

Driving Best Practices

Prepare Your Vehicle

- Check Fluid Levels
 - Inspect engine oil level and quality.
 - Verify coolant and brake fluid levels.
- Test Lights and Signals
 - Ensure headlights are functioning.
 - Check turn signals and brake lights.

Adjust Your Seating Position

- Set Seat Height and Distance
 - Adjust seat for comfortable reach to pedals.
 - Ensure proper height for clear road view.
- Position Mirrors Correctly
 - Adjust side mirrors to minimize blind spots.
 - Set rearview mirror for optimal rear visibility.

Fasten Your Seatbelt

- Ensure Proper Fit
 - Position belt across your chest and hips.
 - Check for any twists or slack in the belt.
- Encourage Passenger Safety
 - Verify all passengers are buckled up.
 - Explain the importance of seatbelt use.

Follow Speed Limits

- Observe Posted Signs
 - Watch for speed limit signs on all roads.
 - Adhere to limits in school zones and residential areas.
- Adjust for Conditions
 - Reduce speed in bad weather or poor visibility.
 - Slow down in construction zones.

Use Turn Signals

- Signal Before Turning
 - Activate signal at least 100 feet before a turn.
 - Ensure signal duration is sufficient for others to notice.
- Indicate Lane Changes
 - Signal early when changing lanes.
 - Check mirrors and blind spots before moving.

Maintain Safe Following Distance

- Apply the Three-Second Rule
 - Keep a three-second gap between your vehicle and the one ahead.
 - Increase distance in adverse conditions.
- Monitor Traffic Flow
 - Adjust following distance according to speed and traffic density.
 - Stay aware of sudden stops by other vehicles.

Stay Focused on the Road

- Avoid Distractions
 - Keep mobile devices out of reach while driving.
 - Refrain from eating or grooming behind the wheel.
- Monitor Surroundings
 - Continuously scan mirrors and blind spots.
 - Stay alert for pedestrians, cyclists, and animals.

Obey Traffic Signals and Signs

- Stop at Red Lights and Stop Signs
 - Come to a complete stop at red lights.
 - Observe full stops at stop signs, checking all directions.
- Yield Right of Way
 - Give way to pedestrians at crosswalks.
 - Allow other vehicles to merge smoothly in traffic.

Practice Defensive Driving

- Anticipate Others' Actions
 - Predict potential actions of other drivers.
 - Be prepared to react to sudden movements.
- Keep Escape Routes in Mind
 - Identify safe areas to move to in an emergency.
 - Avoid being boxed in by other vehicles.

Handle Emergencies Calmly

- Respond to Vehicle Malfunctions
 - Safely pull over if experiencing a breakdown.
 - Use hazard lights to alert other drivers.
- Manage Skids and Hydroplaning
 - Steer gently in the direction of the skid.
 - Ease off the accelerator and avoid sudden braking.