

## Day 7 Make Up Assignment

Objective: Interact responsibly with law enforcement officers to provide a safe environment for both the public and law enforcement during a traffic stop and other in-person encounters.

Interactions between the public and peace officers has been highly publicized in the news in recent times. The state of Texas has developed a consistent curriculum for teaching people of all ages how to interact with police officers in the event of a traffic stop. The state requires that you watch the video below and read through the presentation. Finally, after viewing the video and the PowerPoint presentation, there is a survey below to complete for the state of Texas. Please find and click on the links below for the video, presentation and survey.

Watch the video.

### [Flashing Lights](#)

Read through presentation linked here: Community Safety Education Presentation

(If your computer asks you if you trust this site please select yes so that you can view the video and survey.)

<https://teen.iamroadready.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Community-Safety-Education-Act.pdf>

Take the survey for the state linked here: Survey

<https://survey.utexas.edu/driver>

Obj: The student will recognize, respond to, and engage in risk reduction techniques to enhance safe driving.

### **You & Your License to Drive**

This time in your life will be one of the most exciting that you will remember. Turning sixteen and getting a driver license is an event few people forget. Think about what it means to you to have a driver license. For most people, it means freedom to come and go when and where you like. No more relying on friends, parents, and other people to get you where you need to go. For many teens it means they have more choices and opportunities. Many teens choose to get a job, earn some of their own money, and a driver license makes this easier. However, along with these wonderful opportunities, comes serious and important responsibility.





Driving is a complex and demanding skill even for experienced drivers. It is not a skill that will be developed overnight and requires many hours of practice just to achieve basic skills. Driving is a challenging task that requires you, the driver, to observe, predict, and act upon not only your own choices, but also on the actions of other drivers, people on foot, bicyclists, and animals. You must know traffic laws, your own vehicle and how to control it in a variety of situations including bad weather and unpredictable road conditions. You must also be aware that the driving environment frequently changes, and as the driver must adjust and respond to these changes quickly, carefully, and successfully in order to minimize risk.

Good habits take time to develop. The time spent driving on your learner's permit is an important time for you to develop and create good driving habits so that you can avoid mistakes that might lead to a crash. Completing this driver education course is a good start to becoming a proficient driver of a motor vehicle. Research shows that nearly half of all new drivers will either receive a ticket or be involved in a crash during the first twelve months of having their license. The most important objective of this course is to help you to avoid this statistic.



You might be thinking...What exactly is risk and how does it relate to driving a car?

Risk as related to driving is considered the chance of injury damage or loss either to you or another driver. You might also think of it as the probability of being in a crash. High risk may result in unwanted outcomes. These unwanted outcomes may be life-threatening injuries, permanent and long-lasting disabilities, a strain on your financial means, or maybe something as simple as an inconvenience to your time when you are forced to do without your car because it has been damaged in an accident. Whatever the risk, it is always present and it is your responsibility as a driver to minimize the risk of being in or causing an accident.



Risk can be managed successfully and you must be alert to all conditions and objects that might affect the level of risk. There is also a difference between perceived risk and actual risk. Let's look at this a little bit more closely. You might think that driving on a busy city street with lots of traffic carries the most risk, but that is not always the case. Most drivers when faced with this high amount of risk, pay close attention, are very alert, and focus on the driving task, therefore actually reducing the amount of risk. Let's use the example of driving a car on a relatively straight country road with very little traffic. The perceived risk would seem to be fairly low and drivers often relax and underestimate the actual risk involved in a driving environment such as this. The fact is, more than half of all people killed in car accidents involving only one car occur mostly on straight, country roads where young drivers failed to respond correctly and

do not use their brakes appropriately causing them to run off the road way. No matter what the driving environment, it is your responsibility as the driver of a car to stay alert and focused on driving. All roadway users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users determine the amount of risk and can either increase it or decrease it depending on their actions.

### **Risk and the Driving Task**

Every time you get into your car you will be faced with the risk of an accident. The only way to totally avoid this risk is to never get in your car and drive it all. This is really not a practical alternative for most people. As the driver it is your responsibility to minimize the risk of an accident for yourself, your passengers, and for all of the other road users with whom you share the roadway.

Research has found that there are seven leading behaviors that most often lead to motor vehicle crashes.

