



Lane Control

Defensive driving is driving to prevent accidents in spite of the incorrect actions of others or adverse driving conditions, such as weather, traffic, lighting, vehicle or road condition, or the driver's physical or mental state. The defensive driver assumes that other drivers may make mistakes and is on guard in the event an error is made.

Lane-use and lane-changing accidents primarily result from following too closely or being inattentive to traffic conditions ahead or to the side. Accidents involving lane use and lane changing primarily involve sideswiping and rear-end collisions. The existence of blind spots around large vehicles is a major contributing factor. Here are some areas that should be addressed regarding defensive driving and tips to help your drivers become defensive drivers.

Driver Tips

To be a defensive driver in maintaining lane control, drivers should:

- Maintain a safe following distance. Drivers should try to ensure that, if the driver in front of them slams on his brakes or makes an emergency maneuver, they can avoid a collision, stay in their lane, and not be hit by the vehicle behind them. Following distance needs to be increased if the driver behind is following too closely.
- Scan ahead of what is immediately in front of their vehicle.
- Flash their brake lights to alert drivers following them if they perceive trouble ahead.
- Thoroughly observe the lane they are entering to assure there are no vehicles in the blind spots.
- Give right-of-way whenever changing lanes.
- Always signal their intentions far in advance of any lane-changing maneuver.
- Clean mirrors and check adjustment frequently.