

SafeCourse

Stay Alive Driving



COLLISION AVOIDANCE PRINCIPLES

PRACTICE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Principle 1. Regular automotive service and preventive maintenance can make the use of your motor vehicle less expensive, safer, and more enjoyable.

BEFORE MOVING VEHICLE, ALWAYS CHECK BENEATH, AHEAD & BEHIND

Principle 2. Before you start to move your vehicle forward or backward, ALWAYS check underneath your vehicle and in the intended direction of travel for small children, animals, bicycles, toys and/or other obstacles.

CHECK THE ROAD AHEAD

Principle 3. A safe driver should develop a 20 to 30-second visual scan and a 12 to 15-second visual control zone viewing pattern.

ACTIVELY SEARCH YOUR VISUAL AREA

Principle 4. Use an aggressive search and scan technique to gather the necessary information needed to make safe and informed driver decisions.

STOP ON YELLOW

Principle 5. Treat a yellow traffic light the same as a red traffic light.

USE LOW BEAMS DURING DAYLIGHT

Principle 6. You should drive with your headlights on low beam during daylight hours.

HAVE ENOUGH SPACE TO PASS SAFELY

Principle 7. When passing another vehicle on a two-lane roadway, make certain you have an adequate open distance in front of you in order to make a safe pass.

USE A SAFETY GAP REFERENCE POINT

Principle 8. Establish and use a "Safe, Safety Gap Reference Point" when entering onto a roadway.

USE A SAFE OPEN SPACE TO EXIT LEFT

Principle 9. Determine and use a safe open space when making a left turn to exit the highway.

POSITION YOUR VEHICLE TO INCREASE VISIBILITY

Principle 10. When entering a roadway prior to making a right turn from a business or from the side of a roadway, position your vehicle at a 75 to 90 degree angle to the roadway for greater visibility.

PROPER OFF-ROAD RECOVERY SAVES LIVES

Principle 11. If two or more vehicle wheels drop off the edge of the paved roadway, a safe driver will not overreact, but will stay calm and under control when returning to the roadway.

WHEN SKIDDING, STEER BACK INTO YOUR LANE

Principle 12. A safe driver will remain calm and will react quickly when trying to prevent a vehicle from skidding, and by controlling the vehicle in a safe manner if a skid has already begun.

USE THE SIPDCE SYSTEM:

Search Identify Predict
Decide Confirm Execute

Principle 13. Use the SIPDCE Decision-Making System while driving.

COUNT 1-2-3-GO

Principle 14. When you are stopped first in line at a traffic light, and the light changes from red to green, you should count “one, two, three, go” before you take your foot off the foot brake and apply pressure to the accelerator.

BE SURE YOU CAN SEE PAVEMENT ON YOUR SIDE OF THE WHITE STOP LINE

Principle 15. When you stop at a traffic light or stop sign, stop your vehicle at a point where you can see pavement on your side of the white stop line when the stop line is on the lane next to the yellow line. If you are in the middle or outside lane, you should stop just short of the white stop line.

USE A VARIABLE FOLLOWING DISTANCE SYSTEM

Principle 16. When you are driving behind another vehicle, you should use a variable following distance system to determine the best and most appropriate following distance.

WHEN VEHICLE IN FRONT OF YOU MOVES, COUNT “1-2-3-GO”

Principle 17. When you are stopped behind another vehicle at a stop light, and the light turns from red to green, you should remain stopped until the vehicle in front of you starts to move forward. You should then count “one, two, three, go” before you take your foot off the foot brake and press down on the accelerator.

OBEY THE SPEED LAWS

Principle 18. A safe driver will not exceed the posted speed limit, drive their vehicle at excessive speeds, and/or break the Basic Speed Law (driving the vehicle faster than a responsible driver should be driving for the existing traffic conditions).

LOOK TO SEE PAVEMENT BEHIND REAR TIRES

Principle 19. When you are stopped behind another vehicle in traffic, you should stop at a location where you can just see pavement just behind the rear tires of the vehicle in front of you.

CHECK THE LANE POSITION OF ONCOMING VEHICLES

Principle 20. Check the lane position of oncoming vehicles and react in an appropriate manner, related to the position of the oncoming vehicles in their lane.

BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY

Principle 21. Do not move your motor vehicle until everyone in the vehicle is properly secured by a suitable occupant restraint.

DISTRACTIONS BEGONE!

Principle 22. The driver of a motor vehicle should not be distracted by activities outside his/her vehicle, such as distractions in work areas, looking at billboards, crashes involving other vehicles, and/or activities inside your vehicle such as cellular phone use, texting, adjusting comfort/radio controls, or using a GPS system.

DRIVE SAFELY IN WORK AREAS

Principle 23. Reduce speed as needed, and pay particular attention to all hazards when you approach or drive in road construction or work zone areas.

DON'T DRIVE TIRED

Principle 24. Do not attempt to operate a motor vehicle if you are overly tired and/or if you have not slept for an extended period of time.

PRACTICE SAFE DRIVER COURTESY

Principle 25. Practice safe driver courtesy, not “foolish courtesy,” which could actually increase the chance of a collision. Driver courtesy can help to defuse road rage.

ALWAYS DRIVE TOTALLY SOBER

Principle 26. Do not attempt to operate a motor vehicle if you have consumed any alcoholic beverages and/or other drugs.

JUST SAY NO TO ROAD RAGE

Principle 27. A safe driver will not drive aggressively or be drawn in to a confrontation with another aggressive driver.

BE PATIENT... DRIVE SAFELY

Principle 28. A safe driver should have a great deal of patience as a motor vehicle operator and with drivers of other motor vehicles.

*SOURCE: Collision Avoidance: Winning Formulas for Safe Driving by Charles E. McDaniel, PhD.
For info about this Driver Improvement Program (online course, DVD, manual, e-book) please visit:*

www.safecourse.com