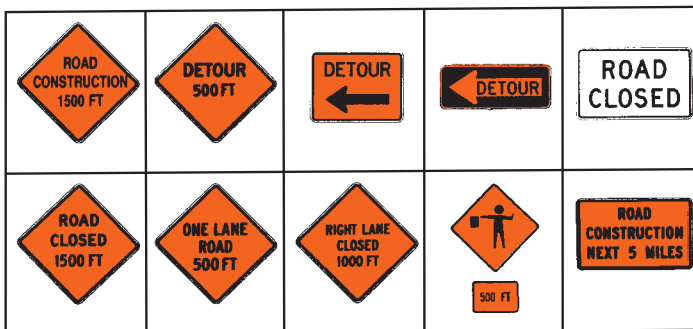


## CONSTRUCTION SIGNS



### VISIBILITY

Speed must be adjusted according to how well you can see. A few things that keep you from seeing well are:

- *Darkness.* You must be closer to an object to see it at night than during the day. Never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see with your headlights.
- *Rain, fog, or snow.* In a heavy rain, snowstorm, or a thick fog, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you cannot see any farther than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 25 miles per hour. You should also use your low-beam headlights.
- *Intersections.* Trees, bushes, parked cars, signs, and buildings at intersections can block your view of vehicles coming from the side. Approach these areas with caution and slowly enough to be able to stop if a vehicle pulls out suddenly.
- *Hills and curves.* When you come to a hill or curve, adjust your speed so you can stop if a stalled car or slow-moving vehicle is in your lane.

### TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

There is less space to react to vehicles whenever traffic is heavy. You need to adjust your speed when you approach:

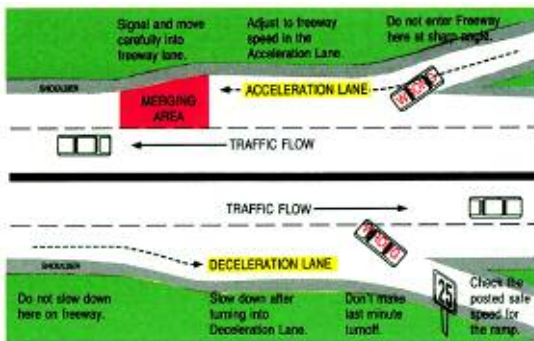
- Shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas.
- Roads with heavy traffic.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels.
- Schools, playgrounds, and residential areas.

Vehicles moving in the same direction at the same speed cannot hit one another. Collisions tend to happen when one driver is going faster or slower than other vehicles on the road.

When entering traffic, try to enter at the speed of the traffic already in that lane. Most interstate and parkway highways usually have a merging area. If you have to stop to wait for space to enter the highway, do it before you reach the end of the merging lane.

Most merging areas will have an acceleration lane. Most areas with a yield sign will not have a merging lane.

When exiting, maintain your speed as long as you are on the main road. *Do not slow down* until you move into the deceleration lane or ramp.



## KEEPING A SPACE CUSHION

When a driver makes a mistake, other drivers need time to react. You will have enough time to react if you have plenty of space between yourself and others around you. That space becomes a “space cushion” which protects you from others.

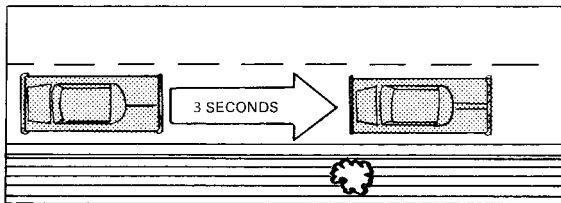
This section will describe how to:

- Keep a Space Cushion Ahead.
- Keep a Space Cushion to the Side.
- Keep a Space Cushion Behind.
- Keep a Space Cushion Between Yourself and Problem Drivers.

