

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS**

- Keep your emotions in check. Don't take your frustrations out on other drivers.
- What is distracted driving:
  1. Posting to social media
  2. Checking email
  3. Eating
  4. Grooming
  5. Reading
  6. Programming a navigation system
  7. Watching a video
  8. Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player
- Any type of behavior that draws a motorist's attention away from driving is dangerous.
- You Talk. You Text. You Crash.
- Maintain a safe following distance. When the vehicle in front of you passes a fixed object, you should be able to count at least two seconds before you pass the same object.
- Don't squeeze between trucks and the curb. Trucks make wide right turns, and the driver may not see you.
- When passing a truck, don't move back into your lane until you can see both truck headlights in your rearview mirror.
- Be aware of a truck's blind spots: up to 20 feet in front of the tractor, anywhere along the sides of the trailer and up to 200 feet behind the trailer.
- Never cross behind a truck that is backing up.
- When you approach a stopped emergency vehicle with lights flashing, state law requires that you:
  1. move a lane away from the emergency vehicle, or
  2. slow down 20 miles per hour below the posted speed limit.

- Don't drink and drive - even small amounts of alcohol can impair your judgment and your reaction time.
- Be on the lookout for cyclists on the highway, especially at intersections.
- If you're passing a bicyclist, move to another lane if possible and give them plenty of room.
- Watch for riders who may need to maneuver around potholes and debris.
- Leaving 20-25 car lengths between your vehicle and a truck will provide the space you'll need to stop safely during an emergency or traffic slow down.
- Following a truck too closely obscures your view of the road in front of you. The driver of the truck is also unable to see your vehicle. If you can't see the driver in the truck's side mirror, the driver can't see you or your vehicle.
- Stay out of the "No Zone" - "No Zones" are danger areas around large trucks in which crashes are more likely to occur. Because of a truck's size, there are four large blind spots where cars disappear from the driver's view. Passenger car drivers should avoid lingering in these areas whenever possible.
- Drive to conditions.
- Watch for pedestrians and don't block crosswalks with your vehicle.
- Slow down in work zones and watch for construction detours.
- Slow down and always follow posted work zone speed limits. Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes. Remember, traffic fines double in work zones.
- Pay attention. Workers and heavy equipment may only be a few feet from passing vehicles.
- Be patient. Delays from highway construction can be frustrating, but it only takes a few extra minutes to slow down for a work zone.
- Plan ahead. Leave a few minutes early when traveling through a work zone in order to reach your destination on time.

- Impairment begins with the first drink. Your gender, body weight, the number of drinks you've consumed and the amount of food you've eaten affect your body's ability to handle alcohol. Two or three beers in an hour can make some people legally intoxicated. Women, younger people and smaller people generally become impaired with less alcohol.
- About every 20 minutes in Texas, someone is hurt or killed in a crash involving alcohol. We urge you to take responsibility for your actions. Don't drink and drive.
- Do not disobey warning signs or drive around barriers blocking low water crossings. Penalties include a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Slow down and drive to conditions.
- Drive friendly - yield to other drivers and be courteous.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Look both ways before you enter an intersection.
- Signal every turn and lane change.
- If you are in a collision and no one is hurt, don't wait for the police before moving your vehicle. If you can drive the vehicle, the law requires you to move it out of the flow of traffic
- Put away your cell phone. Cell phone use is banned in active school zones, and violators face fines of up to \$200 in school zones where signs are posted.
- Always obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines usually double in school zones.
- Drop off and pick up your children in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Be alert for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles on their way to school.