### **Speeding – speeding is the #1 cause of crashes in Texas.**



This includes drivers who choose to drive faster than the posted speed limit and also for drivers who choose to drive too fast for roadway conditions. Increase speed requires a longer distance to stop, gives you less time to react to dangerous situations and also results in more severe and catastrophic collisions. Young drivers with the “it won’t happen to me” attitude are more likely to speed. Street racing is a particular danger for young drivers.

### **Failure to yield**

Drivers who are in a hurry and try to beat another car on the highway or at an intersection or a train at a railroad crossing often results in serious crashes.

### **Driving while intoxicated**



Do not drink and drive. The chances of being involved in a fatal accident increases dramatically with even just one drink. Driving and alcohol is a deadly combination.

### **Disregarding traffic signs or signals**

Drivers who are either inattentive or in a hurry try to “beat the light” have a blatant disregard for the rules of the road. It is understood and expected that roadway users will obey traffic signs and signals and when other users do not crashes occur.

### **Following too closely**

Leave space. Give yourself enough time to stop. Young drivers tend to follow more closely than older more experienced drivers and this is often the reason for a higher number of crashes among young beginner drivers.

### **Improper turns**

Turning is one of the most difficult skills involved when driving turning to wide on a right turn a cutting the corner on the left turn causes problems and may result in car accidents. Speeding can also lead to problems when turning as the vehicle is more difficult to control

### **Unsafe passing**

Passing is a very high-risk maneuver and should only be done when it is completely clear, safe, and legal to do so. Passing in a no passing zone or without sufficient space especially for drivers who are inexperienced is a major factor in car crashes.

### **Distractions**



Texas has recently become more concerned with the drivers who have a tendency to become distracted while driving. With the invention of the cell phone and other electronics devices, drivers are more and more likely to focus less on the task of driving and more on the devices in their vehicles.

When thinking about taking unnecessary chances, think about these two statements.

***Never risk more than you can afford to lose.***

When you decide to take unnecessary risks, ask yourself:

“What will I lose?”

“Will I lose my license?”

“Will I wreck and lose my car?”

“Will I lose my life?”

***Do not risk a lot for a little.***

When you decide to take unnecessary risks, ask yourself:

“Is it worth it?”

“Will the few minutes I save by speeding be worth it?”

“Are a few minutes worth getting a ticket or having an accident?”

“Is it worth my life?”

The next time you decide not to wear your safety belt, drive faster than the speed limit, ride with a friend who has consumed alcohol or drive yourself after consuming alcohol think about what you have to lose before you make your decision.

[Watch the video linked here: Speed Kills](#)

### **Risk Management, Risk Reduction, and Processing Information**

In previous parts of this course, you have learned about the SIPDE system and how it helps you, the driver, reduce risk to yourself and others. Remember SIPDE stands for **search...identify... predict... decide... execute**.

Using your visual skills and applying the steps in the SIPDE system help you to reduce the risk of being involved in a collision. As you become a more proficient driver, you will learn to apply the skills when interacting with other roadway users and the always changing driving environment. Your brain constantly collects information brought to it through your senses. Most of the information when you drive comes from your eyes and what they see occurring around you and your vehicle. As the information floods into your brain, it processes the information and tries to prioritize what information is the most important so that you as the driver can use critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and good decision-making skills as you practice reduced risk driving.

Developing a pattern to aid you in the search procedure, will help you develop good habits. A suggestion pattern would be to search far ahead down the road 20 to 30 seconds, then closer 20 to 15 seconds down the road, then a glance in the rearview mirror, then to the area immediately in front of your vehicle, then a sweep to the left then a sweep back to the middle and then a sweep to the right. Finally, a glance at your instrument panel to assess your speed and any other gauges and then begin the entire pattern again.

[Watch the video: Search & Scan](#)

Now that you understand that it is important to use your vision to search the driving environment, let's look at specific items you should be searching for and processing for information to help you to reduce risk.

***The first category of things to search for are the features of the actual roadway you are traveling on. These features may include:***



\*The lane with any markings on the lane or lanes the road itself and the surface you are traveling on

\*Characteristics of the road itself, are there hills, curves, intersections?

