



Defensive Driving Tips

Drive Safe and Smart

When you think of safety hazards and injuries, you probably focus on what goes on during work. But one of the greatest threats to worker safety is in the parking lot. Whether we drive on the job or commute to work by car, defensive driving is a must for all employees at all levels in our company. Here are some basic rules of defensive driving that you remember and practice:

- Buckle up for safety.
- Follow traffic rules, signs, and signals.
- Do not speed and keep at least 2 to 4 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
- Keep your eyes on the road, your hands on the wheel, and your attention on traffic.
- Check your rearview and side mirrors frequently.
- Adjust your speed and driving to changing weather and traffic conditions. Increase your distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Expect the unexpected and be especially alert in heavy traffic for sudden stops, vehicles passing or moving in and out of lanes, road debris, and work zones.
- Keep cool, yield right of way, and do not get into disputes with other drivers.
- Pull over into a safe area to make or receive phone calls.
- Do not drink or take drugs and drive.

Don't Forget Vehicle Maintenance

A safe, roadworthy vehicle is an indispensable part of driving safely. If a vehicle is unsafe, the driver--and others on the road--are at risk. Keep your vehicles properly maintained and follow the auto manufacturer's recommendations for oil changes, tune-ups, and so on. Also, remember to inspect your vehicles frequently between service checkups. Here are some things you should look for:

- Are tires in good condition and are they inflated to the right pressure?
- Are headlights and taillights clean and working?
- Are directional signals and emergency flashers operating properly?
- Are oil, coolant, and other fluids at the correct level?
- Are belts and wires in good condition?
- Are brakes working properly?
- Are the windshield wipers in good condition?

Driving In the Dark

It probably comes as no surprise that there is a greater risk of accidents at night. In addition, night crashes tend to be more severe. To help keep yourself on the roads when it is dark out, remember these safety tips:

- Start taking precautions as soon as the sun goes down. Dusk is one of the most dangerous times of day on the road.
- Slow down and increase your following distance. Darkness makes judging distances harder.
- Do not overdrive your headlights. You need to be able to slow and stop safely when necessary. If you are driving too fast or your headlights are dim, you may not see obstacles in time to stop or avoid them.

Take precautions not to be blinded by oncoming headlights. Slow down and shift your eyes momentarily to the right side of road and use the white lines to guide your steering.