Driving Hazard Awareness

Developed by HMTRI through cooperative agreement # 2 U45 ES006177-14 with NIEHS under the Worker Safety and Health Training Support Annex of the National Response Plan

WORKER EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM
Objectives

- Characteristics of a Defensive Driver
- Rental Vehicle Awareness
- Types of Driving Conditions
- Disaster Driving Tips
- Hazardous Driving Examples
- Road Rage
- Summary
The Defensive Driver

- Prepares before getting behind the wheel
- Ensures all passengers use safety belts
- Obey speed limits
- Considers weather conditions
The Defensive Driver

- Never tailgates
- Eliminates distractions
- Adjusts for city, highway, or rural driving
Steps to Safer Driving

- Plan your trip
- Know your vehicle
- Keep gas tank at least ½ full
- Maintain control
- Remember defensive driving techniques
Rental Vehicles

• Familiarize yourself
  – With the vehicle
  – With your surroundings
  – Know where you are going before you leave the parking lot
Driving Laws

• Observe Speed limits
  – Drive for road conditions
  – Drive for traffic conditions

• Obey Traffic laws
  – Right turn on red?

• Use your turn signal
Driving Conditions

• Severe Weather
  – Know if flash floods are a potential
  – Listen to weather forecasts
  – NEVER, NEVER drive through running water
  – Water only 1 ft deep can carry your car away
  – Tornado potential
Driving Conditions

- **Night Time driving**
  - Time change causes drivers to leave work after dark
  - Work zone areas still in effect until dusk

- **Fog**
  - Fog and smoke from burning debris can cause limited visibility
Terrain

• Know the terrain
  – Narrow, hilly roads
  – Road surface
  – Congested city streets
  – RR crossings without lights or gates
Watch out for

• Pedestrians
• Children
• Animals
• Bad Drivers
• Trucks
Disaster Driving Tips to Live By

• Slow Down
• Wear Seat Belts
• Expect Delays
• Avoid distractions
Disaster Driving Tips to Live By
Allowing Yourself Space

• Increase the distance between your car and others due to increased hazards of the road
  – Debris, work zones, stop light damage, stress levels
Use the 6 Second Rule When Driving

- Drivers in Hurricane Devastated Areas should use the 6-second rule as a safe following distance instead of the 3-second rule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Distance Traveled</th>
<th>3 seconds</th>
<th>6 seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 m.p.h.</td>
<td>37 ft. per second</td>
<td>111 ft.</td>
<td>222 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 m.p.h.</td>
<td>52 ft. per second</td>
<td>166 ft.</td>
<td>312 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 m.p.h.</td>
<td>66 ft. per second</td>
<td>198 ft.</td>
<td>396 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>55 m.p.h.</td>
<td>81 ft. per second</td>
<td>243 ft.</td>
<td>486 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 m.p.h.</td>
<td>96 ft. per second</td>
<td>288 ft.</td>
<td>576 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 m.p.h.</td>
<td>111 ft. per second</td>
<td>333 ft.</td>
<td>666 ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Disaster Driving Tips to Live By

- Treat all intersections as 4-way stops
- Some traffic lights may not be working
- Signs may be missing
Disaster Driving Tips to Live By

- Scan the horizon
- Keep your eyes moving
- Scan on and off the road
- Check your mirrors frequently
- Be totally aware of what is in front and behind you at all times
Vehicles May Pass Unexpectedly at Any Time
Roadway Work Zones are Frequently Not Marked or Properly Identified with Signs, Cones, Barricades and Trained Flaggers
Flaggers in Work Zones are Not Always Visible
Stay Back 4 Car Lengths Distance from Debris Trucks to Avoid Flying and Falling Debris

Identify the Hazards

Debris Trucks Passing

Workers

Heavy Equipment Movements

Cars following behind debris trucks. Drivers should identify potential hazards, i.e., heavy equipment movements; workers; and additional debris trucks.
Be Aware of Oversized Vehicles, Mobile Homes, and Heavy Equipment
Road Rage

Road rage (also road violence) is the informal name for deliberately dangerous and/or violent behavior under the influence of heightened, violent emotion such as anger and frustration, involving an automobile in use.
Causes of Road Rage

- Environment
- Instructive responses or Territorial defensiveness
- Intrusive responses
10 Useful Tips

1. Don't retaliate.
2. Don't make eye contact with an angry driver.
3. Before you react to anything that is done to you please ask yourself, "Is getting back at that jerk worth my life?"
4. Be polite and courteous, even when others are not.
5. Always ask yourself: "Could the other driver have possibly made a mistake?"
10 Useful Tips

6. If you are harassed by another driver and being followed, do not go home. Go to the nearest police detachment.

7. Slow down and relax!

8. Never underestimate other drivers' capacity for mayhem.

9. Reduce your driving stress by allowing enough time to get where you are going.

10. Remember that you cannot control the drivers around you, but you can control the way they affect your well-being.
Drivers are Stressed, Be Patient
Summary

• Your safety is your responsibility
• Drive cautiously and carefully
• Be aware of your surroundings
• Be patient with disaster area
• Watch out for hazards