

Defensive Driving

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

Defensive driving is the personal responsibility of everyone who operates or rides in a motor vehicle.

Recognize Potential Hazards

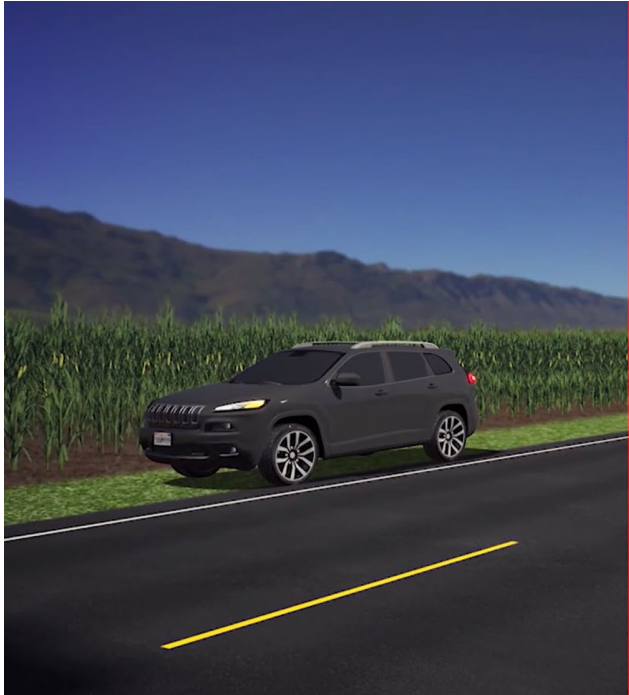
Scan the road:

- Properly adjust your mirrors to minimize blind spots.
- When you are driving in a city, look forward one to two blocks to monitor road conditions and identify potential hazards.
- When driving on an open road, look ahead to the top of the next hill or the next curve in the road.

Use the “what if?” strategy:

While you are driving, stay alert by asking yourself “what if?” questions:

- What if that pedestrian walks in front of me?
- What if the school bus stops?
- What if the vehicle pulls out in front of me?



Techniques for Respecting Road Conditions

- Reduce Speed
- Increase Your Following Distance
- Stay Alert
- Use Hazard Lights When Legal & Appropriate

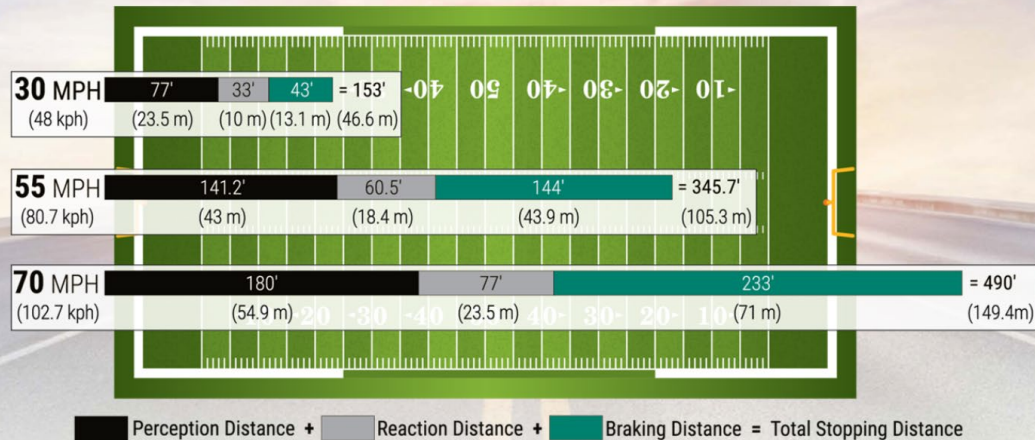
Why Speeding Kills



- It reduces the amount of time and space the driver has to react in a dangerous situation to avoid a crash.
- It increases vehicle stopping distance.
- It reduces the ability of road safety structures to protect vehicle occupants in a collision.

Total Stopping Distance

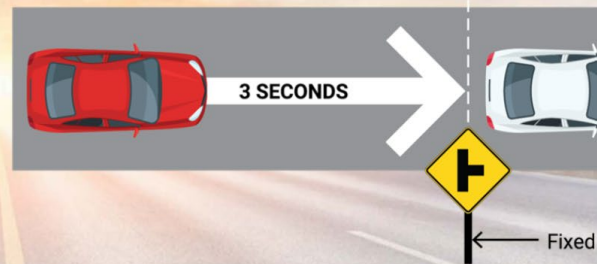
Perception Distance + Reaction Distance + Braking Distance



The Three-Second Rule

1. Watch for the vehicle ahead to pass a fixed object, such as a signpost, billboard or underpass.
2. As the vehicle's rear bumper passes the object, count, "one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three."
3. Your vehicle's front bumper should not pass the fixed object until after you have finished counting.

How to Calculate the Three-Second Rule



The Three-Second-Plus Rule

Add one or more seconds for EACH imperfect condition (light, weather, traffic, etc.).