

SMART DRIVER[®]

May 2022

UNDERSTANDING THE HAZARDS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Summer driving presents many challenging conditions for drivers. Avoiding potential losses requires drivers to recognize the hazards that can lead to a vehicle crash, know the defense, and react properly. Read the information below and ask yourself how you can improve your driving style in any of the hazard categories.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

A ENVIRONMENT

Construction zones present many hazards, such as merging lanes, damaged road surfaces, equipment and workers continually entering and exiting the roadway, and fluctuating speed zones.



EQUIPMENT

If hauling an oversized load, narrow and shifting lanes can be difficult to drive through without hitting stationary objects. Likewise, uneven pavement creates grade changes that could cause cargo to shift.



PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

Delays, distractions, and discourteous drivers are synonymous with construction zones. These hazards are stressful and can lead to aggressive driving, like preventing others from merging and road rage.



KNOW THE DEFENSE



OBSERVE PROPER SPEED FOR CONDITIONS

Be patient and slow down. Reduce speed 2-3 mph (3-5 km/h) below the flow of traffic, not to exceed the posted speed limit. Do not use cruise control in construction zones.



REACT PROPERLY TO HAZARDS

If hauling a wide load, be mindful of reduced horizontal and vertical clearances. Verify clearances in advance while route planning. Use an alternate route, if available.



MAINTAIN PROPER FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Add more space if additional hazards, such as workers and equipment, are present.



BE ATTENTIVE TO THE ROAD AHEAD

Watch for road construction and reduced speed limit signs. Anticipate slowing or stopped traffic ahead. Use the turn signal and safely move into the thru lane well in advance of the merge point.



YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY

Last-minute merging happens. Do not exacerbate the situation by tailgating or blocking lanes to prevent others from merging. Yield the right of way to help prevent a collision and unnecessary delays.



AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Avoid in-cab distractions, like talking and texting on a cell phone. Beware of outside distractions, such as looking too long at billboards or construction work being

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

Driver's Signature: _____

Emp/Unit#: _____

Date: _____

Witness Name: _____

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

1. Always use cruise control when in a construction zone.
2. You should block lanes to prevent vehicles from merging.
3. Be alert for road construction and reduce speed.

True

False

True

False

True

False

Answers:
1. False
2. False
3. True



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