## KEEPING A SPACE CUSHION AHEAD

Rear-end crashes are more common than any other kind. Many drivers follow too closely, and when the vehicle ahead stops, they cannot react in time. A three-second following distance is the **MINIMUM** following distance. *If the vehicle in front of you makes an emergency stop you may be involved in a collision if you are closer than 2.5 seconds behind that vehicle. A safer three- or four-second following distance will help you avoid a*

*collision.* The following distance should increase as your speed increases. To check for a three-second following distance:



- When the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead passes a road sign or a pavement marking, start counting the seconds it takes you to reach the same spot on the road.
- Count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three.”
- If you pass the road sign or pavement marking before you finish counting, then you are following too closely.

There are some situations where you should allow more space. In these situations a four- to five-second following distance is needed.

- *On Slippery Roads.* If a vehicle ahead should slow or stop, you will need more distance to stop your car.
- *Following Motorcycles.* Increase your following distance. Motorcyclists can turn and change lanes much quicker than other vehicles. Extra space is needed to react to these sudden moves by motorcyclists.
- *Passing.* When a driver behind you wants to pass, ease up on the accelerator to assist him in passing. Also, you may have to slow down to allow the driver to move in front of you. Although the other driver may fail to pass safely, help him out when he makes a mistake.
- *Blocked View.* When you are following drivers whose view to the rear is blocked, allow more spaces between you and the other vehicle. The drivers of trucks, buses, vans, or cars pulling campers or trailers may not see you. They could slow down suddenly without knowing you are behind them.
- *Heavy Load or Towing.* When you have a heavy load or you are pulling a trailer, the extra weight increases your stopping distance.
- *Following Large Vehicles.* When following large vehicles that block your view ahead, you need a greater following distance to see around the vehicle and to the sides.

*School buses and tank trucks carrying flammable liquids must stop at railroad crossings. Be prepared to stop if following one of these vehicles.*

You should also allow a space cushion when you are stopped on a hill. The vehicle in front of you may roll back into your vehicle when it starts up. Also, the stopping distances are greater when going downhill because of the force of gravity.

### **KEEPING A SPACE CUSHION TO THE SIDE**

You need a space cushion on each side of your vehicle to have room to react to sudden moves toward you by others.

- *Multi-Lane Streets.* Avoid driving alongside other vehicles on multi-lane streets. Someone may crowd you or try to change lanes and pull into you. Move ahead of the other vehicle or drop back.
- *Oncoming Vehicles.* Keep as much space as you can between your vehicle and oncoming vehicles that could suddenly swerve toward you.
- *Entering Vehicles.* Make room for vehicles entering interstate highways. Whenever possible, change lanes to allow those entering to do so smoothly and safely.
- *Parked Vehicles.* Keep a space between yourself and parked vehicles. Someone may step out of the vehicle or from between the parked vehicles, or a vehicle may start to pull out suddenly. Especially use caution when traveling interstate highways because there may be parked vehicles on the shoulder of the highway. When approaching these vehicles, move to the left lane safely before passing them and then back to the right lane after passing.

### **KEEPING A SPACE CUSHION TO THE REAR**

It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind your vehicle. However, checking traffic behind you several times a minute will help you gain a complete picture of the traffic situation. If someone is following too closely or coming up behind you too fast, you will have time to react accordingly.

### **ALLOWING A SPACE CUSHION FOR DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

- *Following.* Occasionally, you will find yourself being followed too closely. If there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until traffic is clear, then flash your brake lights and reduce speed slowly to encourage the tailgater to drive around you or increase his following distance.
- *Seeing.* Drivers who cannot see you may enter your path without knowing you are there. People who have trouble seeing you include:
  - Drivers at intersections, or driveways, whose view is blocked by buildings, signs, trees, or other vehicles.

- Drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces.
- Drivers whose windows are covered with snow or ice.
- Pedestrians with umbrellas in front of their faces, or hats pulled down over their eyes.
- *Distraction.* People who are distracted may not see you even when others can. Allow extra room if you think they may be distracted. People who may be distracted include:
  - Delivery people.
  - Construction workers.
  - Children, who often run into the street without looking.
  - Drivers or people who are talking to each other, tending to children, looking at maps or talking on a cell phone.
- *Confused.* People who may be confused are very likely to make a move without looking. People who may be confused include:
  - Tourists, often at complicated intersections.
  - Drivers who slow down unexpectedly.
  - Drivers looking for a house number.

