Driving Safety

The Importance of Driving Safely

- Every five seconds an automobile crash occurs, every ten seconds an injury occurs from a crash and every twelve minutes someone dies from an automobile crash. Most of these incidents occur during the work day.

  - The number of drivers is increasing every year. Being safe while driving will prevent many accidents and save employers many dollars spent on vehicle damage and injury per year

Preparing to Drive

1. The first steps in preventing accidents are done before entering a vehicle.

- Check the air pressure in the tires of the vehicle
- Having the proper amount of tread on the tires is important and should be checked regularly.

Preparing to Drive

2. The most essential thing to have while driving is a good safety mind set. Having a good safety mind set means recognizing and preventing hazards.

- Fatigue and frustration are major causes of traffic accidents.
- If you are tired, you should stop driving, take a break to walk and get some fresh air.
- Don't be distracted by something on the side.
- Watch the speed limit.

Preparing to Drive

3. Once you have entered the vehicle, adjust the seat and mirrors for comfort and safety.

Preparing to Drive

4. The seatbelt is the most important tool to keep the driver and passengers safe. A seatbelt should always be worn, even when going on short trips.

The seatbelt will prevent the occupants of the vehicle from colliding into or through the windshield and also protects the internal organs from colliding into each other.

Preparing to Drive

5. Before entering traffic, take the time to be familiar with the instruments on the dash.

6. Be familiar with the vehicles steering and braking characteristics.

Hazards of the Road!

1. It is important to see well ahead of the vehicle that you are passing. This will allow you to know if there is enough distance to pass. <u>Never pass a vehicle that is stopped at cross walk.</u>

Hazards On the Road!

2. Trucks handle very different than smaller vehicles. Some tractor trailers can weigh as much as 40 times more than most cars.

- They need more distance to stop.
- You need more room to pass.
- You can't see as far around them.
- They have larger blind spots.
- They need more space to turn.

Hazards On the Road!

3. The ability to see and be seen is very important.

The most dangerous times to drive are dusk and dawn. During this time of the day, the sun is often in the driver's eyes.

Use high beam lamps at night when driving outside of city areas. Switch to low beams if you are behind other vehicles, facing oncoming traffic or driving in snow or fog.

Always clear your windshield of ice and snow before driving.

Hazards On the Road!

4. Inclement weather can make road conditions hazardous.

<u>Plan extra time to travel in bad weather</u>

Reduce your speed in the fog.

Slow down on wet roads to prevent hydroplaning.

Avoid hard turns and heavy breaking on ice, snow & sleet.

Hazards On the Road!

5. Things inside the car can distract the driver as well.

- Eating
- Applying makeup or doing hair
- Cell Phones
- Billboards
- Adjusting the radio

Speeding

Speeding: Exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for the conditions.

- Reduces the amount of time available to avoid a crash
- Increases the likelihood of crashing
  - Avoid the fast lane while interstate driving, use the middle or right lane as much as possible
- Increases the severity of a crash
- You can be cited for driving to fast for the road conditions even though it is slower than the posted speed limit.

Drinking and Driving

Drinking, even just a little, will impair your ability to judge speed and distance as well as slow down the time it takes you to react.

Drinking and Driving

- Under the new “zero tolerance” law, you can have your license suspended if you BAC is .01 or higher while driving in some states.

- Each state has different Blood Alcohol Content restrictions.

- BAC is usually measured as mass per volume.

- law also covers driving under the influence of any drug or medicine.

Drinking and Driving

A drunk driver may think that they are driving okay, but usually they will swerve, drive too fast or too slow. Police are trained to recognize someone who possesses these attributes.

1. **The officer can pull the vehicle over and require the driver to perform sobriety tests.**

2. **If the driver fails any part of these tests, the officer will take them to jail.**

3. **The driver will then see a judge, who will sentence the driver to a jail term, suspend the license and/or require community service if found guilty.**

Parking

A parked vehicle must face the same direction as the flow of traffic.

Parking spaces marked for the handicapped require a handicap placard hanging from the rear view mirror or a special license plate to legally park.

Parking

When facing up hill, park with the front wheels turned left and against the curb.

When facing down hill, park the vehicle with the front wheels turned right and against the curb.

When parking on a street, the front and rear wheels must be no more than eighteen inches from the curb.

Always set the parking brake. This will keep the car from rolling down the street and into another object or a person.

Parking

Many places will paint the curbs different colors to indicate whether parking is allowed and what that area's purpose is.

A red curb means no parking at any time.

Curbs painted yellow mean that area is a loading zone and can only be used by vehicles loading and unloading materials.

Green curbs indicate limited parking zones and can only be used for a specified amount of time.

What to do in case of an accident

Never leave the scene of an accident until local law enforcement arrives. Failure to stop at the scene of an accident will make you a hit and run driver.

Life and health are more important than an automobile, check for injuries first.

What to do in case of an accident

If the accident is minor and there are no major injuries, move the vehicles out of the lane(s) of traffic to a safe place.

Call the police, no matter how minor the accident.

What to do in case of an accident

Never sign any document unless it is for the police or insurance agent.

Make immediate notes about the accident. Include all damages to both vehicles involved. Get as much insurance information as possible. If the name of the driver is different from that of the insurance, inquire about the difference.

What to do in case of an accident

Never admit fault or accuse the other driver of an accident.

If you have a camera handy, take pictures of the accident and the damage caused by it

Call your insurance agent and employer and notify them of the accident as soon as possible.

Conclusion

1. Always be familiar with the car that you are going to drive.
2. Be aware of the hazards and causes of accidents and try to avoid them.
3. When driving on the freeway, stay in the lane that best suites your needs and never pass anyone you can't see around.
4. Be aware of crosswalks and traffic control signs such as yields and stops.
5. Remember to only drive as fast as the conditions allow or the speed limit.
6. Drinking impairs your judgment. Never drink and drive.
7. Remember, always park in the direction of traffic.
8. When you are involved in an accident, make sure you have all information possible from the other driver as well as time and setting of the accident and how it happened.

Quiz

Click on the link below to take a 10-Question Quiz.

https://secure.rutherfordcountytn.gov/insquiz/driving.aspx

Once you have linked to the quiz, please enter your Social Security Number at the top. You will need to enter it according to the example shown (ex. 999-99-9999 with hyphens included).

Once finished with the questions, please click the submit button and your training will be recorded.

Note: It takes 90 days for newly hired employees to be loaded to the training database. In this case print out the quiz and submit to your supervisor or safety training point of contact