Whether you're calm, nervous or hot-tempered, your personality affects the way you drive. Don't let your emotions dictate the way you drive.

Don't "Blow your stack!" - When stress occurs due to other driver's lack of courtesy or recklessness, think over the situation, calmly reason your response; avoid reacting in a like manner. Initiate the action using defensive driving techniques.
Mental/Physical: Try to avoid driving when upset or excited. It dramatically decreases your alertness and judgment. When driving, always try to remain calm and relaxed. Do not however, use drugs or alcohol to relax. Also, try to avoid stressful situations. If you cannot, pull over where safe and calm down. Also, avoid driving when sick because you may not be able to react as quickly.

Don’t Drive Angry

Driving angry is dangerous to you and other drivers. Signs that you are driving angry include, tailgating, horn-blowing at the slightest inconvenience, driving too fast for the conditions and weaving in and out of traffic.

You must remember that you have a dangerous weapon in your hands. If you are waiting in rush-hour traffic too long you may become angry. If you feel that you are too angry to drive, don’t.

The Stressed Driver

Stress and driving are a dangerous combination. You may become stressed-out from the ever-increasing demands of your personal life and that stress could translate into a collision. As the tension mounts, judgment wavers. Remember, nothing is stressful unless we permit it to be.

The Tired Driver
Driving when tired can be fatal. Every year, hundreds of drivers fall asleep at the wheel and many are killed in fatal collisions. These sleepy drivers probably thought they could stay awake long enough to arrive home. They could not stay awake, and for them, they never arrived home.

A few helpful hints to stay more alert include, rolling down the window and turning up the radio or stopping and getting some coffee. If these methods are not working for you, the most responsible thing you can do is to pull over and rest for a while. Better to get home later than not get home at all.

**INABILITY TO FOCUS ON DRIVING**  If you are tired, you are less alert and lose your ability to focus on driving. You may not see hazards as soon or react as quickly, which increases the possibility of danger. Remember you not only need to concentrate on what YOU are doing, but also what OTHER DRIVERS are doing as well. If you are sleepy, the only safe cure is to get off the road and rest. If you don’t, you risk not only your life, but also the lives of others around you.

To keep from getting tired on a long trip...

1. Get a lot of rest before you start
2. Don't take any drugs that can make you drowsy
3. Don't drive for an extended period of time (Set a common sense limit of 300 to 400 miles a day)
4. Roll your window down and get some fresh air in your face

Such emotions such as anger can be just as dangerous as driving drunk. Never express your anger on the road. REMEMBER: DRIVING A CAR IS AS DANGEROUS AS PLAYING WITH A LOADED GUN.
If you know the route, make allowance for time, traffic and delays. Start early enough so that you have time for unseen circumstances. Take the ENVIRONMENT into account, such as weather, road conditions and other possible distractions. Poor weather necessitates lower speeds. If you don't know the route, plan as well as possible using a map and any other reference including people who know your proposed route. Make extra allowance for time, more so than if you know the route.

AGE FACTORS. Drivers over the age of 55 have a poorer collision record than drivers in middle years. As we age, it’s normal for our driving abilities to change. Aging doesn’t automatically mean we need to stop driving. However, to drive safely, it does mean that we have to pay attention to any warning signs that age is interfering with our driving safety and make appropriate adjustments. For instance, you may decide to drive only during daylight hours if you have trouble seeing well in reduced light. If fast-moving traffic bothers you, consider staying off freeways, highways, and find street routes instead. You may also decide to avoid driving in bad weather (rain, thunderstorms, snow, hail, ice). Always remember that if a driving situation makes you uncomfortable, don’t do it.

Eyesight or vision problems begin generally in the early 30's, (i.e., loss of peripheral vision) need for more illumination rises & glare sensitivity increases at about 40. Adapting to darkness becomes more of a problem as one grows older, (although people reduce the amount of driving that they do as they grow older). Corrective lenses may be needed or a change of the present prescription may be in order. If your vision is impaired, your driving will also be impaired. Collisions involving older drivers are more often fatal than those involving young and middle-age drivers.
WEARING GLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES  Follow your eye doctor's advice about glasses or corrective contact lenses. If your eye doctor tells you to wear them for driving, do it. If your license says you must wear "corrective lenses," wear them. You may be fined if you drive without wearing them. Never wear dark glasses or sunglasses at night. Consult your eye doctor before wearing tinted contact lenses at night. They can make it hard to see. Don't wear eyeglasses with temples wide enough to keep you from seeing clearly to the sides.