If another driver makes a mistake, do what you can to help him out. You may need to speed up, slow down, change lanes, or even stop. Do whatever the situation demands as long as a collision is avoided.

- *School Buses.* Where there are school buses, there are usually children. Children are likely to do something unexpected, so be prepared.
  - When you come to a school or church bus that is stopped on any roadway to load or unload passengers, you must STOP. By law you must remain stopped until all people are clear of the roadway and the bus is in motion. A stop is NOT required when approaching a stopped bus from the opposite direction upon a highway of four or more lanes. *However, a STOP is required when following a bus that is stopped on a two-lane road or you are going in the opposite direction of the bus on a highway that has less than four lanes, as they are generally not divided.*





- *Funeral Processions.* A funeral procession has the right-of-way at an intersection and may pass through the intersection if the procession is led by an escort vehicle displaying flashing yellow, red, or blue lights. The only exceptions are when the right-of-way is required by an emergency vehicle, when vehicles in the procession are directed otherwise by a police or safety officer, or when the vehicle is a train or locomotive. You must not drive your vehicle between the vehicles of a funeral procession except when authorized to do so by a police or safety officer. Do not turn on your headlights or engage in any other act for the purpose of securing right-of-way. Do not pass or overtake any vehicle in the procession unless directed to do so by a police or safety officer, or unless the procession is on a street, road, or highway outside the city, town, or urban-county limits, or unless the procession is on an interstate highway or state parkway. If you violate this law, you may receive a \$250 dollar fine or 90 days in jail.
- *Emergency Vehicles.* State law requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle displaying a flashing red or blue light or sounding a siren. When you become aware of the approach of a vehicle displaying a flashing red or blue light, or when you hear a siren, you must immediately drive to the right side of the road or to the curb, clear of any intersection, and stop. You must remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, unless you are directed by a police officer or a firefighter to move.
- When approaching police or other emergency vehicles stopped on the shoulder of the roadway, approach slowly and move into the left lane on four-lane highways, if it is safe to do so. On two-lane highways, approach slowly and pass with caution.

- **You must not block any intersection when you stop for an emergency vehicle. It is also unlawful to follow any emergency vehicle closer than 500 feet.**
- *Motorcycles.* Motorcycles have as much right to the road as other vehicles and need as much space. When you pass a motorcycle, give it an entire lane. Do not try to pass in the same lane. Likewise, motorcycles must follow the same passing rules as other vehicles. It is unlawful to pass between cars or drive on the shoulder of the road.
- *Mail Delivery and Slow-Moving Vehicles.* Use caution when overtaking mail delivery vehicles or farm machinery. These vehicles move at a slow speed and make frequent stops.

## SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRACTOR-TRAILER TRUCKS

- Trucks have large blind spots, called NO ZONES, behind or on the side. If you are driving behind a truck and cannot see the rearview mirrors of the vehicle in front of you, the driver of the large vehicle cannot see you. Do not drive in the blind spot unless absolutely necessary.
- Trucks require a much longer stopping distance. Do not enter a roadway in front of a large vehicle. When passing a large vehicle, do not pull back in front of the truck until you can see its headlights in your inside rearview mirror. Do not make sudden stops in front of large vehicles.
- Large trucks cannot turn to the right without first swinging to the left, or to the left without swinging to the right. Never pull into the open space beside a truck if the driver has signaled to turn.
- An oncoming truck can create jolting air turbulence. Hold the steering wheel tightly and be ready to make any steering corrections needed.
- On mountain roads or downgrades, watch for fast-approaching trucks. If one seems out of control or unable to slow down, get out of the way.
- On long downgrades, there are sometimes special “escape” or “run-away” ramps for trucks. These ramps are for use **only** by large vehicles that are out of control or cannot stop because of brake failure. **Never stop or park in the vicinity of these ramps.**
- When stopped behind a truck on an upgrade, stay to the left of your lane where the driver can see you. Allow extra space between you and the truck in case the truck drifts backwards slightly.
- Avoid driving in the right lane in the vicinity of truck weigh stations where slow-moving trucks will be attempting to reenter faster-moving traffic. You will reduce the possibility of rear-ending or being rear-ended by a large vehicle.
- Avoid driving near vehicles carrying hazardous materials. These vehicles will be clearly marked with the type of hazardous materials

they are transporting. Vehicles carrying hazardous materials must stop at all railroad crossings. **Be prepared.**

## NO-ZONE FOR TRUCKS



## SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE SYMBOL

### RECOGNIZE THIS SYMBOL

It identifies slow-moving vehicles (25 miles per hour or less) and it can save your life. Watch for it day and night.



## SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES

A slow moving vehicle is a vehicle moving 25 miles per hour or less. In most cases this will be farm-operated equipment or horse drawn carriages. All slow-moving vehicles are required to display a slow-moving emblem to the rear of the vehicle as shown below:

- During the day, you will see the fluorescent orange triangle in the center of the symbol.
- During night driving, you will see the reflective red border of the symbol when approaching from the rear.

You should use extreme caution when approaching slow-moving vehicles, especially horse-drawn carriages. Horses can sometimes become frightened by fast approaching automobiles. Courtesy should be extended to the operator of these carriages. You should use the following guidelines:

- Before passing, drivers should approach the carriage slowly and pass only when safe to do so or motioned by the carriage driver.
- Blowing the vehicle horn should be avoided so the animal will not be frightened.
- Drivers should also watch for hand signals from the carriage operator indicating turns.
- When meeting a horse-drawn carriage, the same precautions should be taken.



#### **BY DAY —**

During the daylight hours, you will see the fluorescent orange triangle in the center of the symbol. This triangle is visible for at least one-fifth mile.



#### **BY NIGHT —**

At night, the reflective red border of the symbol will glow in the headlights of an approaching vehicle.

## **SHARING SPACE**

For most drivers, it is difficult to judge how much space they are going to need. You need to learn to judge how much space you must have to:

- Merge with Traffic.
- Cross or Enter Traffic.
- Pass Other Vehicles.

When you make any of these movements, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles.

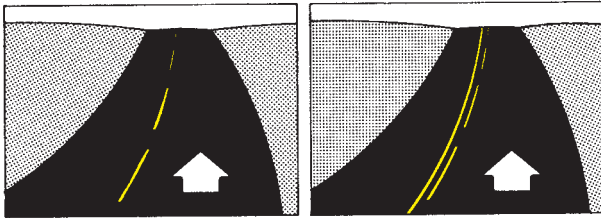
**MERGE:** Any time you merge with other traffic, you need a space of six seconds. That gives both you and the vehicle behind you a three-second following distance.

**ENTER:** Whenever you cross or enter traffic from a complete stop, you need a larger space to reach an appropriate driving speed. When entering from a stream of traffic, you need more time to reach the speed of other vehicles. When you cross through traffic, you need enough room to get all the way across, not just halfway.

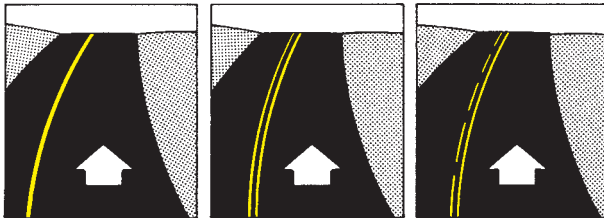
**PASS:** Whenever you pass a vehicle on a two-lane road, you must enter a lane that belongs to oncoming vehicles. At highway speeds of 50 to 55 miles per hour, you need from 10 to 12 seconds to complete a pass. That means you need a 10- to 12-second gap in oncoming traffic to pass safely.

You must judge whether or not you have enough space to pass whenever you approach:

- An oncoming vehicle.
- A hill or a curve.
- An intersection.
- A roadway obstruction.
- *Oncoming Vehicles.* At highway speeds you will travel 800 feet in 10 to 12 seconds. So will oncoming vehicles. That means you need over 1600 feet or approximately one-third of a mile to pass safely at highway speeds. Different situations require various distances to pass safely. Regardless of the situation, you should never pass when there is oncoming traffic, particularly if the oncoming vehicle would have to slow down or pull over in order for you to complete your pass.
- *Hills and Curves.* Any time your view is blocked by a curve or a hill, you should assume that there is an oncoming vehicle just out of sight. Therefore, you should treat a curve or a hill as you do an oncoming car. This means you should not start to pass when approaching a hill or a curve.



