



What Every Driver Should Know

*Driving is the biggest responsibility you will take on each day.
You are responsible for your life and safety, as well as others around you.
One mistake could change your life and theirs.*

WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

- Buckle up every time you are in a car and make your passengers do the same.

DO NOT TALK and/or TEXT

- No excuse is worth the risk of hurting yourself or others.
- Keep your phone off and away while driving.
- In an emergency, pull off to the side of the road to a safe spot away from traffic before any cell phone use.

WATCH YOUR SPEED

- Follow the speed limit. Speed is the primary cause for the majority of automobile accidents.
- Posted speeds are for optimal conditions, slowdown in inclement weather.

USE DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS

- Your headlights should be on every time you get in the car.

KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING

- Scan your eyes to the horizon in all directions.
- Remember to use your mirrors but do not rely on them.

COME TO A COMPLETE STOP

- Do not roll through stop signs. STOP, for a full 3 seconds. Look left, right, left before proceeding, even if you are making a right turn. If you can't see clearly, inch forward and stop again for 3 seconds, repeat left, right, left again before you enter traffic. The odometer should read "0" each and every time you stop.

SIGNAL EARLY AND OFTEN

- Clear communication with other drivers benefits everyone and reduces the risk of automobile accidents.

CROSSCHECK EVERY INTERSECTION

- Before proceeding, look in every direction, when your signal is green.

DON'T DRIVE EMOTIONALLY

- Keep your emotions in check. Concentrate on the road and the situation around you.

EXPECT OTHER DRIVERS TO MAKE MISTAKES

- Watch for clues to other drivers' actions and anticipate their mistakes.
- Pay attention to pedestrians and bicyclists at all times.

USE STRATEGIC THINKING

- Continually assess the situation around you for potential changes in traffic. Plan your response ahead of time and don't get caught unaware – think ahead instead of reacting impulsively.

KEEP SPACE CUSHION

- Space cushion is critical. Maintain a 4 second space cushion for proper reaction time.

CHECK YOUR BLIND SPOTS

- All cars have blind spots; a quick glance over your shoulder ensures a safe maneuver. Mirrors do not give a complete picture of the situation. Avoid blind spots as much as possible.

TURN INTO THE CLOSEST LANE

- When turning on a multiple lane road, the turn should be made into the closest lane available.
- Remaining in your lane avoids confusion with other drivers in complex intersections.

PLAN YOUR ROUTE

- Place your car in the proper lane well before an intended turn to minimize hazardous, last second lane changes.
- Lane changes should never be made within an intersection.

UNDERSTAND THAT THE DRIVING ENVIRONMENT CONSTANTLY CHANGES

- Taking your eyes or concentration off of the road for 2 seconds puts you 4 seconds behind in reaction time.
- 80% of accidents could have been avoided if the driver had reacted 2 seconds earlier.

REMEMBER YOU ARE A NEW DRIVER

Driving is a skill that will take years to master, just like any sport or any other psychomotor skill. Learning to drive should receive the same importance and attention it takes to become good at any of your sports or hobbies. Your life and the lives of others could depend on it.