STEREO EARPHONES AND RADIO LEVELS  Earphones, headphones, or a headset covering are ILLEGAL when worn in both ears for all autos, motorcycles and bicycles. Volume level of radios may not be so loud as to interfere with normal driving. Certain high-noise vehicles and emergency vehicle drivers are exempt to this rule.

CONDITIONS BEYOND DRIVING ABILITY  There are some exterior concerns you should consider and knowing when not to drive. There are times when you need to be a self-regulating driver and know when conditions are beyond your driving ability. Weather can be a huge component on your driving ability. Don’t drive in bad conditions if it isn’t necessary. Weigh the risk and change your plans. Extreme weather strains every driver's competence and puts us all at greater risk. It reduces visibility, traction, speed and distance judgment. It's important to know where weather-related dangers lurk and how they affect your mobility. If possible - avoid extreme conditions.

Since the roadway is to be shared by all drivers, treat other drivers as you would like to be treated. Be as courteous while DRIVING as in OTHER social contacts. If you see something wrong with someone's car, tell him or her. A bad taillight or a low tire may cause a collision later. Make room for other drivers who wish to pull into heavy traffic or change
lanes. Often they will reward you with a smile or nod of thanks. Courtesy makes order out of chaos.

Communicating with other drivers means letting them know your intent. It’s important to let the drivers around you, and even the pedestrians around you, know what you plan to do. That way, you avoid confusion at best, and a collision, at worst.

You communicate by using your car’s tools such as the headlights, indicator lights, hazard lights, brake lights, horn, and your car’s most important tool, you! Never underestimate the power of eye contact and body language. Say you want to merge into heavy traffic, you can either turn on your indicator light and just force your way in, or you can turn your indicator light on and try to catch the eye of the driver of the car that you want to get in front of to politely indicate that you’d like to merge. A courteous approach will more than likely get you into a different lane, not the bully approach.

Mirrors are also very important in communicating with other drivers – if you can’t see them in your mirror, either the rear view or side mirror, they can’t see you, either. Avoid sitting in another car’s blind spot – especially not a truck’s, with a huge blind spot – too many collisions happen because you aren’t seen.

Don’t forget to turn on your indicator lights when you are turning or switching lanes, and equally important, turn them off again when you’ve accomplished what you set out to do.

**Signals for Drivers and Bicyclists** Signal to other drivers when you plan to turn left or right, slow down, or stop. Signals must be given by signal lights on the vehicle. If your vehicle is not required to be and is not equipped with turn signals, then you must use hand-and-arm signals. Also, if your signal lights on your vehicle become inoperable, then you must use hand-and-arm signals. Watch for signals from other drivers.
Signal your left or right turn during the last 100 feet before reaching the turning point. At highway speeds, it is best to signal at least five seconds before you change lanes. If bright sunlight makes signal lights hard to see, use hand-and-arm signals also. Motorcyclists often use hand signals to make themselves more visible. Bicycle riders may give right turn signals with their right arm held straight out, pointing right.

**AMENDS VEHICLE CODE SECTION 27602** Allows a person to drive a motor vehicle with a television receiver, video monitor, television or video screen, or any other similar means of visually displaying a television broadcast or video signal, if the equipment is designed, operated, and configured in a manner that prevents the driver of the motor vehicle from viewing the television broadcast or video signal while operating the vehicle in a safe and reasonable manner.

*California's "Basic Speed Law" says that you must never drive faster than is safe for the current conditions; the purpose is to help control the ever-changing driving environments.*
The purpose of “minimum speed laws” are to ensure safe traffic flow on roadways. If you block the normal and reasonable flow of traffic by driving too slowly, you may receive a ticket.

The maximum speed limit on most California highways is 65 mph. However, for two lane undivided highways, the maximum speed limit is 55 mph, unless posted for a higher speed. On some highways the maximum speed limit is 70 mph, but only if there are signs posted showing 70 mph. Other speed limits are set for the type of roads and traffic in each area. All speed limits are based on ideal driving conditions.