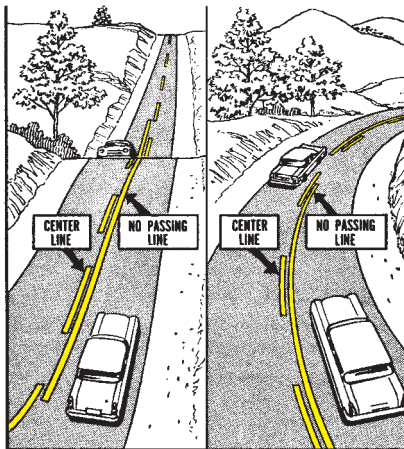
**You may pass if there is a broken yellow center line on your side of the road. Pass only if there are no oncoming cars in the passing lanes.**



**You may not pass when there is a solid yellow center line on your side of the road.**

- **Intersections:** It is dangerous to pass where someone may enter or cross the road. Such places include crossroads and congested areas, business and shopping areas, school zones, parks, playgrounds, and pedestrian crossings. While you are passing, your view of people and traffic may be blocked by the vehicle you are passing. Also, other drivers turning onto the roadway into the left lane may not expect to find you in the left lane.
- **Lane Restrictions:** Before you pass, look ahead for road or other conditions that may cause other traffic to move into your lane. Make sure someone is not going to pull in front of you from a private drive or intersection.
- **Space to Return:** Never pull out to pass unless you know you have enough space to return. Do not depend on having enough time to pass several vehicles at once or rely on other drivers to make room for you.

Before you return to the driving lane, be sure to leave enough room between you and the vehicle you have passed. One way to do this is to look for the vehicle in the inside rearview mirror. When you see the vehicle, you have enough room to return to the driving lane.



- **Signs and Markings:** Many roads have lane markings that tell you when passing is legal or illegal. You may NOT pass when there is a solid line on your side of the broken line of the road.
- You may pass if there is a solid yellow line on the left side of the broken yellow line.
- Pass only if there are no oncoming vehicles.
- Signs are also used to tell you when passing is legal or illegal.

Kentucky law requires

- That a pass be completed before reaching the beginning of a “no passing zone.”
- That a pass be completed when within 100 feet of an oncoming vehicle.

If you are still in the left lane when you reach the “no passing zone,” you are violating the law.

## HANDLING EMERGENCIES

Try to avoid getting into a situation where emergency maneuvers are required. You can do this by anticipating problems. However, there are some cases where the ability to handle emergencies is required.

This section provides you with information on:

- Handling Slippery Surfaces.
- Handling Emergencies.
- Avoiding Collisions.
- Use of Seat Belts.
- Collisions.

## HANDLING SLIPPERY SURFACES

A stretch of road that is safe under most conditions can become dangerous when covered with rain, ice, or snow. If you are driving at an excessive speed or going downhill, these slippery conditions can cause the vehicle to lose traction and begin to skid or to “hydroplane.” Hydroplaning occurs when your tires are skimming across the water on a wet roadway and not contacting the actual roadway surface. To avoid hydroplaning, drive with properly-inflated tires that have good tread and reduce your speed.

If you see that you are about to drive over a slippery surface, or if you think the vehicle has started to hydroplane:

- Remove your foot gradually from the accelerator or brake pedal.
- Do not try to stop rapidly or turn quickly until your speed has slowed and your tires have regained traction with the roadway.
- Pump your brakes gently, unless your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes, in which case you should apply steady pressure.

During poor weather conditions, drivers need to anticipate the possibility of slippery roadways and drive cautiously. Just because the road is currently clear doesn’t mean it will be clear of ice, snow, or standing water around the next curve. Be prepared.

