



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Tips On How To Drive Defensively

1. Adjust your speed to conditions. Defensive driving does not mean that you must creep at a snail's pace which, in fact, is often quite dangerous. You are safe if you blend with other traffic, neither passing others nor being passed by many other cars.
2. Scan the road ahead. Concentrate not only on what is happening immediately in front of you, but try to anticipate what may happen farther on. Watch trees, telephone poles and hedgerows to give you a clue where the road goes. Leave yourself an out.
3. Follow at a safe distance, lengthening the interval on slick or wet roads. Be ready for sudden stops of other cars.
4. Glance into the rear view mirror frequently so you will know the traffic picture around and behind you.
5. Give parked cars on narrow streets as wide a berth as you can.
6. When driving by any parked cars, watch out for signs which indicate that a car may be ready to pull away from the curb, i.e., a person sitting in the driver's seat, a slight movement of the wheels, lights turned on, smoke coming from the exhaust.
7. Slow down at night or when visibility is poor or obstructed. Drive with your headlights on in daytime fog.
8. Watch out for pedestrians and other cars, even when traveling with the green light. A pedestrian trying to dodge another car may step into the path of yours.
9. Watch out for children between intersections. They and elderly people are unaware of the "rate of closure" of a car.
10. Always signal your intention to turn well in advance. Be sure others understand your signal before cutting across.
11. Prepare for turns and stops by getting into the proper lane well ahead of the turn.
12. Stay in one lane as much as possible. Don't weave or hog the road. Cross the center line only when passing or making a left turn.
13. Do not pass on curves and hills, at intersections, or in "No Passing" zones.
14. Be prepared for totally unexpected behavior from other drivers. Such as bus drivers crossing a double yellow line to avoid traffic delays.