

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

FOCUS

The formula for defensive driving is see the hazard, understand the defense and act in time. All drivers must apply this formula to prevent accidents in spite of the actions of other drivers or the presence of adverse driving conditions. A defensive driver must be able to accurately predict the outcome of traffic situations in order to apply the defense in time to prevent an accident.

ANTICIPATE

- **See the hazard**—Think about what may happen as far ahead of reaching a situation as possible. Never assume that a condition will have passed before you approach it. What are some of the hazardous conditions that you should look for? You need to think about your defense.
- **Understand the defense**—There are specific ways to handle most situations. We should review these situations in our mind so we can act quickly—in time to prevent an accident. Give yourself plenty of time.
- **In an emergency situation, we should not panic.** We must stay calm and apply the best defensive action. We must understand the defense.
- **Act in time**—Once we see the hazard and decide upon a defense we must act immediately. Never assume that the condition will clear up. The sooner you act the more time you will have to avoid an accident.
- **Defensive driving does not come easy.** We must constantly improve our skills of observation and coordination. We must go over situations in our minds and plan our defenses. Seeing the hazard, knowing the defense and acting in time will keep us all in the game.

CORRECT

So, what tools do we have to become good DEFENSIVE DRIVERS?
SMITH SYSTEM 5 KEYS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> AIM HIGH IN STEERING® [] Eyes lead the vehicle properly. [] Sees and evaluates relevant information from among distant objects. [] Adjusts eye lead distance to speed. [] Keep vehicle rolling by adjusting for conditions. [] Eyes properly elevated around turns and corners. <input type="checkbox"/> KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING® [] Scan mirrors frequently. [] Scan major and minor intersections before entry. [] Move eyes at least every two seconds. [] Check mirrors prior to slowing or stopping the vehicle. [] Avoid staring while evaluating relevant objects <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU® [] Seek eye contact and communicate when conditions suggest the need. [] Effectively time use of the turn indicators. [] Appropriate speed and communications when changing lanes. [] Brake early to activate brake lights. [] Position vehicle to promote seeing and being seen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> GET THE BIG PICTURE® [] Following distance appropriate for conditions. 8 SECOND MIN [] Make and execute decisions early. [] Avoid being unnecessarily boxed in. [] Speed is neither too fast nor too slow for conditions. [] Uses knowledge to make driving smoother and more economical. <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT® [] Maintain proper space around the vehicle. [] Adjust space to avoid unsafe intrusion by other drivers. [] When stopped, leave appropriate space in front of vehicle. [] Consistently select lanes to minimize danger and maximize space & visibility. [] Keep up to date with current size and shape of space cushion. <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW COMPANY POLICY & PROCEDURE [] Follow cell phone and electronic device policy [] Avoid unnecessary U-Turns on public roads [] Follow company speed policy [] Wear seatbelt when on public roads [] Avoid distractions while driving |
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TALK

- **Share with others your experience using the 5 Keys to avoid an accident.**
- **Discuss near misses with your manager.**
- **Use this check list-What are you doing to stay safe and accident free!!!**