

Pull in front of the vehicle when you see pavement in front of the vehicle in your rearview mirror. Turn off signal and resume safe speed.

AVOID HEAD-ON COLLISIONS

These are the most deadly of all. Use the "Four R's" to avoid them.

Read the road ahead. Watch for oncoming traffic and any unusual movement.

Drive to the Right. Always drive in far right lane except to pass. If an oncoming car is in your lane, ease onto shoulder or side of road and look for escape path.

Reduce your speed and continue to view vehicle.

Ride off road if unavoidable. It is better to hit a fixed object than have a head on collision with oncoming traffic. If you have to drive off the road to avoid a head-on collision, if no clearing is available, look for "softer" objects to impact.



FOCUS ONLY ON DRIVING

Do not engage in distractions such as texting, talking on your phone, eating, setting your GPS or other similar activities. All of these are more safely completed while you are parked.

ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS

Defensive Driving is as much about attitude and awareness as it is driving skill. As you drive and encounter situations, asking yourself things like “Is that driver going to stop?” or “Do they see me, how will I react?” can assist in making collision avoiding decisions.

BE SAFE NOT SORRY – ARRIVE ALIVE

Recognize when conditions are such that you shouldn't be behind the wheel. Consider the weather, road conditions or an emotional event that has occurred where it would not be safe to drive. Postpone driving or seek alternate drivers or transportation.

(Revised 03/2015)

