



Driver Safety

***Eastern Connecticut
State University***



In 2009, there were 18,000,000 vehicle accidents resulting in 38,000 deaths

- **1 accident for every 10 licensed drivers,**
- **17.96 fatalities for every 100,000 licensed drivers**

Who pays for Vehicle Accidents???

You do.....

- Your pain and suffering,
- Possible temporary /permanent disability,
- Time away from your family and friends,
- **YOUR LIFE.**

Who pays for Accidents???

The University Does!.....

- *Loss of services of the injured driver,*
- *Costs of hiring and training a replacement,*
- *Overtime to take up the slack,*
- *Paperwork , phone calls, etc.,*
- *Higher insurance premiums,*
 - ***Uninsured costs can be 3-5 times insured costs.***

Types of Risk

- Damage to College-Owned Vehicles
- Damage to Other College Property
- Injury or Damage Sustained by Others
- Loss of Use of the Vehicle
- Lost Productivity of Employees
- Damage to College Reputation
- Pollution and Hazardous Waste

Concerns Beyond Liability

- Injury and trauma
- Ripple effect throughout campus
- Media scrutiny
- Public outrage
- Possible governmental investigation
- Disruption to campus activities and damage to the institution's reputation

Road Hazards

- Alcohol / drug use
- Dirty windshield
- Eating / drinking while driving
- Fatigue
- Balancing hot coffee
- Noisy passengers
- Inexperience with the vehicle
- Inattentiveness / cell phone use
- Poor road conditions
- Poor weather conditions

External Hazards

- *Entrance / Exit Ramps*
 - *Approaching exit ramps too fast*
 - *Traffic merging from entrance ramps*
- *Construction Zones*
 - *Equipment entering roadway*
 - *Sudden drop-offs / Lane changes*
 - *Construction zone speed limits*
 - *Road debris*

Common Accident Causes

- Backing improperly
- Turning corners too sharply
- Speeding
- Following too closely
- Hit by other vehicles