Driving faster than the posted speed limit, or than it is safe for current conditions, on any road is dangerous and illegal. High speed increases your stopping distance. The faster you go, the less time you have to avoid a hazard or collision. The force of a 60 mph crash isn't just twice as great as at 30 mph, it's four times as great!

*Remember, you may not drive faster than the posted or maximum speed limit, even if you think it is safe to do so.

No matter what the speed limit sign may say, your speed should depend on the following:

- The number and speed of other cars on the road.
- Whether the road surface is smooth, rough, graveled, wet, dry, wide, or narrow.
- Bicyclists or pedestrians walking on the edge of the road.
- The amount of rain, fog, snow, ice, wind, or dust.

For example, if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph speed zone during a dense fog, you could be cited by a police officer for driving "too fast for conditions."
is a speed limit for certain situations, which is enforced unless the posted limit is different. "Prima facie" is Latin for "at first view," which means you should see it the first time.

**22352. Prima Face Speed Limits**

**SPEED LIMITS FOR DESIGNATED AREAS**

Business and residential areas:
Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 25 miles per hour.

School zones

The presence of a "School" sign is an automatic alert to slow down. Any time children are present in a school zone, the maximum speed limit is 25 miles per hour. If you are driving in a school zone when children are present and the posted speed limit is higher than 25 miles per hour, you must still limit your speed to 25 miles per hour. If you are driving in a school zone with a posted limit lower than 25 miles per hour, you must drive at the posted limit.

**SPEED LIMITS FOR DESIGNATED VEHICLES**
The state has designated speed limits for certain types of vehicles. The following vehicles may never drive faster than 55 mph on freeways or non-freeway multiple lane roads:

- A passenger vehicle, including a pick-up or bus, drawing any other vehicle
- A trailer bus designated to transport more than 15 people
- A truck with three or more axles
- A school bus transporting students
- A three axle tractor
- A vehicle transporting explosives
- A farm labor vehicle transporting any passengers
Drive slower when there are many vehicles close together on the road. Otherwise stopping safely will be harder because you have less room. Drive slower so you can stop in the distance you have.

You should usually drive slower in these places:

- Shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas.
- Roads with heavy traffic.
- When you see brake lights coming on several vehicles ahead of you.
- Schools, playgrounds, residential streets.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels.
- Toll plazas.

**HOW FAST IS TRAFFIC MOVING?** Collisions tend to happen when one driver is going faster or slower than other cars on the road. If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to keep passing other cars. Each time you pass another car, there is more chance for a collision. The car you are passing may change lanes suddenly. On a two-lane road, an oncoming car may appear suddenly. True, it may not be a big chance, but if you are passing one car after another, the chances begin to add up. Studies have shown that speeding does not save more than a few minutes in an hour's driving.

Going slower than other cars or stopping all of a sudden can be just as bad as speeding. It tends to make cars bunch up behind you and it could cause a rear-end crash. If many cars are pulling out to pass you, maybe you should increase your speed to the speed limit or move over into the right lane.

In order to avoid last minute moves, you should look down the road 10 to 15 seconds ahead of your vehicle. A driver needs to look that far ahead to see hazards early. Constantly staring at the road just in front of your car is dangerous. If you look ahead, you will be able to see important things that you can't see later on, such as someone getting into a parked car.
In the city, 10 to 15 seconds is about one block. When you drive in city traffic, you should look at least one block ahead. On the highway, 10 to 15 seconds is about a quarter of a mile.

Take In the Whole Scene: Looking 10 to 15 seconds ahead does not mean looking only at the middle of the road. It means looking at the side of the road as well. "Scanning" the roadside helps you to see:

- Cars and people that may be in the road by the time you reach them.
- Signs warning of problems ahead.
- Signs giving you directions.

Keep your eyes moving: Look near and far. Turn your head before changing lanes because mirrors have blind spots. These blind spots can hide a motorcycle or bicycle. Watch for things about to happen like a ball rolling into the street; a car door opening; a swerving bicycle.

Watch for Hazards: Look beyond the car ahead of you. Don't develop a "fixed stare." Look around. Keep your eyes moving. Check your rear view mirrors frequently (every 2 to 5 seconds) so that you know the position of vehicles near you.

