



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota

Driver's Education – Chapter 6: Driving Conditions

Stay Alert – S I P D E :

- S – Scan** – search ahead to anticipate
- I – Identify** – locate hazards and erratic drivers
- P – Predict** – look at what is in your path
- D – Decide** – constantly make safe or evasive moves
- E – Execute** – communicate, drive slow and act safe

Safety – Stopping Distance

- Observe the three second rule – a safe following distance = 3 seconds behind car
- You **MUST** adjust your stopping distance to conditions and speed
- Night driving – don't drive faster than you can stop within the range of your headlights
- Headlights – dim your bright beams 1000 feet for oncoming and 300 feet for following cars

Freeway Driving – Speed/Safety

- When entering a freeway – yield and match your speed to existing traffic
- Ramp meters – take your turn, be alert
- Speed and lane use – match your speed to existing traffic, be aware
- Message signs – watch for alerts, anticipate/plan ahead
- HOV Lanes, **H**igh **O**ccupancy **V**ehicles – Two or more occupants

Freeway Interchanges – On/Off Ramps

- Cloverleaf, folded diamond, diamond
- Take care to enter and exit freeways safely
- No stopping, parking or backing up!



Yield to Emergency Vehicles

- Move over to right for passing Emergency Vehicles
- Move over a lane when passing a stopped Emergency Vehicle

Crashes and Bad Driving – Accidents

- Get off roadway if no injuries
- Exchange driver info at a safe location
- Distracted driving and aggressive driving can cause many accidents/deaths/injuries



Trailers and Hauling

- Must be 18 to drive when towing a trailer
- Will get a ticket for unsafe loads
- Keep trailer 500 feet away from camper/RV
- Speed up and pass carefully - allow plenty of space for turns – make wide turns

Winter Driving/Survival

- Clear snow/ice off car
- Check wipers/washer fluid
- Increase following distance
- Share the road with snow plows
- SLOW DOWN....
- Carry emergency supplies
- Prepare to stay alert, concentrate
- Skidding – stay calm and take foot off accelerator and steer into skid

Rain, Fog and Hydroplaning

- Check wipers and tires
- Stay at a safe distance behind cars
- Slow down, don't drive over 35 MPH
- Use fog lamps, pull off road if visibility worsens
- Slow down to prevent hydroplaning

Emergency Driving Situations

- If stalled on RR tracks – Get out of your car
- Watch out for deer
- If car plunges into water – open windows slowly and escape quickly
- If car on fire – pull over, turn off car and get out.
- Overheated car – turn off radio and heat/air conditioning
- Pull over to a safe place off the roadway
- Wiper failure – slow down and pull over
- If hood pops open – slowly pull over
- Stuck gas pedal – brake, pull off and turn off car
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) can leak from exhaust into car – open windows and don't leave car running in closed space (e.g. garage)