

Recognizing hazards associated with driving conditions and steps to take to prevent accidents.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

As a driver you are at the mercy of changing conditions and other drivers on the road. It is impossible to control what goes on around you, but using defensive driving is a good way to keep yourself protected. Defensive driving is simply recognizing a hazard, identifying a defense, and acting upon to avoid or minimize an accident.

Drivers should always be scanning for hazards while driving. These hazards can be things such as approaching vehicles, vehicles on the size of the road, road conditions, etc. Scanning ahead and recognizing the hazard in advance will give appropriate time to make a corrective action. The general rule of thumb is to scan up to 15 seconds ahead of your current position.

Defensive Driving Formula = Recognize Hazard → Identify Defense Act Act →

Drivers should also be aware of road rage situations. Make sure to allow enough time to get to the destination without having to use aggressive driving. Never provoke other drivers by tailgating them or using inappropriate language or gestures. Try to stay relaxed at all times.

Texting and driving and driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol shall never be permitted. Employees should use a hands free Bluetooth device to handle phone operations. Driving under the influence is illegal and proper steps shall be taken to prevent intoxicated employees from getting behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Defensive driving does not come easy, but if practiced over time can become automatic. Utilization of this formula can prevent future accidents.

5 TIPS FOR DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- Scan Ahead – Look ahead a minimum of 15 seconds.
- Know What Is Around You – 4 second minimum following distance. Scan mirrors every 5-8 seconds.
- Maintain Eye Movement – Avoid focusing on one object for more than 2 seconds.
- Plan For The Worst – Surround yourself with enough space to make an escape.
- Make Sure Others See You – Use eye contact and warning devices.

