

DRIVING IMPROVEMENT

THE TEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO
REMEMBER...FOR SAFE AND COLLISION FREE
DRIVING



Harco National Insurance Company

Occidental Fire and Casualty Company of North Carolina

TransGuard Insurance Company of America

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WELCOME

THE IAT GROUP OF
INSURANCE COMPANIES
WELCOMES ALL DRIVERS
AND AGENTS

THIS COULD BE YOU!



#1 – PRE-TRIP EVALUATION

- What is my fatigue factor?
- Am I physically fit to drive?
- Am I mentally fit to drive?
- Did I get enough rest before my trip?
- Do I have enough hours available to deliver my load legally?
- Will my medication affect my driving?

FATIGUED, ON MEDICATION, OR JUST PLAIN TIRED



#2 – PRE-TRIP EQUIPMENT

- Did I check all critical components on my vehicle?
- Is my vehicle legal to operate?
- Is my vehicle safe to operate?
- Will my vehicle make the trip without mechanical failures?
- Is my vehicle clean?

MECHANICAL FAILURE, CHECK YOUR BRAKES AND CHECK THEM OFTEN



#3 – PRE-TRIP YOUR PAPERWORK

- Is my bill of lading signed and correct?
- Do I have the proper permits and documents to complete my trip?
- Are my logs current and correct?
- Do I have current physical and CDL, including endorsements?

#4 - EXPAND YOUR VISION

- Increase your eye-lead time
- Look ahead 8/12 seconds in normal driving conditions
- Look ahead 2 city blocks in the city
- Keep your vehicle centered in your lane
- Choose the path of least resistance
- Adjust your following distance to a minimum of four seconds

#5 - UNDERSTAND THE ENTIRE DRIVING SCENARIO

By understanding the entire environment around you, you will note changing road conditions or changing visibility because of poor weather. You will notice problems facing other drivers, changing traffic patterns, congestions, slowing and stopping. You will notice everything around you in a 360-degree buffer zone, therefore eliminating last second decisions.

CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS COULD CHANGE YOUR DAY



#6 - LET OTHERS KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS

- Make eye contact with other drivers
- Signal your intentions early
- Use hand signals or tap your brakes for slowdowns in heavy traffic
- Stay in touch with other drivers
- Keep your headlights on for safety

#7 - ALWAYS HAVE A WAY OUT

- Constantly evaluate your space in traffic
- Watch out for blind intersections
- Enter intersections with your foot off the accelerator and rest your foot above the brake pedal
- Do not follow a vehicle too closely
- Give yourself time, space and visibility
- A green light does not always mean 'go', it means proceed with caution
- Scan your intersection

THIS IS A PREVENTABLE
ACCIDENT.
WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT AND
LOOK!



THIS IS JUST A BAD DAY FOR
THIS DRIVER



#8 - UNDERSTANDING YOUR HAZARD

The number one type of accident is a backing accident. Most truck drivers drive over 100,000 miles annually, but only drive 5 miles backwards, making them professional drivers when going forward but amateurs when in reverse.

WHEN IN REVERSE, WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT,

GET OUT AND LOOK !!

#9 - FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

- Many rear end collisions happen because drivers follow other vehicles too closely and they simply do not have enough time to react to them when something happens in front of them
- At 60 mph, you travel 90 feet per second
- It takes .75 seconds for your perception time and .75 seconds for your reaction time. If you follow someone with a one second following distance and something ahead of you happens ... you do the math!!

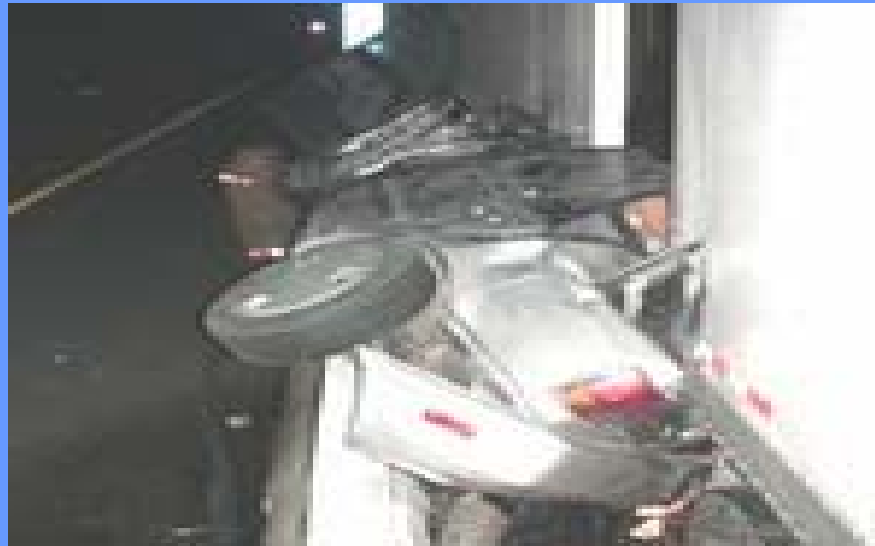
**SLOW DOWN AND LET THE PACK GET
AHEAD OF YOU**

#10 - KEEP YOUR BUFFER ZONE CLEAR

On the open road and in city driving, the number one type of accident is right sideswipes and right hand cut-offs or a right turn squeeze – watch out for your blind spots.

USE YOUR MIRRORS EVERY 3-5 SECONDS

WATCH OUT FOR THE OTHER DRIVER



TAKE QUICK AND APPROPRIATE ACTION

Any action we take is a result of feeding all the information into our brain through the senses of sight, hearing and feeling. We must then process it through the brain on the basis of knowledge, experience training and attitude, and then take the action necessary to drive safely. The appropriate actions take skill and execution.