Ch. 5: Defensive Driving

Marx
Preventing Collisions

- **Be Alert**
  - Never think other motorists will not make a driving mistake

- **Be Prepared**
  - Learn what to do in any situation when you have to act fast, and always expect the unexpected

- **Act in Time**
  - Try not to panic; know what to do if something happens suddenly
Road Rage

- Emotions have a big effect on motorists driving
- You should cool off before driving if angry or excited
- Remain calm and follow the rules of the road
Distractions

- Fastening seatbelts
- Reaching for money for tolls
- Remove a coat/sweatshirt
- Eating
- Cell Phone
- Make Up
Highway Hypnosis

- When driving for a long time drivers can experience highway hypnosis
- It is a trance like state
  - Do not look at the same thing for more than a few seconds
  - Motorists should rest every 2 hours
  - Share the driving if carpooling
Drowsy Driving: Who is most at risk?

- Sleep deprived
- Long distance drivers
- Driving through the night
- Certain Meds.

- Driving alone
- Long, rural, boring roads
- Young people
- Commercial drivers
Communicating with other Drivers

Hand signals

headlights

horn

Eye contact
Safe Following Distance

- Need a safe distance from other vehicles so they have plenty of time to react to emergencies
- One car length for each 10 mph
- Increased distance for bad weather
3 Second Rule

- Used to determine a safe following distance

- Chose a fixed object ahead (sign, tree)

- As the vehicle ahead of you passes the object start counting…

- If it takes at least 3 seconds for you to reach that fixed object, you have a safe distance

- If it takes less than 3 seconds to reach the object you need to increase your distance

- In foul weather, increase to 4+ seconds
Changing Lanes & Passing

- Only pass when necessary & if it can be done without speeding
- Check in front & behind
- Make sure passing is permitted (lines)
- Use you signal!
- Return to the right lane when well ahead of the passed vehicle
- Use signal to return to right lane
- Turn off turn signal!
When being passed...

- If you are being passed you need to be alert
- Stay in your lane and slow down to make the pass easier for the other motorist
- Return to your normal speed after the other car is well ahead
Road Conditions

- Wet Roads
  - Roads are most slippery during the first few minutes of rainfall
  - Test brakes when driving through a puddle by pumping them

- Hydroplaning
  - When driving through a puddle and tires ride up on a film of water
  - Can happened at speeds as low as 35mph
  - Lose control of vehicle
Snow & Ice

Snow tires help with driving in the snow by providing more traction.
Do not have better traction on ice.
November 15 - April 1

Reduced Visibility

- Snow Covered Road = 6+ second following distance
- In the fog headlights must be on low. If your car has fog lights, use them
- When driving at night, a motorist should always be able to stop within the distance they can see ahead
City Driving

- Watch for people – very busy!
- Always stop for pedestrians
- Look ahead 12-seconds (one block)
Construction Zones/Work Zones

Fines are **doubled** in these areas
Skids

If the rear end of your car starts to skid:

- Take foot off gas pedal
- Turn in the direction the rear of the car is skidding; be careful not to over steer
- Avoid using the brakes during a side skid
Running off the Pavement

If a vehicle runs off the pavement:

- Slow down
- Regain Control
- Turn Slowly onto the road
Brake Failure

What to do:

- 1\textsuperscript{st}: Shift to a lower gear
- 2\textsuperscript{nd}: Pump brake pedal fast & hard several times
- 3\textsuperscript{rd}: Use the parking brake
Tire Blowout

- Grip the steering wheel firmly and hold it straight
- Gradually slow down by removing foot from gas but do not press the brakes
Gas Pedal Problems

- If the gas pedal sticks keep eyes on road and shift to neutral
- Steer off the roadway
- Turn off engine & call for help
What to do in a Collision…

- Stop the vehicle, remain calm
- Assume the worst & get help (police, ambulance)
- Wait at the scene, try not to block traffic
- Ask for assistance if needed
- Depending on location – warn oncoming traffic
Reporting Accidents

- Required to notify police if there is injury, death, or vehicle/property damage
- Do not move bodies
- If damage is more than $500...
  - Send report to MVC within 10 days (if no police report filed)
  - Notify the insurance company
  - See a doctor