On the freeway, be ready for changes in traffic conditions. Watch for signals from other drivers. Expect merging vehicles at onramps and interchanges. Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow. As you look ahead, think about what will (or might) happen
on the road. Be alert for vehicles on either side, to the front and to the rear. Use your mirrors. Leave enough space between you and the vehicle ahead for safe stops. Always leave yourself an "out." Mistakes cause collisions. To protect yourself, know which lanes are clear so you can use them if you need to.
What is defensive driving? It is driving to defend yourself against possible collisions caused by bad drivers, drunk drivers, poor weather, and heavy traffic. As a driver, it is your job to constantly adjust to the ever-changing driving conditions.

You drive defensively when you:

- Look ahead.
- Put space between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Keep your eyes moving.
- Leave yourself an out.
- Make sure other drivers see you.

If you look ahead and keep your eyes moving, you will spot a hazard more easily. Once you have seen the hazard and decided what to do, act. Never "wait and see." Never think that everything will be all right. Children playing in the street may not see you. The boy on the bike may ride in front of you. The man opening a car door in your lane may not see you. If you have a collision, you may not be legally at fault; however, you may be morally at fault if you could have prevented the collision but didn't. Remember, you can prevent most collisions if you drive defensively.

You should think about every "close shave" or collision you have. Decide what went wrong and who made the mistake. Could you have avoided the collision or near collision? What did you do wrong? By asking yourself these questions, you can see if you need to change your driving habits. Such change might help you avoid a serious collision later on.

Defensive driving begins before you start the vehicle. Always adjust your seat, mirrors, and safety belt before starting your car. You may have a collision if you try to adjust them while driving. Before you fasten your seat belt, adjust your seat so that you are high enough to see the road. If you are still too low, you should use a seat cushion. Adjust your rear and side mirrors before you start driving.

**AVOID ASSUMPTIONS** Never assume that you know what another driver is going to do. Always expect the unexpected. Imagine that you want to make a turn and you see an oncoming car. Just because a driver's turn signal is on does not mean he is going to turn. Always drive as if the other driver cannot see you.

**KEEP A BUFFER ZONE** Keep plenty of distance between you and the driver ahead, a "buffer zone". In fact, always do your best to keep a
buffer zone all around your vehicle - front, back and sides. It is best to keep at least a "3 second gap" between you and all other vehicles.

Keeping distance between you and other vehicles, a buffer zone can protect you from many collisions. Vehicles generate tremendous energy at high traffic speeds. When you have to react to an emergency, it is not easy to reverse that energy. What you need is time. Following at an appropriate distance between you and the vehicle in front of you provides a buffer zone that will help to give you that time.

Although the 3-second rule is normally a safe following distance, some road variables often require the driver to increase following distance to a "4 second gap" or more. To achieve a four second gap, do the following. When the vehicle ahead of you passes a certain point, such as a sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four." This takes about four seconds. If you pass the same point before you finish counting, you are following too closely. Here are some examples of when to allow a four second gap or more:

1. Being crowded by a tailgater. Allow extra room ahead; do not break suddenly. Slow down gradually or merge into another lane to prevent being hit from behind by the tailgater!

2. Driving on slippery roads.

3. Following motorcyclists on wet or icy roads, on metal surfaces (e.g., bridge gratings, railroad tracks, etc.), and on gravel. Motorcyclists can fall more easily on these surfaces.

4. The driver behind you wants to pass. Allow room in front of your vehicle so the driver will have space to move in front of you.

5. Towing a trailer or carrying a heavy load. The extra weight makes it harder to stop.

6. Following large vehicles that block your view ahead. The extra space allows you to see around the vehicle.

7. You see a bus, school bus, or a placarded vehicle at railroad crossings. These vehicles must stop at railroad crossings, so slow down early and allow plenty of room.

8. Merging onto a freeway.
One of the most important situations when you should increase your gap is when you are being tailgated. When a tailgater crowds you, allow extra room between your car and the car ahead. That way, if you need to slow down, you can do so gradually. You do not want to have to brake suddenly when you are too close to the car in front; the result could be that your car would get smashed in the rear by the tailgater.

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING TECHNIQUES**

Be alert and don’t assume that you know what other drivers will do. It’s important to always keep your eyes moving. Don’t become fixated on one single object. Something else could be threatening danger, a danger you cannot see. Focusing on the car in front of you, a pedestrian walking by or even a traffic signal are all fixations that can kill.