\*Are there areas where it is hard for you to see because of buildings, trees, parked cars, or is there anything else blocking your view of the roadway?

\*Shoulder conditions, if there is an actual shoulder, and what is the slope of the shoulder? Is there a curb and if so, how high is it?

***The next category of things to search for are the signs, signals and other markings along the roadway that direct traffic or give information. These may include:***

\*All types of signs including informational, directional, regulatory, or warning

\*Traffic lights that regulate traffic flow

\*Markings on the pavement that indicate crosswalks, stop lines, turn lanes, and other intersection markings



***The final category of things you must search for when driving include motorized and non-motorized road users. These will include motorized vehicles such as:***

\*Other regular passenger vehicles

\*Sport utility vehicles, vans, trucks

\*Large tractor-trailer rigs also called 18 wheelers, buses, school buses

\*Motorhomes and other recreational vehicles

\*Motorcycles, scooters, mopeds

\*Construction equipment, farm vehicles and tractors, and any other slow-moving equipment



Non-motorized roadway users would include:

\*Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters and skateboarders

\*Horse drawn equipment

\*Animals

Once you have completed your visual search of the driving environment, you must identify the most important information from all of the data your eyes have collected. Not everything you see will need to be dealt with at the same time. You will need to prioritize potential threats in the environment that may require a change in speed, direction, or path of travel. Avoiding a hazard may be as simple as deciding to slow down or speed up just a bit. A simple lane change may be all that is needed to avoid a potential hazard. Once you have decided what the best action would be, make your move with confidence. It is important to execute the driving maneuver and then search and evaluate again.

Objective: The Student will be able to identify and adapt to the needs of other roadway users.

### ***CHARACTERISTICS OF ROADWAY USERS***

As a driver, you will encounter a variety of vehicles on the road each and every time you drive. Some types of vehicles require drivers to be more patient, allow more time and space, and make good decisions to reduce risk.

#### ***Large Vehicles: Tractor Trailers, Recreational Vehicles, Sport Utility Vehicles***

There are certain areas around a large vehicle that are called blind spots and make it impossible for the driver of the larger vehicle or truck to see your vehicle. You should not stop or drive in these areas for long periods of time. Likewise, because of the size of these vehicles they also block your vision of what is ahead of you. If you cannot see the driver in his side mirror, then he cannot see you and you are following too closely. Increase your following distance and pass only once safe and legal to do so. Realize that these vehicles are much larger and will take a much longer distance to pass than a regular passenger vehicle.



Sport Utility vehicles (SUV) and recreational vehicles require similar space and time as large trucks. Give them space to maneuver and understand that they are often heavier and slower than a regular car. SUV's are higher off the ground and may have a tendency to roll over if the driver takes a curve too sharply or if he has to make an evasive move suddenly. On the positive side, these vehicles are much heavier which provides added protection to passengers in a collision.



RV's should be treated similarly to large trucks. The big difference is that they are not being driven by professional drivers but by people like you. Be aware that they require a greater stopping distance and leave more space between you and the RV. They may sway and serve into your lane on a curve or if a gust of wind occurs causing them to move erratically out of the control of the driver. They will also require a greater distance for you to pass them should you decide it is safe and legal to do so.

## Sharing the Road Video

### *Trains*

Railroad tracks and the trains that travel on them can be found in nearly every city in America. It is not uncommon for drivers to have to cross over railroad tracks and you must be aware of the special hazards that accompany these intersections.

Trains can travel at very high speeds and even those traveling more slowly, require as much as 2 miles to come to a complete stop. Some railroad crossings have signals and gates but many are often only identified with a sign. Most fatalities involving trains occur at crossings that do not have lighted signals and arms that come down to discourage motorist crossings. A train can come at any time and from any direction. When you approach railroad tracks look and listen. Do not take familiar crossings for granted and assume that a train is not coming. Be patient, look both ways, listen for an approaching train blowing its whistle. Never stop on the railroad tracks. If you cannot cross completely stop before you get to the tracks. These measures will help you stay safe, reduce risk, and avoid a deadly encounter with a train.

## Cheating Death Video

### *Two Wheeled Vehicles*

Not all vehicles on the roadway have four wheels. As you drive you will encounter many motorized and non-motorized vehicles with only two wheels. These will include bicycles, mopeds, motor scooters, and motorcycles. These types of vehicles are very vulnerable as they are often difficult to see.

