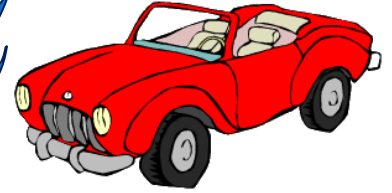




Safety Talk

Defensive Driving



The learning and use of defensive driving techniques trains drivers to anticipate dangerous situations. Approximately twenty-two million people are injured or killed in traffic collisions every year. Defensive driving aims to reduce the risks that are accompanied with driving. This Safety Talk will outline the basic tips and techniques for safe driving.

Rule #1: Pay Attention

The majority of traffic collisions occur because of inattention. Being aware makes it possible for you to see, recognize and avoid hazards – which are the three purpose of defensive driving.

Rule #2: Don't Trust Anyone!

When you trust the other drivers on the road, you are putting your safety in their hands. Anticipate the other driver's future errors and have a wary attitude toward others. And don't forget – look around constantly.



Rule #3: Yield Anyway

If you are in doubt of who has right of way, give it away. It is better to give it away rather than end up seriously injured.

Rule #4: Don't Speed

When you speed, you reduce your reaction time to hazards, as well as hold less control over the car, and braking time is longer at high speeds.

Rule #5: Don't Drive Impaired

Don't drive when you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Furthermore, do not drive when tired, or have disabling injuries.

Rule #6: Wear Your Seatbelt

Seatbelts absorb crash forces, provide impact protection, and keep you from being thrown from the vehicle.

Rule #7: Use Your Safety Devices

Use child seats for children, ensure your car has airbags and working ABS brakes.



Rule #8: Don't Run Red Lights!

Running red lights endangers everyone – especially the person in another lane waiting for the turning green light. Be aware of people approaching the intersection at high speeds on a yellow light. Remember – the yellow light means **STOP** if safe, not speed up and beat the red light.

Rule #9: Look Down the Road

Allow your eyes to scan down the road, as far as 15-20 seconds. This allows you to spot hazards, signs, construction sites, etc. and allows you to plan a course of action.

Rule #10: Create Space

Making your own space will help avoid collisions and allow yourself a safe out in a hazardous situation.



Rule #11: Signal Your Intentions

Use turn signals when turning left or right, or changing lanes. Don't forget to use your signals in parking lots, too!

Rule #12: Avoid Distractions

Try to avoid eating, drinking, talking on cell phones, playing with the radio or CDs, or talking with other patrons in the car. Focus on driving!

Rule #13: Avoid Backing Up

Risks are higher for collisions while backing up. If you must, back up with extreme caution.

Rule #14: Stop Fully!

Many of us perform rolling stops when we hit a stop sign. Many accidents occur at stop signs because people just 'go through the motions' and lack attention. Remember – stop means **STOP**. Once you have, make certain to ensure a safe path before proceeding.

Rule #15: Slow Down in the Rain and Snow

Avoid hydroplaning and sliding by reducing your speed. Slow down approximately one-third the speed limit in the rain and about half in the snow.