**ESCAPE TECHNIQUES** When you least expect a collision to happen is when it usually will. To avoid possible danger, always look for a way out. Predetermine what you will do if a car in front of you slams on their brakes. Make sure you always have room to maneuver and give yourself a place to escape. Stay alert to potential problems and keep in mind where you are in traffic and what it would take to slow down, turn, or even stop.

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING** Emphasis is on avoidance and prevention of collisions, by being alert to possible problems. Scanning traffic patterns for problems; road and weather conditions; visibility (day vs. night, speed reducing peripheral vision, fog, etc.): danger areas (i.e. intersections); speed and stopping distances, reaction times, etc.; vehicle condition and maintenance (tires, brakes, fluid levels, lights, etc.).

**DRIVER DISTRACTIONS** There are many factors that can distract a driver on a road. Identifying distractions and not allowing them to affect a driver are vital to collision prevention. A driver should always be aware of road hazards and road conditions. There are numerous locations in particular that you should watch for trouble, here are just a couple:
School zones
Construction zones
Animal crossings
Pedestrian crossings
Intersections

At times, you will need to look away from the road ahead. Pick a safe time to look away and then return as soon as possible. Distractions must be kept at a minimum with the driver focused at all times.

SOFT SHOULDERS If the edge of the road, known as the shoulder, has loose dirt or other soft material, it is known as a soft shoulder and is potentially dangerous. The surface may appear firm, but in reality it can cause the vehicle to swerve out of control as the tires sink into the roadway. Be alert and use caution when traveling.

DROP-OFFS Drop-offs can occur when water, wind, or construction erodes the shoulder areas. If your wheels leave the pavement and hit either a soft shoulder or a drop-off, DO NOT APPLY YOUR BRAKES. Slow down by taking your foot off the accelerator, and steer straight ahead. When the vehicle has slowed significantly, return to the pavement by turning sharply to the left when it is safe to do so.

UNEVEN SURFACES Sometimes pavement isn't in pristine condition and special attention is needed. Be aware of loose gravel, potholes, narrow roads and dips. All of these make driving conditions more difficult to navigate. Treat uneven surfaces like you would snow or ice because it is just as dangerous.

Let’s discuss how to recover steering control and returning to the road when your car is straddling uneven pavement surfaces.

A common roadway work zone feature, and a potential hazard, is uneven pavement surfaces—adjacent areas that are higher or lower than each other. The unevenness is due to milling* or paving operations. You’ll also see uneven surfaces where a pavement edge drops off to a lower shoulder. (*NOTE: “Milling” means grinding down the pavement to
prepare the road to be repaved. Paving involves placing new layers of asphalt or concrete. Because these operations are done one lane at a time, the overall surface ends up uneven.)

Unevenness of a couple of inches or more could cause you to lose control of your car and stray into a neighboring lane, or leave the road entirely!

At the very least, driving over uneven surfaces can startle you and make it hard to steer, especially when your right tires and left tires end up on different levels. Since you immediately want to get your car back under control, and drive it straight and steady, you may overreact by turning the steering wheel too sharply. Or you may panic because you don’t know how to steer your wheels over the pavement edge, or if it’s even okay to try. Will your tires get “hung up” on the pavement edge?

Let’s say you’re driving in the lane next to a lower shoulder, and your right-side wheels stray over the edge drop-off and onto the shoulder. What should you do?

Well, DON’T do the following:

-Don’t slow way down, and certainly don’t stop.
-Don’t turn the steering wheel hard to the left to force your right wheels back onto the pavement.
-Don’t move your left wheels onto the shoulder and then quickly turn back onto the road.

Instead, DO THIS:

-Hold the steering wheel firmly and ease off the accelerator.
-With your car straddling the pavement edge, turn your steering wheel up to ¼ turn to the left —until the front tire contacts the pavement edge. Then turn the steering wheel to go straight down the road. If the level of the shoulder is only slightly below the pavement, recovery is pretty easy. Both right tires should climb over the edge with no problem. Recovery is harder if the shoulder is several inches below the pavement level. Try to follow the same procedure above... but if the right front tire “scrubs” against the pavement edge, DON’T steer more sharply to the left. (If you do, your car may jump back onto the road and cross over into the path of another vehicle!) INSTEAD, ease off the accelerator, straighten out your steering, straddle the pavement edge once more, and try again.
Whether you have longstanding travel plans or a last minute road trip in mind, give some thought to your travel to ensure everyone arrives safely and can enjoy the trip. A little advance planning and preparation can keep you, your family and our roads safe.

