



TOOLBOX

**SAFETY
TRAINING**

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 25 - No 41 UNDERSTANDING BASIC HIGHWAY HAZARDS

The ever-increasing number of vehicles on the road has increased the risk of travel and cost of insurance premiums. In fact, a worker is more likely to be involved in an accident in a vehicle than on a roof. Cities have serious driving problems such as narrow streets in congested business districts. The fact that city motor vehicle traffic is concentrated in the morning and evening rush periods makes a bad situation that much worse. Stop lights at every corner, masses of pedestrians, the noise and confusion of a busy city all combine to create a tension that is difficult even for the experienced driver.

Obey all traffic laws, they are designed to make driving as safe as possible for you. Cooperate with traffic officers, they are trying to keep traffic moving smoothly and safely. Show courtesy and consideration to other drivers. Honking your horn and screaming at others in crowded traffic only adds to the confusion.

Use common sense driving. Don't try to jump lights or crowd ahead of the other fellow. Pull to the side of the road to speak on a cell phone or other mobile communications device. Many states or cities have laws prohibiting cell phone use while behind the wheel of a car, even when you are standing still at a traffic light.

Driving on rural roads has hazards all its own, especially when driving at excessive speeds. A tire blowout, a vehicle suddenly darting out from a crossroad, or an unexpected stretch of badly broken pavement, can all lead to an accident. Modern expressways and toll roads present dangers that begin on entering the highway. Don't try to edge in slowly. Wait for a break in traffic and then enter at a speed commensurate with that of other vehicles on the road.

Traffic moves at so high a rate of speed on expressways that any type of accident can result in a series of chain crashes. Stay at a sufficient distance behind the vehicle ahead. A good rule of thumb for a sufficient distance is one to two vehicle lengths for each ten miles per hour of speed. Avoid unnecessary lane changes on expressways.

Following basic traffic safety will not only protect you and the other drivers from on-road hazards, it makes the trip secure so you can return home to your loved ones.





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