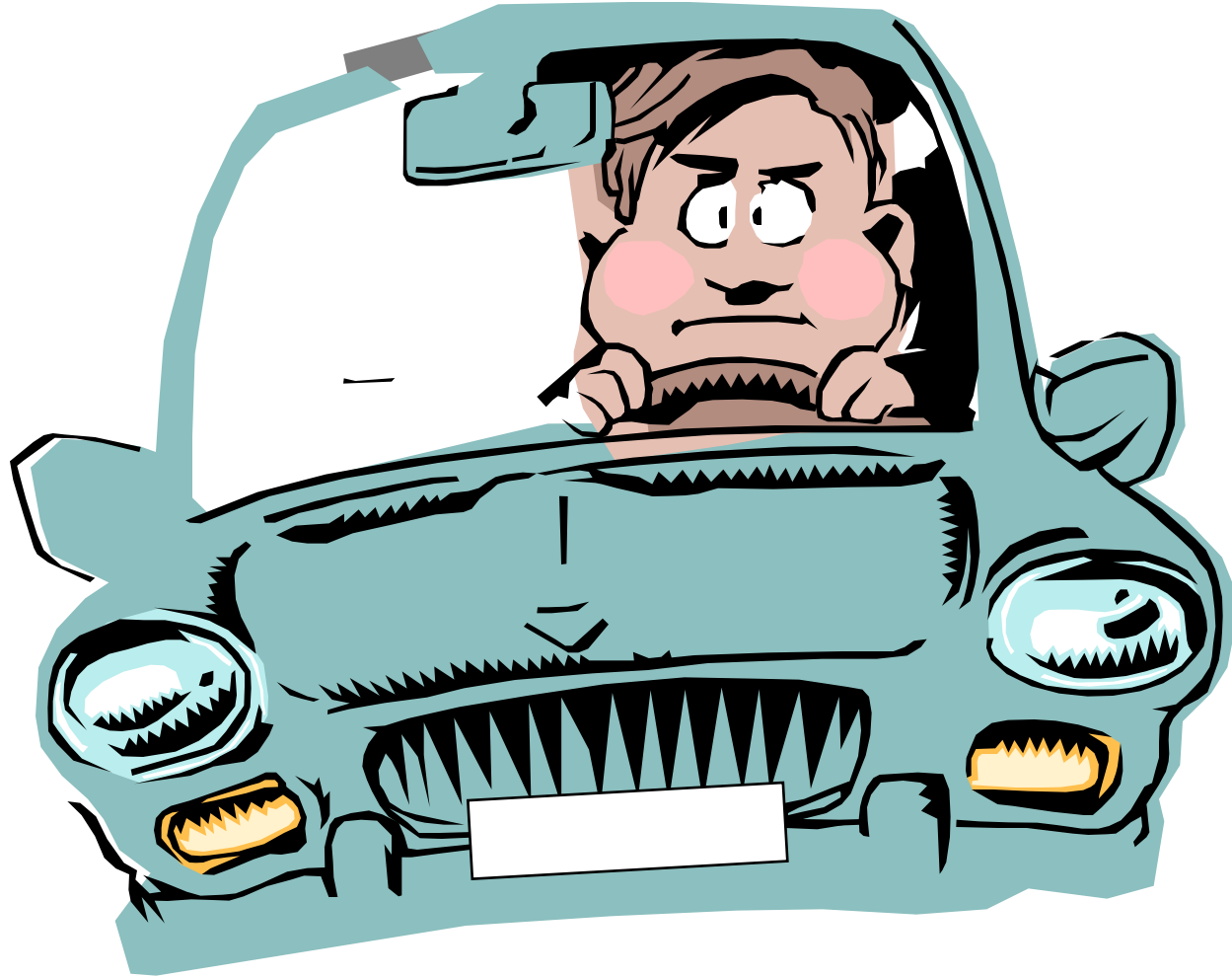
Defensive Driving

Driving to save lives, time, and money
in spite of the conditions around you
and the actions of others.

Preventable Collision

A preventable collision is one in which the driver failed to do everything reasonable to prevent it.

Be Aware of “Road Rage”



What situations cause you driving Stress, Anger, “Road Rage”???

- *“Slowpoke” in front of you*
- *Someone cuts you off*
- *Someone won’t let you merge*
- *“Rubbernecker”*
- *Tailgaters*

*Does this stress affect your driving skill, speed, judgment, health? **You bet it does.***

What can we do to control it?

- *Plan your day or route well in advance.*
- *Allow enough time to reach your appointment safely.*
- *Take a break (gas up, get coffee, stop and do a little pre-appointment paperwork).*
- *Be constantly aware that your stress level and anger is a factor in accident probability.*

How do you avoid

The Tailgater

- *Take your foot off the gas to slow gradually.*
- *Adjust your following distance to allow ample breaking distance for yourself and the tailgater.*
- *Change lanes. Give them opportunity to pass.*
- *DON'T slam your brakes.*
- *DON'T try to get even.*

You are not going to change them or their behavior. Just avoid them for your safety.

Speeding

- Accounts for 30% of ALL fatal crashes.

How do you avoid

Hitting the car ahead

***Maintain correct
following distance.***

HOW???

Following Distance

with ideal conditions

Passenger Automobiles

The Two-Second Rule

When the vehicle ahead passes a stationary marker, begin counting “one thousand one, one thousand two.” As you finish counting you should reach the same marker.

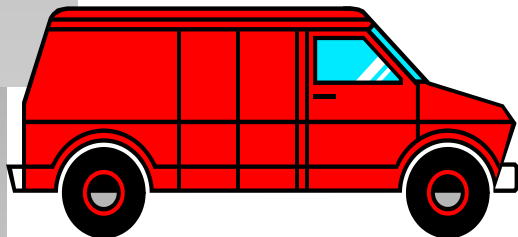
Following Distance

The Three Second Rule

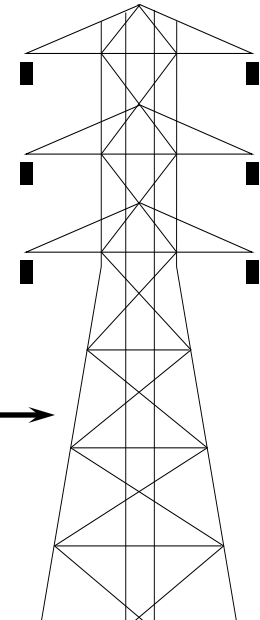
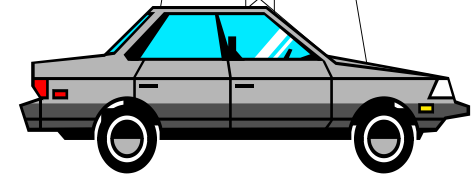
with ideal conditions

Vans

Pick a point
of reference



← 3 SEC. →



As the car in front passes a point, begin counting...
“one thousand one, one thousand two.” As you
finish counting you should reach the same marker.