**Plan Your Trip**
- Plan, map and estimate the duration of your driving ahead of time and let others know your plans. There are websites that offer a calculator which allows you to estimate the cost of gas for your trip.
- Expect to encounter roadwork, delays & detours – ‘Slow for the Cone Zone’
- Check road conditions, including possible road closures. Plan for heavy congestion, collisions, will chains be required for your tires if driving in snow.
- Be sure to allow yourself extra time to handle any unplanned situations that may arrive.

**Prepare Your Vehicle**
- Check the tires, including the spare – proper inflation and good tread can save money, time and lives.
- Inspect the engine, battery, hoses, belts and fluids for wear and proper levels. Check the A/C.
- Do a “once around” – test all the lights, wipers and clean the windows (inside and out)
- If you’re not sure of what to do, consider a quick inspection by a qualified technician. A few dollars up front can mean peace of mind and safe arrivals, as well as no costly on-the-road repairs and trip interruptions.
- Prepare an Emergency Roadside Kit, including jumper cables, a flashlight and plenty of bottled water.

**Packing/Roadside Emergency Kit**

As the seasons change we ought to be sure our car is prepared for them. Depending on your circumstances and location, your level of preparation may vary. You may need snow tires, new windshield wipers and fluid, anti-freeze, heater/air conditioner service, recommended scheduled
tune-ups, etc. For everyone it should mean preparing your car for whatever could happen.

When preparing your car it is wise to remember to make preparations also for your family. An emergency car kit is crucial for breakdowns and unusual weather conditions. It is always good to keep essential supplies in your car in case you get stranded for a few hours or even a few days.

What should I keep in my auto emergency kit? First, you want to make sure you have the basic essentials such as water, food, and warmth. After these basics are included, then you can add other necessities such as an emergency light, first aid items, tools and other accessories.

Water: Drinkable water is of utmost importance. Most people can actually survive days without food, but your body will dehydrate without water, leading to organ failure and death. We take the abundance of water for granted when things are normal, but in an emergency it becomes critical. Water is also useful for washing wounds and for sanitation. Water can also be helpful if your car overheats. Because of the limited space in automobiles, storing water must be in small packages. Water is available in small drink boxes (8.45 oz.), in pouches (4.2 oz.) or a Deluxe Sanitation & Water Kit.

Food: If your car breaks down and you are many miles from any town or store, you will want to have food stored in your kit to make sure your body has enough energy. It is very difficult to keep food in your car because it is exposed to extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, and the food is likely to spoil. The best thing to store in your car is high Calorie Food Bars. These bars come in packages of 2400 calories and 3600 calories. They can be exposed to extreme temperatures. They have a tasty flavor that won’t leave you thirsty. The bar helps activate the salivary gland and reduce your demand on emergency water supplies. They also expand in your stomach so you feel full. Be careful that you don’t over-consume them because they are so high in calories.

Warmth: You may have plenty of food and water, but if you’re cold you’ll feel miserable. Especially in the winter, warmth is a must for an emergency car kit. If you get stranded on a desolate road or stuck in a snowstorm, you will be glad you have a source of warmth in your car. There are several options: 6 to 20 hour warm packs, wool blankets, extra clothes, emergency bags, and emergency blankets. Also, for shelter from the rain, include a poncho or other rain gear.

Warm packs are nice for quick, concentrated heat. You can put them in your pockets, shoes and gloves to stay warm.
Wool is one of nature’s warmest fibers. It provides warmth even when it’s wet. It is best to get a wool blend blanket because when synthetic fibers are added to it they provide softness, durability and are washable.

Emergency blankets and bags are lightweight and fold to pocket size. They’re made of a reflective material which reflects up to 80% of your radiant body heat to help keep you warm.

A poncho is nice if you are in rain or other bad weather and need to go outside to change a tire or do other work on the car.

Light: It’s important to always keep a flashlight in your emergency car kit. It comes in handy for all types of circumstances. Be sure to keep charged batteries in the flashlight so you aren’t left in the dark. The Innovative LED Lights have a much higher battery life than conventional flashlights and are essential for emergency car kits. Other lights that could be useful in your auto emergency kit are lightsticks, emergency candles with a wide base and waterproof matches.

