

Driving in Rural Areas

Chapter 10

Prior Knowledge

- What do you already know about rural roads?
- Think about: road conditions, hazards and vehicles that you may encounter...

Characteristics of rural driving

- Rural Roadways
 - Paved, gravel, dirt..
 - Visibility may be reduced
- Safe Speed
 - Faster you go, the less control
 - 55 mph unless posted otherwise
 - Never drive faster than conditions allow
- Traffic Controls
 - Signs, signals and lane markings
 - Most warning signs have graphics or pictures
 - Develop the art of scanning everything
- Roadside hazards
 - Less traveled could mean less maintained
 - Narrow roadways
 - Ditches may be present as well as trees, shrubs, or snow piles may restrict your line of sight

Basic skills in rural areas

IPDE and Zone Control

- Rural driving usually equals higher speeds
- Higher the speed, the less time you have to react and stop or make steering adjustments
- Drive at speed you will be able to control

Visual Search Pattern

- Look ahead into your 12-15 second range
- Look for signs, cars...
 - What else??
- Page 297/figure 4?

Basic Skills in Rural Areas

Curves, hills, and intersections

- Slow speed for curves
- Signs will usually be posted 250-700 feet before curve
- What types of signs will you notice? Roadway markings?
- The sharper the curve, the sharper the arrow on the sign

Curves, hills, and intersections

- Advisory speed limit?
- Discuss steps on page 298
- Figure 5 on page 298

Hills/Intersections

Hills

- Not normally marked
- Line of sight restricted
- As you approach a hill, make sure you reduce speed and look ahead for cars

Intersections

- As you approach intersections, get in the habit of scanning
- What line of sight restrictions make identifying intersections difficult?
- Look for driveways as well

Driving on Multilane Roads

Following Traffic

- Maintain a safe following distance
- Always leave yourself an out
- What should you do when you are being tailgated?

Roadways with center lines

- Usually only have a solid or dashed yellow line
- Head on crash is very likely
- Roadways are extremely narrow

Driving on Multilane Roads

Divided roadways

- Divided means traffic is...?
 -
 -
- What's a median?
- Although it may not be as important to worry about traffic going opposite direction, why is it important to pay attention to traffic going the same direction?

Lane selection

- Always try to drive in the right-hand lane
- Left lane is usually for what purpose?
- In some states, driving in the left lane is illegal.. What about Illinois?

Driving on Multilane Roads

Turning at intersections

- Look for special turn lanes
- For left turns, turn from what lane?
- For right turns, turn from what lane?
- Signal early...why?
- Keep wheel straight in the middle of intersection if you are waiting to turn...why?

Entering a multilane road

- Give yourself plenty of time to make your turn properly and safely
- You are making a right turn into the near lane on a multilane roadway, the near lane is open, but a car is approaching from the middle lane...Predict: what do you think this car might do?
- Why is it important to always try to predict what other drivers will do?

Passing and being passed

Passing (discussion on page 302-305)

- Deciding to pass
- Preparing to pass
- Executing a pass
- Passing on multilane roads
- No passing situations
 - Uphill
 - Intersections
 - Curves
 - Page 305 for all PROHIBITED situations

Being passed

- You should slow when being passed
- Don't speed up dummies!
- Always be aware of where the passing driver is in relation to your vehicle

Rural situations you might encounter

SMV's

- Slow-moving vehicles
 - Large farm machinery
 - Also known as ...?'
- What does the sign for an SMV look like?
- Be prepared to slow down and you will most likely be able to pass...

Animals

- What types of animals have you seen on the roadways?
- Read safe driving tip on page 308
- Swerve or hit the animal?

Situations cont...

Meeting vehicles

- Are you able to safely continue to drive in your lane, or is it restricted?
- Look for more than one vehicle
- You should also be looking for vehicles that may be passing

At night

- Keep windshield clean
- Dim high beams 500 feet when approaching another vehicle
- If a vehicle does not dim their high beam lights, where should you look to help guide you?
- What can you do to avoid railroad crossings?

Special driving environments

Mountain driving

- Switchback?
- Page 311 figure 16
- Cant see around a curve..
 - Reduce speed
 - Honk horn
- Driving slow in this setting will prevent car collisions greatly
- Pull out areas?
- Runaway vehicle ramps?
- Page 312 figure 17 and 18

Mountain driving

- Weather
 - Fog, snow and ice
- Effects of altitude on drivers
 - Shortness of breath
 - Faster heartbeat
 - Headache
 - Low amount of oxygen can cause drowsiness
- Effects on vehicles
 - Acceleration is sluggish
 - Hard on engine

Desert driving

Effects of heat on drivers

- Can cause stress
- Sameness of scenery can put you at ease
- Glare from sun
- How to do you think we can avoid some of these?

Different occurrences

- Roadway
 - 75-80mph
 - Be careful not to go to fast
- Sandstorms and dust storms
- Flash floods