Stopping Distance

Reducing reaction distance

- Scan well ahead
- Anticipate hazards
- Move right foot from accelerator
- Cover the brake

Braking Factors

- ***Vehicle Load***
- ***Weather***
- ***Road Inclination (Grade)***
- ***Road Surface***
- ***Condition of Tires***
- ***Condition of Brake Pads, Rotors, Drums***

Long Distance Scan

- ***On the Highway***

12 to 15 seconds, or about 1/4 mile

- ***In the City***

1 to 1 1/2 blocks

Seat Belts

- Reduce crash related injuries by 50%
- Reduce crash related fatalities by 65%
- CT State law: Driver and front seat passenger **MUST** wear safety belt.

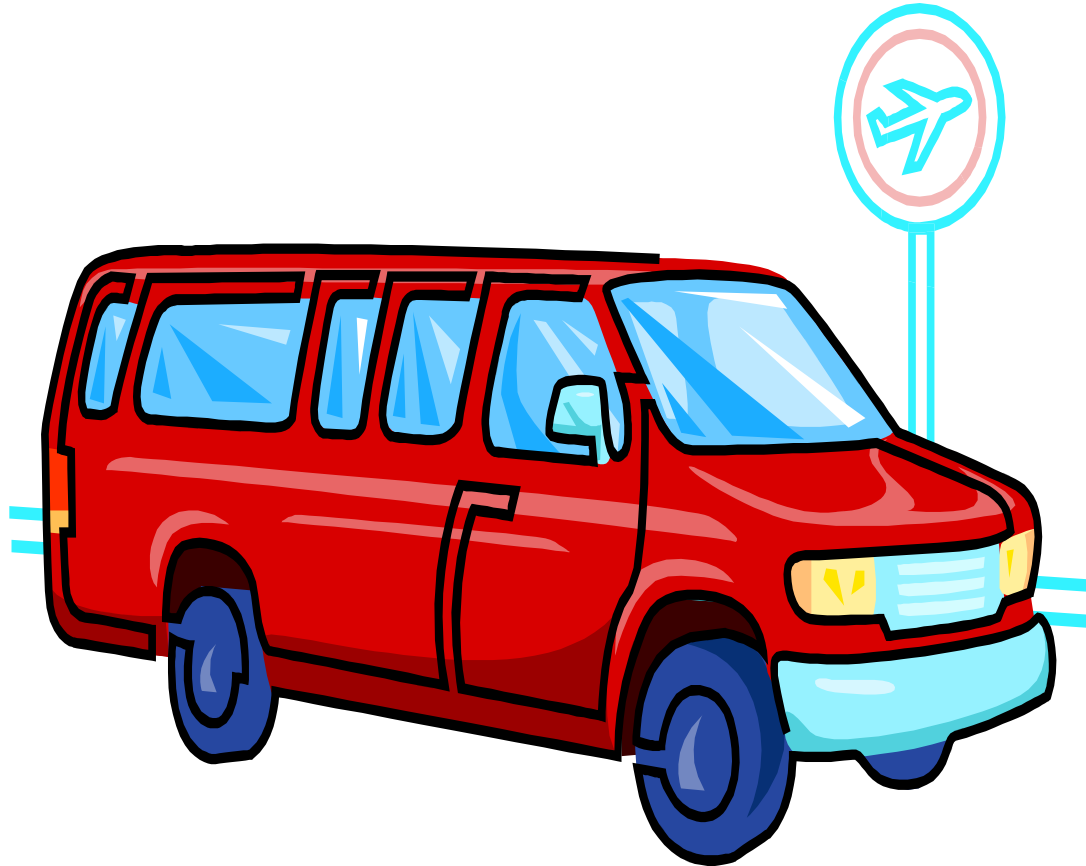
Alcohol Use

- Alcohol related fatalities account for 50% of all traffic deaths
- 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol related traffic accident sometime during their lifetime

Sleep Deprivation

- *An Australian study recently completed indicated that :*
 - **Persons awake 17 - 19 hours had the same skill/awareness/reaction levels as a person with a 0.5 blood alcohol level.**
 - **Persons awake 21+ hours had the same skill/awareness/reaction levels as a person with a 1.0 blood alcohol level.**

PASSENGER VANS!



NHTSA Report Overview

- *Large passenger vans have an increased rollover risk under certain conditions.*
- *The risk of rollover increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five occupants to over ten passengers.*
- *Passenger vans (with 10 or more occupants) had a rollover rate in single vehicle crashes that is nearly 5 times the rate of those that were lightly loaded.*

Why?