## Bicycles

People used bicycles for different reasons. Some ride for pleasure and exercise, some use their bicycles to commute to work or school. Motorists must yield the right away to cyclists at intersections, when passing, and when turning. Be very careful when you are making a right turn. Cyclists often travel on the shoulder of the roadway. You must avoid making a right turn directly in front of a cyclist riding on the shoulder. More and more urban areas are creating bicycle lanes marked on the pavement to facilitate safe travel by cyclists. You must avoid driving in the bike lane.

If there is a bike lane and you must make a right turn, do not enter the bike lane more than 100 feet before the intersection. Be sure you yield to cyclists preparing to turn left. Cyclists are a small and vulnerable roadway user. When following a cyclist, you must slow down and give them space. Bicycles can stop and maneuver quickly and you must be ready to avoid a collision. Young cyclists are likely to make unpredictable and surprising changes in direction. When passing a cyclist be sure to wait until it is safe to do so.



## Mopeds and motor scooters

Mopeds are a two wheeled vehicle that can be made to move with either a motor or a pedal hence the name moped. Like a bicycle a moped may be peddled and stopped by a handbrake. Like a motorcycle they are powered by an engine although less powerful and controlled by hand.



A motor scooter is a low powered two wheeled vehicle, more powerful than a moped but less powerful than a motorcycle. Most motor scooters do not require the shifting of gears. These vehicles should be treated with the same respect as a bicycle. However even though these are similar in size to a bicycle, they are much more powerful and will travel much more quickly. Make sure you distinguish between the type of vehicle approaching and adjust your actions appropriately.

## Motorcycles



Motorcycles are a very popular two wheeled vehicle. Many people choose this type of vehicle because of the good gas mileage, easy maneuverability, and ease of finding a parking space. Motorcycles are smaller and more vulnerable than regular automobiles but travel just as quickly and are just as powerful. Motorcycles are more complicated to operate and require the driver to use his feet and his hands to drive smoothly. Driving a motorcycle requires considerable skill, practice, and coordination to maneuver the motorcycle quickly and skillfully. Motorcyclist start supposed to greater danger then motor vehicle users as there is no protection should a collision occur motorcycles have difficulty remaining upright when in motion and when they must swerve to avoid a road hazard

the risk of an accident increases greatly. Similarly, when the weather is less than perfect, motorcycles will have more trouble and an increased risk for collision. You should always leave extra space between you and a motorcycle. Increase your following distance, check your rear view more often, be aware of where the motorcycle is in relation to your vehicle at all times. When traveling close to a motorcycle be aware of sudden stops and try to communicate your intentions before making a maneuver. Be sure you look twice for motorcycles as they are smaller than other regular vehicles and can sometimes be hidden from view.

There are certain situations that are particularly high-risk for collisions with motorcycles. One of those in particular involves passing. Even though they are small and only occupy only part of the lane, you should never share the lane with the motorcyclist. When passing a motorcycle be sure to leave the lane completely and do not crowd too closely to the motorcycle.

Research has shown that collisions with motorcycles are most likely to occur at intersections. Be especially mindful and look twice in these areas of concern:

**Left turns** - the most common collision at an intersection occurs when a motorist turns left across traffic in front of an oncoming motorcycle that he did not see.

**Blind spots** - motorcycles are smaller than regular four wheeled vehicles and often get lost in a driver's blind spot. Vehicles change lanes and often collide with the motorcycle that is hidden there.

**Hazardous road conditions** - the condition of the roadway affects motorcyclists more than four wheeled vehicles. Bumps in the road, potholes, objects in the roadway, and railroad tracks all present special problems for motorcycle riders. Leave enough space between you and a motorcycle in case they must slow down change lane positions or make an abrupt lane change at the last minute.

**Weather conditions** – as we said earlier when the weather is less than perfect, the roadway becomes much more dangerous for a motorcycle rider. Wet, icy, snowy, roads covered with sand or gravel all make driving a motorcycle more dangerous. In addition, windy days or days with strong gusts of wind may catch the rider off guard and calls them to swerve abruptly. Large vehicles such as SUVs and tractor trailers also can cause turbulence.

