

SMART DRIVER[®]

July 2024

TIME TO DISCUSS SUMMER DRIVING HAZARDS

Everyone at a motor carrier plays an essential role when it comes to driver and road safety.

With summer upon us, drivers should refresh their knowledge of the seasonal hazards that come with this time of the year. Below are some common summertime hazards drivers should look to learn and avoid.

Summer is the time for vacations and outdoor activities. As a driver you will experience increased traffic from pedestrians and bicyclists. Whether driving in an urban setting or out on a country road, walkers, joggers, and bicyclists will be out in full. As a driver, you should look to share the road and be attentive to your surroundings. If you are going into an unfamiliar territory, plan your trip before you leave to avoid distractions, so your attention remains focused on the road ahead. Ensure you only make quick glances to your GPS devices and mirrors, and then refocus on the road.

Tornados, high winds, heavy rain, hail, and other adverse weather conditions are common summertime hazards, depending on your location. Proper trip planning and assistance from operations or dispatch staff can help by monitoring forecasts, and route you away from storm areas. Also, if you deem it too unsafe to drive, pull over in a safe place to wait out the storm.

Summer is also known as construction season. Road construction is inevitable, but stress can be relieved with the help of your dispatch staff. When possible, plan your route around and away from construction zones, especially during rush hour. This can alleviate the stress that could lead to anxiety, aggressive driving, and road rage. Take your time and arrive safely. Likewise, when unexpected traffic delays occur, let your dispatch manager know and let them manage the new timelines.

Traffic congestion will increase with more vacationers, farmers, and motorcyclists out on the road. Remember to use your mirrors wisely and manage the space around the truck. Stay in one lane as much as possible and avoid sudden lane changes. Also, slow down in heavier traffic and maintain a proper following distance.



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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

Driver's Signature: _____

Witness Name: _____

Date: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

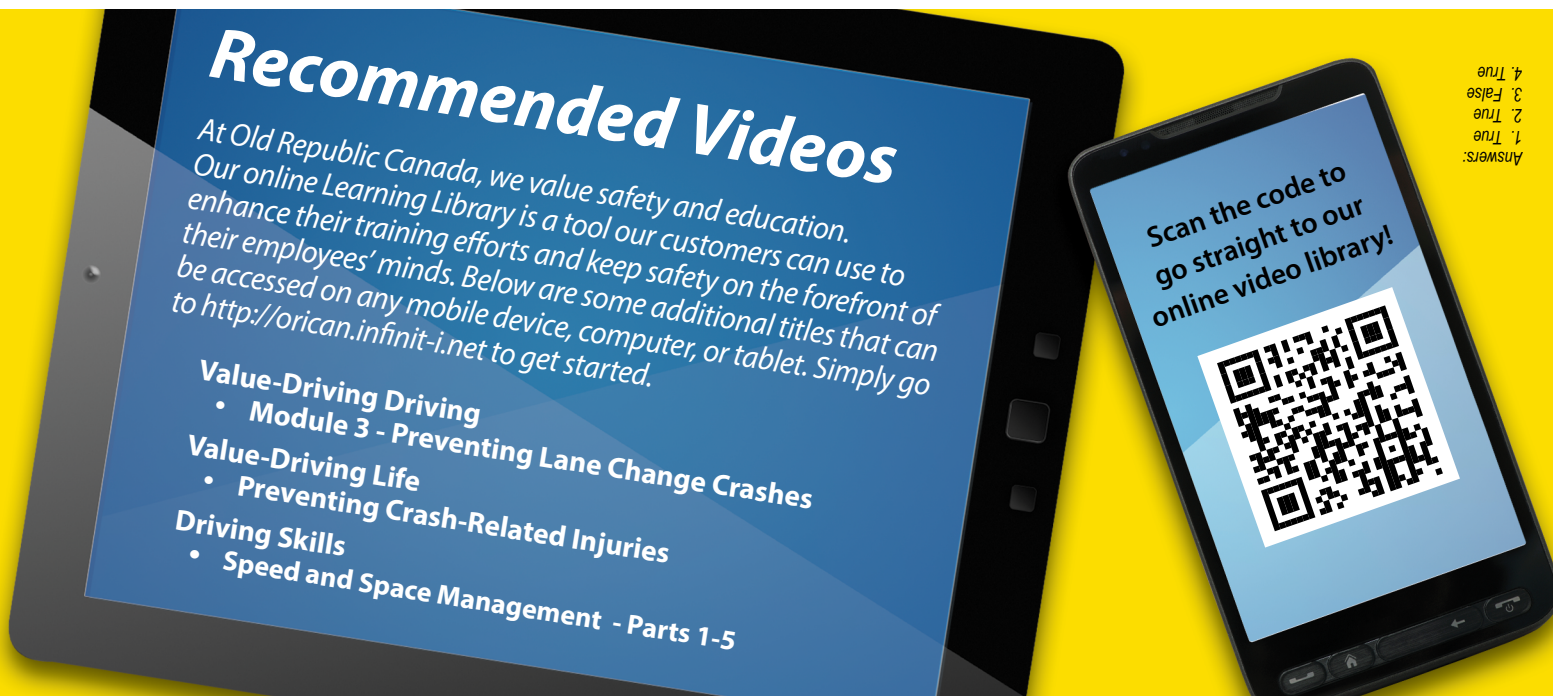
1. If I incur adverse driving conditions such as tornado, high winds, heavy rain, the best practice is to pull over at the next rest area/ truck stop and proceed when it is safe to do so.
2. Ensure you share the road, and you must always be aware of your surroundings.
3. I must check my mirrors every 15 minutes or when I remember to do so.
4. Summer conditions will bring motorcyclists, pedestrians and vacationers out on the road, including unplanned or planned construction delays

True False

True False

True False

True False



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