

Driving in City Traffic

Chapter 9

Before the Chapter....

- What special driving skills will you need for city traffic?
- How do you think you would safely navigate through a city?
- Why do you think talking/texting on a cell phone is banned in Chicago?

Key Terms

- Traffic density
- 3-second following distance
- Tailgate
- Cover the brake
- Ride the brake
- Overtake
- Blind intersection

Adjusting to city traffic

Discussion points

- Traffic Density
- Rural vs. city traffic
- Identify
 - Make sure you are not day-dreaming! Be alert and actively scanning
- Predict
 - Predict conflicts quickly
- Decide
 - Be ready to communicate, change speed and always be on the defense
- Execute
 - Be ready to make quick maneuvers

Drive green

Remote-control key fobs are now being made that let you check the fuel and pressure on each tire before you get in your car. By monitoring your tire pressure, you can maintain good gas mileage!

Following and meeting traffic

Discussion

- 3 second following distance
 - Pg.278 figure 2
- Tailgaters?
 - What?
 - How to manage them?
- Figure 3 on page 279
- Figure 4 on page 279

Avoiding conflicts if a car is coming at you

- Slow until the other driver returns to their lane
- Turn on or flash headlights and blow your horn
- Go to the right-front zone if its open if the driver has not returned to their lane
- What are some examples of driving conditions in which a 3 second following distance would not be enough?

Managing space in city traffic

Approaching traffic signals

What to do...

- Light is Red?
- Light is green?
 - How long has it been green?
 - Never speed up to get through the light
 - Point of no-return?
- Cover the brake?...
 - Give me examples of when you should cover the brake
- Ride the brake?...
 - Why should a driver not ride the brakes?

Did you know?

MASS TRANSIT- before pollution and global warming were serious concerns, London was forced to deal with crippling traffic jams. In the mid-1800's, the world's first subway system was designed and built in London. Today, subways carry millions of passengers daily in cities around the world.

Managing space in city traffic

Adjusting speed

- Drive with the traffic flow
- Stay within speed limit
 - Save 33% more fuel if you drive speed limit
- Be alert and ready to reduce speed or position ahead of time for other drivers

Discussion points

- Lane position
 - Why is this important?
- Overtaking and passing...Consider:
 - Use your IPDE process to help you
 - Is it safe and/or legal?
 - Use your signal
- Special traffic lanes
 - Watch for signs, roadway markings and how traffic is flowing
- How do you select the best lane on a multi-lane street?

Special city situations

Discussion points

- Blind intersection?
- Driving on one-way streets
 - Identifying one-way streets?
 - Entering one-way streets?
 - Leaving one-way streets?
 - Page 286/287 figure 12,13, and 14

Be ready always!

- Driving in the city requires you to always be on your game! Unexpected things happen all the time...As a driver you must train yourself to predict things before they happen. Remember people are stupid when they drive and don't think. Be ready to: make steering adjustments, brake, cover brake and adjust lane position.