

6 Tips for driving defensively

JUDGING SAFE DISTANCE

When crossing at an intersection, it is helpful to watch the cars ahead of you to get an idea of how much distance is needed to safely cross. For intersections that you frequently cross, identify landmarks near the road that can help you judge distance.

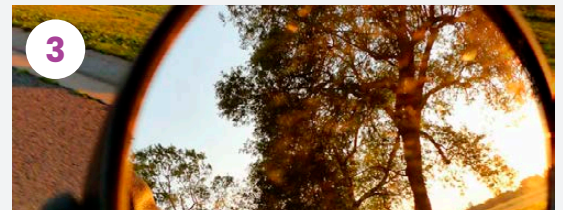


SIGHT, SPEED & SPACE MANAGEMENT

Did you know that at a speed of 25 MPH in clear conditions it takes an average of 33 feet to bring your vehicle to a stop? However, in rainy conditions the stopping distance grows to 43 feet, and in snowy conditions it nearly triples to 92 feet to bring your vehicle to a stop!

SEARCH & SCAN

Of course, it's important to scan through your mirrors looking for hazards, however you should never take your attention off the road in front of you for longer than 2 seconds. Put yourself to the test next time you're behind the wheel



HAZARD RECOGNITION

While driving it is important to not only look for hazards, but also clues. Clues are anything that hints that a hazard may be near. An example of a clue would be an ice cream truck on a neighborhood road. This tells drivers that there will likely be children running in the street.

ATTENTION & DISTRACTION

There are many so called "hacks" to help keep a drowsy driver awake such as playing music loudly or opening a window. None of these "hacks" are a safe alternative. The only way to combat drowsy driving is to pull over to take a nap or to get enough sleep regularly.



BACKING

Improper backing accounts for 30% of all preventable vehicle collisions. One of the common mistakes made with current technology is the overreliance on back up cameras or rear-view mirrors. It is important to get a full view of what is behind the vehicle.