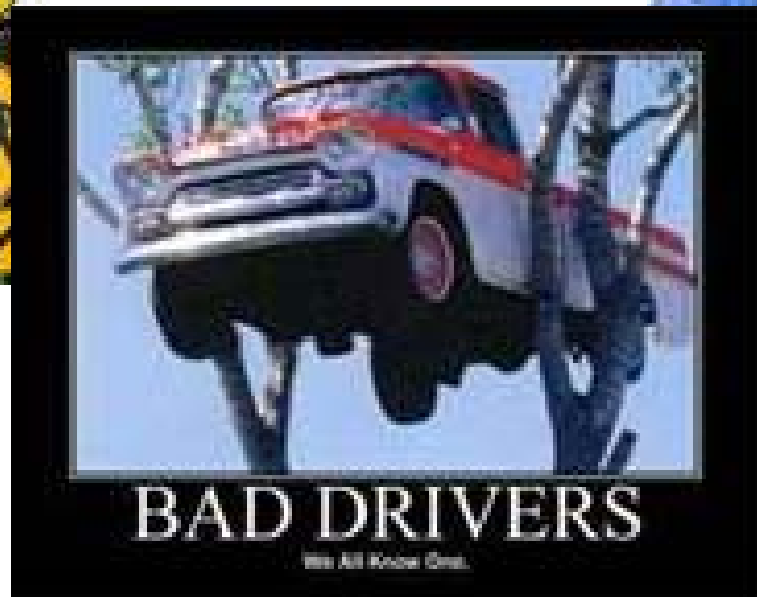




Driver Awareness Training

By Contra Costa Water District



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Course Outline

- Why Have Driver Awareness Training?
- Why Accidents Occur?
- Accident Costs
- Pre-trip Inspections
- Rules to Follow While Driving
- Winter Driving
- What to Do If You Have an Accident
- Defensive Driving Techniques
- Emergency Vehicles
- Transporting Materials





Why Have Driver Awareness Training?

- ☞ Driving is something we do daily
- ☞ It's the most dangerous thing we do!
 - 40,000 people die each year
 - 115 people who leave home today will never return





Why Accidents Occur?

☞ Most frequent causes of accidents:

- Inattention to detail
- Speeding
- DWI/DUI
- Driving too fast for conditions
- Failure to yield



☞ Other Factors:

- Road conditions
 - Weather related & physical conditions
- Vehicle Maintenance
 - Tire tread wear/pressure
 - Brakes





Accident Costs

- ☞ Physical Damage - Your Vehicle
- ☞ Property Damage - Destroyed Property
- ☞ Medical Costs - Yours & Passengers
- ☞ Liability Costs - Other Vehicle(s) physical damage
- ☞ Other(s) injuries \$\$\$\$\$\$





Pre-Trip Inspection

- ☞ Take a walk around your vehicle
 - Windows clean?
 - Lights/signals clean & working
 - Tires properly inflated / tread wear
 - Fluid leaks on the ground
 - Plates current???



Tip: Know where you are going and the route you will take before leaving





Inside the Vehicle

- Adjust your seat and fasten seat belt
- Check and adjust all mirrors
- Adjust your headrest
- Assure doors fully closed and secured
- Scan the gauges
- Make sure you have a valid drivers license for the vehicle you are driving
- Make sure District vehicle has:
 - ✓ Accident Kit
 - ✓ First Aid Kit
 - ✓ Fire Extinguisher





Driving & Parking

- Keep your seatbelt fastened at all times when vehicle is moving
- Obey all speed and traffic signs
- Only use cell phones with a hands free device
- Designate a spotter to assist in backing
- Park vehicles in compliance with California Vehicle Code. For large vehicles, chock wheels and put out cone on rear corner near traffic
- Set the brakes when leaving the vehicle



NOTE: Text messaging, or using smartphones, tablets or laptops is prohibited while driving.





Driving Rules

- Maintain a safe following distance – Use the 3 second rule (adjust for poor driving conditions)
- Turn headlights on when it's raining
- If someone is “tailgating” you, move to the next lane and allow them to pass
- Never operate any vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Inspect unpaved paths in steeply sloped areas with either a light vehicle or on foot before driving heavy equipment. Determine and mark soft areas, sharp turns, slopes





Winter Driving

IDENTIFYING SLIPPERY SURFACES

- Shaded Areas - Shady parts of the road will remain icy and slippery after open areas have melted
- Bridges - Bridges freeze before roads do
- Melting Ice - Slight melting will make ice wet
- Black Ice - If the temperature is below freezing and the road looks wet
- Vehicle Ice





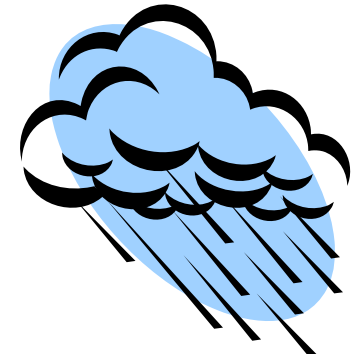
Winter Driving (Continued)