Lightsticks last for 12 hours and are safe for children. They are visible up to one mile away, and they are non-toxic and non-flammable.

Emergency candles or liquid paraffin candles are long-lasting, reusable, odorless and smokeless. A wide base adds stability which helps prevent accidental spills which is especially nice for the car. Also, be sure to keep waterproof matches in your emergency car kit so you can light it.

First Aid Items: If injury occurs, every second counts because help may be hours or days away. A first aid kit allows you to assist with injuries until help arrives. Keep items such as pain relievers, sterile pads, alcohol prep pads, bandages, soap, gauze pads, and micropore tape. You may also want to include tissues, toilet paper, safety pins and ace bandages. All of these items will come in handy when you are in need of first aid on the road.

Tools: Consider tools such as a multi-purpose knife or a collapsible shovel for your car. A shovel may come in handy if you are to get stuck in the snow or mud. A multi-purpose knife provides many different tools for you to work with in a time of need. A Samurai survival tool provides an axe, hammer, and pry tool all-in-one. A basic tool kit and a roll of duct tape are also good items to keep in your car.

Other Accessories: Road flares may also be useful in your auto emergency kit, but they should only be used for a warning signal, and should NEVER be used for light. Once a road flare has been lit, make sure you set it on a non-flammable surface. The by-product from its fire drips
to the ground and may cause a fire if it lands on flammable material such as grass or if there is a gas leak. Be careful because the fumes are extremely nauseous and must be used only in a well-ventilated area.

There are several kinds of pre-packaged emergency car kits available on the market, or you can customize your own. If you are purchasing a pre-packed kit remember that you may need to customize your kit according to your needs (medications, glasses, etc.) Keep your kit in a compact case so it fits easily in your trunk or under a seat.

Here are some other things to consider keeping in your car in case of an emergency:

- **Spare tire, properly inflated** – check every 6 months
- **Car jack and lug wrench** – fits your car and you know how to work it
- **Preprogram your cell phone with a number for roadside service**
- **12-foot jumper cables**
- **Four 15-minute roadside flares**
- **Emergency Red Reflector Triangle**
- **Tire pressure gauge**
- **Rags**
- **Roll of duct tape**
- **A HELP sign, at least 8 inches**
- **Extra vehicle fuses**
- **Small tool kit**
- **Heavy duty nylon bag to keep the small items together**
- **Nylon rope, at least 12 feet**
- **Plastic tarp**
- **Navigation aid**

**Nice-to-Have Extras:**

- **Tire inflator (such as a Fix-A-Flat)**
- **A quart of motor oil**
- **Anti-Freeze**
- **Spray bottle with washer fluid**
- **Ice scraper**
• **Paper Towels**  
• **Pen and paper**  
• **Bungee cord - 12”**  
• **Cable ties**  
• **Work gloves**  
• **Small fire extinguisher (ABC rated)**

**Passengers/Children**
- Remember that long trips can be particularly tough on your kids, especially in the heat – pack plenty of snacks and cold drinks for the road (consider freezing juice boxes or water bottles overnight).
- Use books, toys, DVDs and video games to keep children occupied and the driver focused.
- Keep children 12 and under in the back seat – it’s the safest place.
- Stopping along the drive gives everyone a chance to stretch and makes the trip easier. If you have a fussy baby, do not take them out of their car seat while driving to soothe or provide a bottle. If your child needs that level of attention, pull over in a safe place, such as a rest stop.

**Focus on the Road**
- Don’t text or talk on your cell phone while driving – even hands-free. If you need to make a call, check road or weather conditions or respond to a text, wait until you stop in safe place, such as a rest stop or parking lot.
- Don’t program your mobile GPS while you are driving. Either have a passenger do it or stop in a safe place.
- Share the driving with other passengers to avoid fatigue.
- Rest – driving while drowsy can be fatal. Even a 30 minute nap can help.
- Schedule your trip to allow for frequent breaks. Take time to pull over at rest stops to stretch your legs and focus your head.
- Stop for food or beverages. Avoid eating while driving.
- Don’t fall into the trap of driving while angry – aggressive driving kills.
KNOW WHAT IS AHEAD OF YOU  Scanning your surroundings (keeping your eyes moving) includes keeping a safe distance around your vehicle. When another driver makes a mistake, you need time to react. Give yourself this time by keeping a "space cushion" on all sides of your vehicle. This space cushion will give you room to brake or maneuver if you need the space.

