

Driving Hazards Observation

New drivers should perfect hazard recognition while riding in a passenger seat prior to getting behind the wheel.

Instructions:

- For 2 minutes, have a passenger listen to the driver as the driver calls out the potential hazards that they observe around their moving vehicle
- The passenger should mark each hazard on this worksheet as it is called out by the driver
- There should be no discussion between the driver and passenger during this observation
- After the vehicle has been parked, the observer should discuss the observation with the driver and note those areas that need improvement
- Count the total hazards recognized in the 2 minutes and record at the bottom

Keep Your Eyes Out Front:

- Objects 12 seconds out in front _____
- Traffic zones _____
- Signals and Signs _____
- Pavement Markings _____
- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____

Intersections and Traffic Lights:

- Traffic Lights _____
- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____
- Approaching vehicles _____

Space Cushion:

- Maintains 4 second following time _____
- Space in front when stopped _____

Left Intersection:

- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____
- Driveways _____
- Parking Lots _____

Right Intersection:

- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____
- Driveways _____
- Parking Lots _____

Left Side of Roadway:

- Pedestrians _____
- Parked Vehicles _____
- Trees, bushes or objects near the road _____
- Eye contact _____

Right Side of Roadway:

- Pedestrians _____
- Parked Vehicles _____
- Trees, bushes or objects near the road _____
- Eye contact _____



Left Mirror:

- Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds _____
- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____
- When changing lanes, uses blinker, mirror and turns head _____

Middle Rearview Mirror:

- Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds _____
- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____

Speed:

- Speed and Speed Limit _____
- Reasons to reduce speed _____

Right Mirror:

- Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds _____
- Pedestrians _____
- Vehicles _____
- When changing lanes, uses blinker, mirror and turns head _____

Total Hazards = _____

Before Starting the Engine:

- Never drive impaired
- When approaching your parked vehicle, look in front, under and behind, scanning for any objects in your travel path
- Adjust the seat position and mirrors
- Verify that all occupants are belted-in
- Eliminate distractions prior to driving

Left Intersection:

- Look left, right, then left again before entering the intersection
- Don't count on other drivers to obey the traffic laws
- Verify that all vehicles are stopping
- Be prepared to stop at all times, even if you have the right-of-way
- Watch for crossing pedestrians
- Get in proper lane well in advance
- Signal turn intention in advance
- Check traffic and turn when clear
- Turn into the left lane
- Turn at a safe speed
- Stay centered in your lane
- Distracted drivers may not be paying attention
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Keep Your Eyes Out Front:

- Keep your eyes out front, aiming at an area at least 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle
- Remain patient in traffic
- Slow down when approaching work zones and school zones
- Stay centered in traffic lane
- Enter curves with an escape route in case another vehicle is in your lane
- If your wheel drops off the pavement, slow down and ease your way back on the road
- Recognize traffic signs by their shape
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Intersection and Traffic Lights:

- Look left, right, then left again before entering the intersection
- Always be prepared to stop, even if you have the right-of-way
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings
- Don't assume that other drivers will obey the law
- Come to a full stop at stop signs
- Signal your intention to turn well in advance
- Watch closely for motorcyclists
- Don't underestimate the speed of approaching vehicles
- Apply right-turn-on-red correctly
- Stop behind stop line or crosswalk
- When entering highways, search for an open space to merge and establish your cushion

Space Cushion:

- Maintain a 4 second following time
- Use a space cushion to avoid sudden stops
- When stopped in traffic, leave a space with the car in front and count to 4 when that car starts up to establish your proper following distance
- Increase following time as speed increases or road conditions change
- Increase following time in inclement weather
- When another vehicle moves into the space cushion, back off to re-establish the proper following time.
- Stop when approaching a stopped school bus

Right Intersection:

- Look left, right, then left again before entering the intersection
- Don't count on other drivers to obey the traffic laws
- Verify that all vehicles are stopping
- Be prepared to stop at all times, even if you have the right-of-way
- Watch for crossing pedestrians
- Get in proper lane well in advance
- Signal turn intention in advance
- Turn into the right lane
- Turn at a safe speed
- Stay centered in your lane
- Distracted drivers may not be paying attention
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Left Side of Roadway:

- Watch for children that may step out into your path, especially in school surroundings
- When driving around parked vehicles, be prepared for pedestrians, especially children, around or exiting the vehicle
- Scan steering wheels of parked vehicles for driver activity
- Trees, bushes or objects near the road may hide animals or children
- Reduce your speed before entering curves
- Establish eye contact with other motorists and pedestrians
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Right Side of Roadway:

- Watch for children that may step out into your path, especially in school surroundings
- When driving around parked vehicles, be prepared for pedestrians, especially children, around or exiting the vehicle
- Scan steering wheels of parked vehicles for driver activity
- Trees, bushes or objects near the road may hide animals or children
- Reduce your speed before entering curves
- Establish eye contact with other motorists and pedestrians
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Left Mirror:

- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening on the left side of your vehicle at all times
- When moving out away from the curb or when changing lanes – turn on your blinker, look into your mirror and turn your head to clear your path

Middle Rearview Mirror:

- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening behind your vehicle at all times
- Check to the rear when slowing or stopping
- Avoid all unnecessary backing
- Back immediately after scanning the area
- Continuously scan the area into which your vehicle is backing
- Back slowly and be aware of children

Right Mirror:

- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening on the right side of your vehicle at all times
- When changing lanes – turn on your blinker, look into your mirror and turn your head to clear your path

Speed:

- Do not speed! Know the speed limit
- Adjust your speed to varying road, weather and traffic conditions
- Slow down in areas where you expect pedestrians, such as in shopping centers and school lots
- Reduce your speed when entering curves