



DEFENSIVE DRIVING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES



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Tips and Techniques

Driving is an individual responsibility to obey the rules of the road, drive defensively and be courteous to all drivers. Although the driving process consists of the driver, vehicle and environment, the primary causal factor in most vehicle collisions is the driver. The following tips and techniques are recommendations to help you drive defensively:

1. Remain attentive at all times when driving. Sightseeing and multi-tasking (use of a cellular phone, reading, eating, etc.) while driving are common causes for inattentiveness.
2. Anticipate the actions of other drivers by scanning your environment for road hazards, merging vehicles, etc.
3. Maintain a two to three second space cushion between your car and the vehicle in front of you.
4. When stopped in traffic, leave at least one car length of space between your car and the vehicle in front of you.
5. Maintain an escape zone (an area you can maneuver into in case of an unexpected event). Escape zones can include emergency lanes, etc.
6. When approaching an intersection, take your foot off the gas and cover the break.
7. When entering an intersection and preparing to turn left, do not turn the wheels until you are ready to turn.
8. When turning right, look left, then right, then left again before turning.
9. Always direct your vision to the rear of the vehicle when backing. Maintain your vision in the direction of travel until stopped. Do not rely on the vehicle's rear-view mirrors.
10. When possible, park your vehicle where no backing is necessary. If not possible, back your vehicle into the parking space.

Since not all vehicle accidents can be avoided, ensure the vehicle you are driving contains the County of Los Angeles Report of Vehicle Collision or Incident form and a Notice of Self-Insurance. First aid kits, fire extinguishers and disposable cameras are also recommended items to carry in the vehicle.