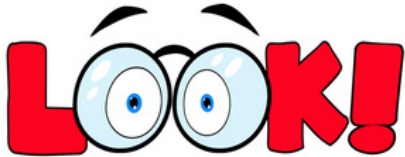


The Communiqué

Awareness Prevents Time-Consuming Accidents

Backing

- Turn off the radio
- Scan the area
- Use flashers
- Look for overhead obstructions
- Get some help, if possible
- Back slowly
- Get out and re-check often



Steep Hills

- Check brakes before going up
- Stay in a low gear
- Stay at least 5 mph under the speed limit
- Use the "Stab" method of braking to avoid overheating the brakes

Passing

- Avoid passing as much as possible
- Allow plenty of time and distance
- Do not follow too close when getting ready to pass
- If you have to speed to pass, do not pass

Right Turns

- Block the right lane
- Pull as far forward as possible when turning, reducing the amount of "swinging left" for clearance

Braking

- Keep your foot over the brake pedal when you are in a situation where you may have to react quickly. This reduces reaction time and shortens your stopping distance

Following Distance

- Don't follow too close; stay back at least one second for each 10 feet of your vehicle's length, i.e., at least a 6-second following distance for a 60ft. tractor-trailer (this is a bare minimum following distance in the best conditions)

Surroundings

- Look far ahead
- Scan mirrors often and lean forward to get a different view.
- Scan to the sides, close and far away
- Stay alert to everything going on around your vehicle
- Stay as far away from other vehicles as possible

Stops

- Drive slowly in parking lots
- Park in a well-lighted area
- Be alert to anyone walking around
- Check your tires, lights, etc. immediately, in case something needs to be repaired; thoroughly inspect the entire vehicle again before driving
- Secure your load
- Lock your doors and trailer or box doors
- When re-entering your vehicle, check inside first, then lock your doors immediately once inside