**Changes in the weather call for changes in driving. Be careful at all times and SLOW DOWN.**

## HANDLING SKIDS

Drivers must develop the skill to regain control of their vehicle when a loss of traction occurs and the vehicle begins to skid. Drivers who fail to gain these skills respond to a skid by panicking, stomping on the brake, and then steering too much. These actions will only make the skid worse and often result in a vehicle collision, which could be fatal.

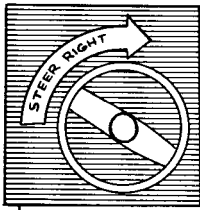
If your vehicle begins to skid, here is how to regain control:

- Release the brake or accelerator. If you are skidding in a straight line and have to use the brakes, **DO NOT** brake hard. This will only lock your wheels and make the skid worse. You should pump the brakes gently unless your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes, in which case you should apply steady pressure. Your brakes will work the best and stop you quicker if they are not locked up.
- If you begin to skid sideways, you need to turn the wheel in the direction the back of the vehicle is skidding. This will allow the front of the vehicle to line up with the back.
- As soon as the vehicle begins to straighten out, turn the wheel back to prevent the vehicle from skidding in the opposite direction.
- Continue to correct your steering, left and right, until you recover completely from the skid.

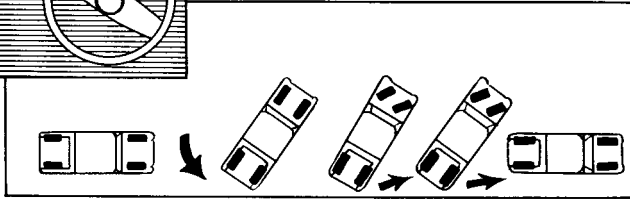
The most important vehicle control to use during a skid is the *steering wheel*.



**Both hands should remain on the steering wheel at all times except when it is necessary to use one hand for some other driving task.**



If your vehicle begins to skid, here is how to regain control.



## HANDLING EMERGENCIES

There is always a chance of mechanical failure or an unexpected emergency, no matter how cautious you are or how well you maintain your car. This chart notes some of the more common mechanical failures and what to do about them.

### EMERGENCY

**Brake failure:** If your brakes suddenly give out . . .

Vehicle Approaching in your lane . . .

### WHAT TO DO

1. Pump the brake pedal rapidly and hard several times. This will often build up enough brake pressure to stop the car. If that does not work —
  2. Use the parking brake, but hold the brake release so you can let off the brake if the rear wheels lock and you begin to skid. If that does not work —
  3. Shift to a lower gear and look for a place to slow to a stop.
  4. Make sure the vehicle is completely off the roadway, to the right if possible.
  5. After the vehicle has stopped, wait for help. Do not try to drive the vehicle to a garage.
- 
1. Sound your horn.
  2. Brake sharply.
  3. Steer for the shoulder or ditch if necessary.

Power Steering Failure: If the engine dies . . .

1. Put the vehicle in neutral and try to start it quickly. If this is not practical, or if the vehicle does not start, then —
2. Stop the vehicle. You may have to push hard if your vehicle has power brakes.
3. Restart the engine.

Headlight Failure: If your headlights suddenly go out . . .

1. Try the dimmer switch. That will often put them on again.
2. Try the headlight switch a few times.
3. If that does not help, put on the parking lights, emergency flashers, or turn signals.
4. Pull off the road as quickly as possible, and leave the emergency flashers on. You should pull to the right, if possible.

Animal runs in front of your car . . .

1. Brake.
2. Steer to avoid the animal *only* if it can be done safely.

Accelerator Sticks: The vehicle keeps going faster and faster . . .

1. Keep your eyes on the road.
2. Quickly shift to neutral.
3. Pull off the road as soon as you can, to the right if possible, and bring your vehicle to a stop.
4. Turn off the engine.

Hood Latch Failure: If your hood suddenly flies up . . .

1. Slow down.
2. Try to look under the hood to see. If you cannot —
3. Put your head out the window and look around the hood. Use the center line or the lane marking as a guide.
4. Brake and pull off to the side of the road, to the right if possible, and stop.

Wet Brakes: If you have to go through a lot of water . . .

1. Test brakes lightly.
2. Brakes may pull to one side or may not work at all.
3. Dry brakes by driving slowly in low gear and applying brakes lightly.