Designed for High Occupancy

Loaded Heavy With Cargo



Higher Center Of Gravity

Long, Narrow Wheel Base

NHTSA Report (continued)

- *Loading passenger vans causes the center of gravity to shift rearward and upward increasing the likelihood of rollover. A shift in the center of gravity will also increase the potential for loss of control in panic maneuvers.*
- *It is important that the van be operated by experienced drivers. They should understand and be familiar with the handling characteristics of their vans, especially when fully loaded.*

NHTSA Reports (continued)

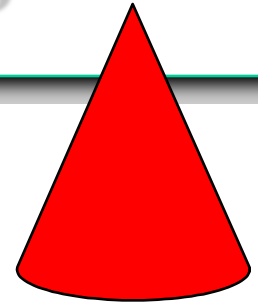
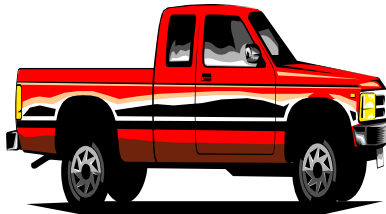
- *Any load placed on the roof will be above the center of gravity of the vehicle and will increase the likelihood of rolling over.*

Backing The Van



- *Always use a spotter if possible.*
- *Make an allowance for the extended length of the van behind the rear wheels.*
- *Back to the left (driver's side).*
- *Never back up if you miss a ramp/exit. Go to the next exit and return to your intended exit.*
- *Use (properly adjusted) outside mirrors. (adjusted outward so you can see your blind spots)*

Tips for Better Backing



Use a safety cone
behind the vehicle

Don't back up blind



Be Patient!
Take your time.

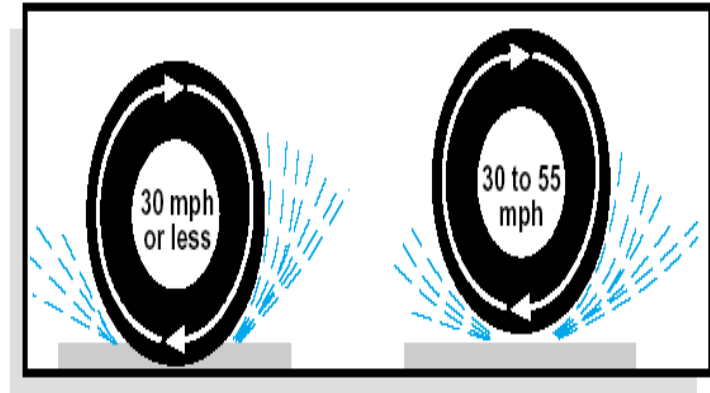


Get help if necessary

Hydroplaning



- **At** speeds as low as 30 mph, the tires start to ride up on a film of water like water skis. This is called “*hydroplaning*”.
- At 55 mph, the tires may be totally up on the water.
- In a rainstorm, tires may lose all contact with the road at 55 mph. If this is the case, there is no friction to brake, speed up, or corner. A gust of wind, a change of road level, or a slight turn can create a skid.
- To avoid hydroplaning, you must slow down in heavy rain, standing water or slush on the road. Do not drive on bald or badly worn tires.



If your wheels leave the pavement...



...never attempt to correct the van while maintaining your speed.

~Due to the weight of the van, inertia will cause the rear-end to try to overtake the front (fishtail). You will lose control of the van and will likely roll.

~Slow down (to a near-stop if necessary) before righting the vehicle.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- *Glance over the shoulder to avoid blind spots*
- *Check mirrors every 5 to 8 seconds*
- *Make a decision before entering intersections*
- *Look...Left / Right / Left into intersections*
- *Anticipate other drivers*

Prepare for Emergencies

- Include emergency equipment and a response checklist in each car
- Procedure to capture information at the scene and report the accident
- Procedure to investigate incidents and take corrective action
- Written policies reviewed with each driver prior to the trip

Emergency Equipment

- *Inflated Spare Tire*
- *Tire Jack & Lug Wrench*
- *Flares or Reflectors*
- *Fire Extinguisher*
- *First Aid Kit*
- *Blankets*
- *Cell Phone*

Accident Reporting

At the scene:

- ***Call police***
- ***Get other driver information***
 - *License, tag and phone numbers*
 - *Insurance information*
 - *Car damage and injury descriptions*

Immediately following:

- ***Report to supervisor***
- ***Report to University Police***



***Click on the link to
complete the test.***

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6Eq8AGxX40WUnU8SnYtnCi6-uJEVpqVOj1ZKbUShR8VUQ1BBSUtRSUg4WFZESjZBMEFWTKlWNDZTVi4u>