



Driving for success

For 20 years, Texas has not seen a day without a death on one of our roadways. While many organizations, safety professionals and communities have a goal of reaching zero deaths, this can't happen without the work of everyone travelling on Texas roads. Whether you're a driver or passenger, it's up to you to take responsibility and make a positive change in your habits.

Common driver errors

There are many different factors involved in motor vehicle crashes. The first step is taking control of your vehicle and driving behaviors.

- **Speed.** Speeding remains one of the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes. It's vital that you obey the speed limit and slow down in heavy traffic or poor weather.
- **Impairment.** Alcohol, drugs and fatigue can alter your judgement and slow your reaction time. You should never operate a vehicle while tired or under the influence of any substances. Plan a safe, sober ride in advance.
- **Distractions.** Any activity that takes your mind off the road or your hands off the wheel is a distraction. Cell phone use, grooming and eating are common and dangerous distractions that could cause you to miss a deadly hazard.
- **Misuse of seat belts.** Seat belts significantly increase your chances of surviving a crash. Buckle up your seat belt – correctly – as soon as you get behind the wheel.
- **Poor vehicle maintenance.** Stay up to date on your vehicle's maintenance schedule and don't delay necessary repairs. Before each trip, perform an inspection to make sure your vehicle is ready for the road and safety features are working correctly.

Struck-by other vehicles

Sometimes obeying all the rules of the road isn't enough to prevent a crash. Never assume other drivers will follow the rules or yield to you. It's crucial that you maintain awareness and drive defensively.

- If another driver has a yield or stop sign, make sure they're slowing down before you pull into their path.
- When a traffic light turns green, wait three seconds before moving into the intersection to ensure cross-traffic is stopped.
- If you see someone speeding, tailgating or otherwise driving aggressively, move out of their way and let them pass.
- Constantly scan the road ahead and keep an eye on your mirrors to watch for new hazards.

Passenger responsibilities

As a passenger in a vehicle, you're essentially putting your safety in the driver's hands. Make sure the driver is alert and unimpaired before you get in a vehicle with them and always wear your seat belt. If you feel concerned or notice unsafe behavior such as speeding or cell phone use, ask the driver to pull over so you can switch drivers or find another form of transportation. If you're with a coworker, report the incident to your supervisor.



Discussion questions

1. How long has it been since Texas had zero deaths on the roadways?
2. What are some common driver errors?
3. When a traffic light turns green, how long should you wait before entering the intersection?
4. What should you do if someone is tailgating you?
5. What kind of responsibility do you have as a passenger?

Answers

1. Texas has not seen a day without a death on its roadways in 20 years.
2. Common driver errors include speed, impairment, distractions, misuse of seat belts and poor vehicle maintenance.
3. When a traffic light turns green, wait three seconds before moving into the intersection.
4. If someone is tailgating you, move out of their way and let them pass.
5. As a passenger, you should make sure the driver is alert and unimpaired in addition to wearing your seat belt. If you notice unsafe behaviors, you should ask them to pull over.

Meeting notes:

Employee comments/concerns: _____

Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility: _____

Training record:

Date: _____ Job site/facility: _____
 Trainer: _____ Title: _____

Employee name (print)	/ (signature)	Employee name (print)	/ (signature)
_____	/	_____	/
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