Just after the rain begins

- The oil mixes the water and makes the road very slippery

Hydroplaning

- Release the accelerator
- Do not brake
- Occurs at speeds as low as 30 mph
- Worn tread and low tire pressure increase possibility
- Avoid using cruise control





Winter Driving (Continued)

Fog

- Winter fog is common in East County
- Follow these tips:
 - Lights on low beam. High beams can reflect back off fog and reduce visibility
 - Use wipers and defrosters as necessary.
 - Reduce your speed
 - Listen for traffic you cannot see. Open your window or even turn off engine to hear better. When exiting Old River PS, Middle River PS, Transfer PS or RSFS, listen for traffic; consider making a right turn, then U-turn at safe location
 - Be patient. Do not pass lines of traffic
 - Do not stop on a freeway or heavily traveled road





In the Event of an Accident

- If there are no injuries, move the vehicle out of traffic and to a safe location
- Follow the directions in the Vehicle Accident Kit
- Contact the police and report the accident to your supervisor immediately - No matter how small the incident
- If there are injuries, call for medical assistance as soon as possible



✓ **Do not get out of your vehicle, until it is in a safe and secure location**





Defensive Driving Techniques That May Save Your Life

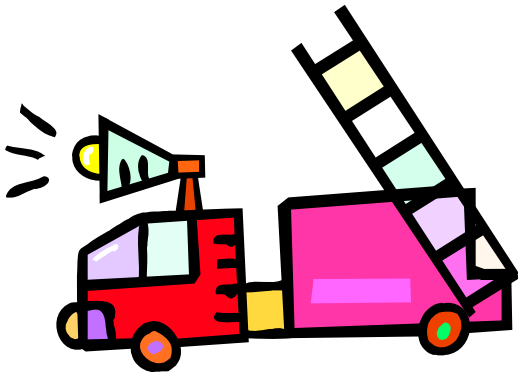
- Scan ahead, scan around, create a cushion of safety
- Cover your brakes . . .
- When waiting to make a left turn, keep wheels pointed straight
- When pulling up behind another car, stop far enough back to see the tires of the vehicle in front of you
- When passing another car, only move back into the lane when you see the tires of the vehicle behind you
- Keep erratic drivers ahead of you
- Think ahead, think “what if”
- Always wear seat belts
- Stay within the posted speed limit





Emergency Vehicles

- ➡ Immediately move to the right of your lane, to another lane, or to the shoulder if possible
- ➡ If moving right is not possible, stay where you are. Do not move left
- ➡ Emergency Vehicles **ALWAYS** have the right of way





Transporting Materials

- ➡ Before driving, secure loose tools, materials and equipment so that if one of the tie-downs fails, the load will not shift and/or fall off
- ➡ Know your vehicle's rated capacity and do not overload it
- ➡ Do not transport bulk quantities of hazardous materials without a shipping paper, MSDS and the correct training and/or licensing
- ➡ A gas can or a compressed gas cylinder used for maintenance work are exempt





Transporting Materials

Trailer Transport

- ☞ Check weight of trailer and load; verify that there is no overloading (find capacity plate attached to trailer)
- ☞ Materials/equipment/vehicles loaded on a trailer shall be centered to evenly distribute the weight on all trailer axles and ensure that tongue capacity is not exceeded; load not too far front or back

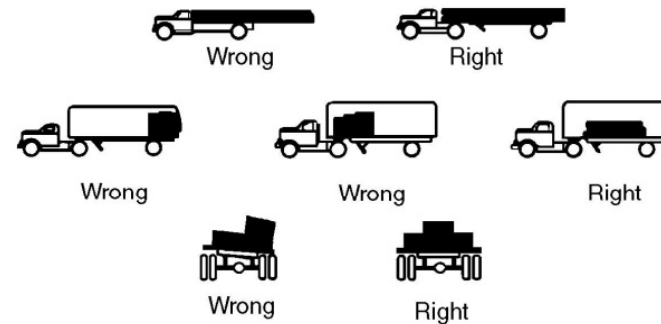


Figure 3-1 Balancing Cargo Weight





Transporting Materials (Continued)

Attaching a Trailer

- ☞ Always attach trailer before loading trailer with equipment
- ☞ Check hitch and ball size; verify they are the same
- ☞ Chock wheels of trailer
- ☞ Get assistance if available to connect trailer and back vehicle
- ☞ Secure load. Raise landing gear, attach lights, install locking mechanism at hitch, attach safety chains





Transporting Materials (Continued)

Trailers

- ☞ Secure equipment/vehicles to the trailer at 4 independent tie-down locations specifically design for that purpose
- ☞ Use tie-down chains and tensioners tabulated to meet the working load limit