Tire Failure (Blowout) . . .

1. Grip the steering wheel.
2. Brake lightly.
3. Pull off the roadway, to the right if possible.

Driving onto a low shoulder . . .

1. Reduce your speed.
2. Return to the pavement at no more than 5 miles per hour.
3. Do not over-correct steering.
4. Grip steering wheel and gradually steer onto pavement.

Breakdown on Interstate Highways . . .

1. Turn on your emergency flashers.
2. Park your vehicle on the shoulder, as far to the right as possible.
3. Do not work too near the edge of the driving lane.
4. If someone is with you, have him keep an eye on traffic, or do it yourself.
5. Avoid standing behind the car or between two cars.

If you have pulled into the emergency lane and wish to reenter traffic, speed up in the emergency lane, if possible, prior to pulling onto the roadway.

## **AVOIDING COLLISIONS**

When it looks as if a collision may happen, many drivers simply slam on the brakes. This locks the wheels and puts the vehicle into a skid, making things worse.

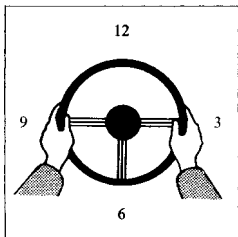
Sometimes braking may be the right thing to do, but it is not the only thing to do. To avoid a collision, a driver has three tools he can use

1. Braking, which is used to stop the vehicle quickly in an emergency:
  - *Standard Brakes:* Push the brake pedal hard. If the vehicle begins to skid, quickly let up on the brake, then quickly push it down again.

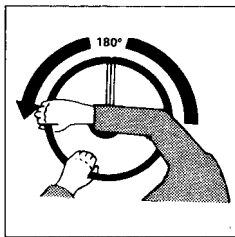
- *Anti-Lock Brakes: Apply steady pressure. This allows the vehicle to stop just as quickly, but also allows you to continue steering.*
2. Evasive Steering is used when you are unable to stop in time to avoid a collision.
    - Try to steer around the vehicle or object, if you can do so safely. However, you should consider the movement of the vehicle you are avoiding when making any evasive move.
  3. Accelerating is sometimes necessary to avoid a collision.
    - Accelerate quickly if another vehicle is about to hit you from the side or behind.
    - In a vehicle with a manual transmission, shift quickly into a lower gear and accelerate rapidly. If the car has an automatic shift, you can do the same thing by pushing the accelerator down quickly.

To be able to turn quickly you need to hold the steering wheel correctly. You should follow these steps:

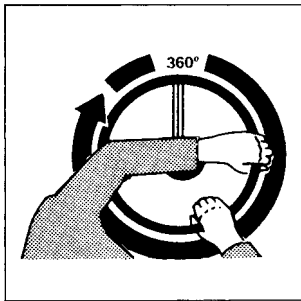
To turn quickly to the left:



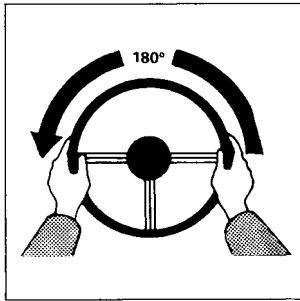
Best hand position for Driving



Turn the steering wheel to the left as far as necessary to avoid the obstacle



As you clear the obstacle, turn steering wheel right as far as necessary to get back into your lane.



As you return to your lane, turn the steering wheel left to straighten the vehicle.

- To turn quickly to the right, use the same procedures for turning quickly to the left, except turn the steering wheel in the opposite direction.
- To turn quickly, your hands must be on opposite sides of the steering wheel, the nine and three o'clock hand positions. It is safest to hold the steering wheel in this fashion at all times while driving.
- **Once you have turned away from something, you must be ready to quickly turn back again. Many people steer away from one collision only to end up in another.**

## PROTECTING YOURSELF IN COLLISIONS

You may not always be able to avoid a collision. Try everything you can to keep from getting hit. The following are guidelines, if you cannot avoid a collision.

*Hit from the rear.* If you are about to be hit from the rear:

- Be ready to apply your brake so that you will not be pushed into another vehicle.
- Brace yourself between the steering wheel and the back of the seat.
- If your vehicle has head restraints, press the back of your head firmly against the head restraint.

