

November 2023

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ARE YOU AN AGGRESSIVE
DRIVER?

Are you an aggressive driver? TBT 11/27/23

What is aggressive driving?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), aggressive driving is when "an individual commits a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property."

Are you an aggressive driver? Do you:

- **Express frustration?**
 - Taking out your frustration on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.
- **Fail to pay attention when driving?**
 - Reading, eating, drinking or talking on the phone are distracting, and can cause drivers to make sudden, aggressive reactions, and can be a major cause of roadway crashes.
- **Tailgate?**
 - This is a major cause of crashes that can result in serious death or injuries.
- **Make frequent lane changes?**
 - If you whip in and out of lanes to advance ahead, you can be a danger to other motorists.
- **Run red lights?**
 - Do not enter an intersection on a yellow light. Remember, flashing red lights should be treated as a stop sign.
- **Speed?**
 - Going faster than the posted speed limit, being a "road racer," and going too fast for conditions are some examples of speeding.

One of the most dangerous things you will do today is drive.

Let's think about that for a few minutes.

- ***How many near misses have you seen this week?***
- ***How many of those near misses were caused by the actions listed above?
Were those actions your own or another motorist?***
- ***How many times have you become irritated by the actions of another motorists? Don't let it negatively impact you're driving.***

Remember, we can only control our own actions. So, take control of what you can, and be a defensive driver.

DEER COLLISION

Deer Collision TBT 11-20-23

As the fall season gets underway, drivers may find themselves encountering more animal traffic on the roadways.

According to the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI), insurance claims for damage from collisions with animals rise sharply every fall, coinciding with deer mating season.

Drivers should pay extra attention on the road for deer and other animals during this time. In areas with large deer populations, it is likely you will see increased activity and unfortunately hear more stories of vehicle collisions with deer.

The following are some defensive driving tips that can be used to minimize your chances of an animal-related collision:

1. Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
2. If you see one deer cross, slow down and watch for others to follow.
3. Look for movement where roads are bordered by fields or natural animal habitats.
4. Heed deer crossing signs and reduce speed in deer "hot spots."
5. When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of animals on or near the roadway.
6. Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their vehicle.
7. Always wear your seat belt. Deer-vehicle collisions can result in serious injuries, and even death.
8. Ensure that your brakes and tires are in good working order. A properly functioning vehicle can help if you need to react quickly. If you are involved in a vehicle incident with an animal:
9. Do not attempt to touch an injured animal that is in or near the road. When the police arrive, they will be able to call the proper local authorities to care for the animal.

DON'T VEER FOR DEER

Don't Veer for Deer TBT 11-13-2023

Deer-vehicle crashes peak in the autumn months, but a large deer population can make them a safety hazard on the road all year long. Deer crashes are especially dangerous for motorcyclists - a group which accounted for a vast majority of vehicle-deer related deaths over the last three years. An important safety tip for drivers is to never veer for deer — swerving can take a motorist into oncoming traffic or off the road.

Motorist Safety Tips to Avoid Deer Crashes

- Drive at safe speeds and always be buckled up.
- Be especially cautious from 6 to 9 p.m., when deer are most active.
- Use high beams as much as possible at night, especially in deer-active areas.
- Motorists: don't swerve to avoid a deer. Swerving can cause motorists to lose control and travel off the road or into oncoming traffic.
- Motorcyclists: Avoid night and low-light riding periods. A rider's best response when encountering a deer is to use both brakes for maximum braking and then drive carefully around the animal at low speed if there is space. If a crash is imminent, keep eyes and head up to improve chances of keeping the bike up. Riders are encouraged to wear helmets and other high visibility protective gear to prevent injury or death in a crash.
- Don't count on deer whistles or deer fences to deter deer from crossing roads.
- Watch for the reflection of deer eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulder of the road. If anything looks slightly suspicious, slow down.
- Slowdown in areas known to have a large deer population — such as areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forest land, and whenever in forested areas between dusk and dawn.
- Deer do unpredictable things — they stop in the middle of the road when crossing; cross and quickly re-cross back; and move toward an approaching vehicle. Blow horn to urge deer to leave the road. Stop if the deer stays on the road, don't try to go around it.

If a deer is struck but not killed by a vehicle, keep a distance as deer may recover and move on.

If a deer does not move on, or poses a public safety risk, report the incident to a DNR conservation officer or other local law enforcement agency.

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PORTABLE GENERATOR

TBT Portable Generator 11-6-2023

Portable Generator Toolbox Talk

Working with portable generators can expose workers to carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless, and toxic gas. Follow these work practices to stay safe when using a portable generator.

- Inspect the generator for damage or loose fuel lines.
- Keep the generator dry and maintain and operate it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use a portable generator indoors, or in enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces and basements.
- Generators should be used outdoors, but never place generators near doors, windows, or ventilation shafts where CO can enter and build up.
- Have an established or designated area for the generator.
- It should be set up away from traffic areas.
- You do not want someone inadvertently moving it out of their way into yours. For example: relocating it under or directly up against your job trailer.
- Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Maintain the same clearance distances at a minimum for all combustible materials/liquids to safeguard against fires.

If you or others show signs of CO Poisoning, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Do not re-enter the area until it is determined to be safe by trained and properly equipped personnel.

Symptoms of CO poisoning

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Tiredness
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness

HAND TOOL SAFETY



Hand Tool Safety Toolbox Talk

- Many people take hand tools for granted.
- It's important to use the appropriate tools for each job and to make sure that those tools are maintained in top condition.
- When your tools are taken care of properly, your tasks will be able to be completed more quickly and safely.

Steps to prevent accidents when using hand tools:

1. **Choose the right tool for the job:**
 - Screwdrivers: Correct size and tip of tip.
 - Wrenches: Correct type and correct length of handle.
 - Chisels: Correct type for the material being worked on.
 - Pry Bars: Correct size and style of tip.
 - Hammers: Correct size, style of head face, and type of claw.
2. **Only use tools in good condition:**
 - All tools need to be clean and free of grease, oil, and dirt.
 - Make sure the tool head is tight and secure.
 - Screwdrivers: Square tips are not rounded or twisted.
 - Chisels: Cutting edges are sharp and square.
 - Wrenches: Open ends are not warped or bent.
 - Knife blades: Have sharp cutting edges.
 - Saw blades: Are sharp and do not have any missing teeth.
3. **Use tools correctly:**
 - Only use tools for their intended purpose.
 - Be cautious with metal tools around power sources.
 - Pull wrenches, don't push.
 - Use the full handle, don't choke up on the handle.
 - Don't use cheater bars/pipes on handles.
 - Don't use a screwdriver as a pry bar.
 - Always cut away from yourself.
 - Rakes or hoe type tools are laid with the blade/teeth down to avoid kick up.