**Large vehicles** – tractor trailers, recreational vehicles, motor homes, and other large vehicles can block a motorcycle from a driver's view.

**Look... and look... and look... again.**

**[Motorcycle Awareness Video](#)**

## Construction vehicles

As you drive, it may seem that there is never a time when the road is not under construction. Construction vehicles may be present on any roadway at any time. They are usually very large, slow moving, and sometimes very loud. They often are carrying heavy loads which causes them to take much longer to accelerate. When you encounter a construction vehicle, increase your following distance. Do not tailgate as the driver of the truck will not be able to see you. Leave extra space to the front and to the sides of your vehicle and the construction vehicle. If you find yourself with a construction vehicle directly behind you, check your mirror more frequently and be sure to signal your intention to stop well in advance as heavy construction vehicles may need a longer breaking distance to stop. A construction zone may be marked with a variety of devices to help you navigate safely through a work zone. The most common devices are: cones, drums, barricades, electronic messaging signs, regular orange construction signs, and sometimes even an actual person directing traffic with a flag.



## Slow moving vehicles

Vehicles moving much more slowly than the posted speed limit present special hazards on our roadways. When fast moving traffic is suddenly faced with a slow roadway user, the risk



increases dramatically because drivers missed judge the speed and distance, do not react early enough, and traffic is forced to come to almost a complete stop causing a bottleneck. In Texas slow moving vehicles must Display an orange triangle with a red strip on each side to warn other road users that they may need to adjust their speed and position. When you see this sign allow extra space and pass with caution. Farm machinery and equipment are often included in this category. Farm machinery moving from one field or farm to another do not required to be licensed but maybe driven on roads. Once again, if you encounter this type of vehicle, slow down, leave space, and only

pass when it is safe and legal to do so. Although not seen very often, horse drawn vehicles can be found on many Texas roads. Leave extra space, and do not use your horn as this may start on the horse and make the situation more dangerous.

## Oversized vehicles

Wide loads, mobile homes being transported from one place to another, and other oversized vehicles require you the driver to take extra care. Be prepared to share the road and only pass when it is safe and legal to do so.



## **Pedestrians**

Pedestrians always have the right of way. No matter what you as the motorist must yield to be pedestrians whether they are in a crosswalk, have a no walk signal or are otherwise in your path of travel. Pedestrians often take chances especially young children and the elderly. You must take precautions to avoid hitting pedestrians.

You can do your part by being extra vigilant in certain environments. Expect heavy pedestrian traffic in the following areas:

- school zones
- parks
- playgrounds
- at bus stops
- in parking lots
- on college campuses
- at any intersection



When driving through residential neighborhoods, be particularly vigilant, slow down and always expect the unexpected. In neighborhoods, children will often be playing in their yards and are highly likely to dart into the street after a ball or other toy. Look carefully when driving past parked cars as children are often hidden. Drive like your little brother or sister lived there.

## **Commentary Driving**

This instructional method may be used by your driver education instructor when you start your behind the wheel lessons. The instructor may ask you to verbalize the driving scene as you see it and process it. With this method, you will talk out loud about everything you see around your vehicle, what is happening and what other cars are doing, as well as what risks you see and how you plan to avoid each hazard.

This helps the instructor know what you are thinking and seeing and allows them to correct or add to what you are saying. It will allow the instructor to better evaluate you as a driver by giving him/her the opportunity to teach to areas you may be weak in. By verbalizing what you see, think and plan to do will help to reinforce knowledge and skills learned in previous lessons. This technique is helpful as well when you complete the required driving hours with your parent or guardian. You are required to drive an additional 30 hours outside of your training in driver education. By using commentary driving, you can let your parent know that you are paying attention and seeing the important things as you drive. It may even help them feel more comfortable to listen to you as you show them you know what traffic signs and signals mean. As you gain time behind the wheel, your commentary will expand to include more information about what is happening in the driving environment around you.



This is just one more step in the process of developing good habits. By applying the SIPDE system at all times you can avoid the dangers that enter into driving when we become more experienced. Try to avoid becoming too over confident, seeing what you expect to see rather than what is actually there, and avoid taking unnecessary risks.

## Day 7 Make Up Quiz