



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

Avoiding Impaired Drivers



Contrary to popular belief, most drunk drivers do not go speeding recklessly down the street. This does not mean that they cannot be identified by other drivers on the road. Most intoxicated drivers know they are intoxicated and want to avoid being caught. As a result, the intoxicated driver could be going extremely slowly and being extra cautious. Most intoxicated drivers think they are driving properly; they do not realize they are going 20 mph below the posted speed or that they are weaving all over the road. This doesn't mean that all drivers going slow are intoxicated; it is, however, the first indicator.

Other clues to a driver's condition are their reaction to traffic conditions. Intoxicated drivers will be slow to react to a changing traffic signal or a stop sign. They may go wide in turns, or they may just be staring out the windshield.

Once you have identified an impaired driver, what do you do? The main thing is to avoid them. If the impaired driver is ahead of you, reduce your speed and try to anticipate the driver's next move. Do not attempt to pass. By remaining behind the impaired driver, you are able to watch and adjust as necessary. If the impaired driver is behind you, it is best to pull into the first available parking lot and let the driver pass you. If the impaired driver is approaching you, either pull off the right side of the road as far as possible or, as mentioned above, pull into a parking lot out of the driver's way.

If time permits and a telephone is available, notify the police with a description of the vehicle, its last known location, and direction of travel. If you can do it safely, get the vehicle license number and relay it also.