*Hit from the side.* If you are about to be hit from the side:

- Brace yourself with the steering wheel to keep from being thrown against the side of the vehicle.
- Get ready to steer quickly so that if you spin around you can still try to control the vehicle.

*Hit from the front.* If you are about to be hit from the front and your vehicle is not equipped with airbags:

- If you are wearing a shoulder belt, use your arms and hands to protect your face.
- If you are not using a shoulder strap, throw yourself across the seat so that you do not hit the steering column or the windshield.

## PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR PASSENGERS

No one can be completely protected from being in a collision. None of us can predict what other drivers will do. During an average lifetime of driving, we face a one-in-three chance of being seriously injured or killed in a motor-vehicle collision. Your best protection against serious injury or death in a collision is your safety belt.



## SAFETY BELTS

*Kentucky Law states: No person shall operate a motor vehicle manufactured after 1981 on the public roadways of this state unless the driver and all passengers are wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt. The driver is responsible for assuring that he and all passengers in the vehicle are properly restrained. For more information on the Seat Belt Law go to [http://ghsp.ky.gov/pdf/ghsp\\_courtesy\\_warning\\_letter.pdf](http://ghsp.ky.gov/pdf/ghsp_courtesy_warning_letter.pdf)*

The proper use of safety belts is important. Use both the lap and the shoulder belt. The lap belt should be low and snug across the hips, not high on the abdomen. The shoulder belt should cross the collarbone and should **never** be placed behind your back.

Seat Belt Law is primary in Kentucky and drivers can be stopped by law enforcement officers if observed driving while not wearing seat belts.

**The advantages of wearing your safety belts are:**

- They will keep you inside the vehicle during a rollover. Your chances of surviving a crash are five times greater if you stay inside the protection of your vehicle.
- They hold you in your seated position during sudden stops and turns and prevent you from impacting the steering wheel or dashboard during a collision. You should realize that your body moves toward the steering wheel or dashboard during a frontal collision. If you are not belted in properly and you are traveling at 55 miles per hour when the collision occurs, your body will impact the steering wheel or dashboard at the same speed. The odds of you surviving this type of crash without proper safety belt usage are small.

## AIRBAGS

Most vehicles are equipped with one or more airbags to supplement the safety belts. Airbags reduce the likelihood that the occupant's head or torso will strike some portion of the vehicle's interior. Airbags are designed to inflate if the sensors detect a significant frontal collision. The airbags deploy at speeds of 160 to 200 miles per hour, and the entire deployment process takes about 1/20<sup>th</sup> of a second — faster than the blink of an eye. In the event your airbag deploys, it is common for a powder-like substance to fill the vehicle compartment. This substance is only a drying agent for the airbag but could be mistaken for smoke.

If your vehicle is equipped with an airbag, there are some things you should remember to avoid serious injury:

- Move the seat back. The driver's seat should be as far back from the dashboard as possible while still being able to operate the vehicle safely. The passenger seat should also be set back as far as possible.
- Drivers should place their hands on the outside of the steering wheel — never across the steering wheel where the airbag deploys.
- Children 12 years of age and under should ride in the back seat in a safety belt or child-restraint system. **THE RISK TO CHILDREN FROM AIRBAGS CAN BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED IF CHILDREN ARE IN THE BACK SEAT.**
- Infants in rear-facing child safety restraint systems should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with the passenger side airbags enabled. Turn off the airbag if your vehicle is equipped with the factory installed disabling switch.

## CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

**Kentucky Law states: Any driver of a motor vehicle, when transporting a child of forty (40) inches in height or less in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state, shall have the child properly secured in a child restraint system of a type meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards.** Any person who violates the provisions of Kentucky's Child Restraint Law shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) and shall pay an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) which shall be deposited in the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.

Proper installation of the Child Safety Seat is your first priority. The Safety Seat will not provide the maximum protection if not properly installed. The Safety Seat should ideally be placed in the middle of the rear seat and anchored to prevent any movement in the event of a collision. Assistance