To avoid last minute moves, look down the road 10–15 seconds ahead of your vehicle so you can see hazards early. Constantly staring at the road just in front of your vehicle is dangerous. As you scan ahead, be alert for vehicles around you. Watch for parked vehicles that are moving into traffic.

Use your mirrors. Allow enough space between you and the vehicle ahead to give yourself an "out." Mistakes cause collisions. In the city, 10–15 seconds is about one block. On the highway, 10–15 seconds is about a quarter of a mile.

Take in the whole scene—If you only look at the middle of the road, you will miss what is happening on the side of the road and behind you. Scanning helps you to see:

- Cars and people that may be in the road by the time you reach them.
- Signs warning of problems ahead.
- Signs giving you directions.

Before changing lanes, look into your rear view mirror for nearby vehicles and also over your shoulder to check for blind spots. Blind spots can hide a motorcyclist, a vehicle or a bicyclist. Watch for things about to happen, like a ball rolling into the street or a vehicle door opening.

Watch for hazards—Look beyond the vehicle ahead of you. Do not develop a "fixed stare." Keep scanning. Check your rear view mirrors every two–five seconds so you know the position of vehicles near you.

On the freeway, be ready for changes in traffic conditions. Watch for signals from other drivers. Expect merging vehicles at on-ramps and
interchanges. Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow. Know which lanes are clear so you can use them if necessary.

Be careful of an inattentive or erratic driver. If you notice that a car near you is driving in a manner that is unsafe, make yourself aware of their situation, and how it may affect you. Will they be able to see the red light? Will they weave into another lane? Consider what could happen if they did. Find the best course of action to take to avoid a potential hazard. Should you move to another lane? Should you decrease your speed? Know what to do to avoid conflict or collision. Since you are the alert driver, be ready to avoid the predicted errors that inattentive or erratic drivers may make. Be prepared to hit the brakes if needed, or step on the gas to get out of the way.

Do not be a tailgater! Many drivers do not see as far ahead as they should because they follow too closely (tailgate), and the vehicle ahead blocks their view.

The more space you allow between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead, the more time you will have to see a hazard and stop or avoid that hazard.

Most rear end collisions are caused by tailgating. To avoid tailgating, use the "three-second rule." When the vehicle ahead of you passes a certain point such as a sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three." This takes about three seconds. If you pass the same point before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

If you follow too closely and another driver "cuts" in front of you, just take your foot off the gas. This gives you space between your vehicle and the other driver, without having to slam on your brakes or swerve into another lane.

Any time you come to a place where people may cross or enter your path or one line of traffic meets another, you should look to the left and right sides of your vehicle to make sure no one is coming. Always look to each side of your vehicle at intersections, crosswalks, and railroad crossings.

At intersections:

• Look both ways even if other traffic has a red light or a stop sign:
- Look to the left first, since vehicles coming from the left are closer to you than vehicles coming from the right.
- Look to the right.
- Take one more look to the left in case there is a vehicle or a pedestrian you did not see the first time.

- Do not rely on traffic signals. Some drivers do not obey traffic signals so before you enter an intersection, look left, right, and ahead for approaching traffic.

To maintain a space cushion on each side of your vehicle:

- Do not stay in another driver’s blind spot. The other driver may not see your vehicle and could change lanes and hit you.
- Avoid driving directly alongside other vehicles on multilane streets with or without traffic in the opposite direction. Another driver might crowd your lane or change lanes without looking and crash into you. Drive either ahead of or behind the other vehicle.
- If possible and when safe, make room for vehicles entering freeways even though you have the right-of-way.
- At freeway exits, do not drive alongside other cars. A driver may decide to exit suddenly or swerve back onto the freeway.
- Keep a space between yourself and parked cars. Someone may step out from between them. A vehicle door may open or a vehicle may pull out suddenly.
- Be careful when driving near motorcyclists or bicyclists. Always leave plenty of room between your vehicle and any motorcyclists or bicyclists.

It is very important to check behind you before you:

- Change lanes. Look over your shoulder to make sure you are not getting in the way of vehicles in the lane you want to enter.
- Reduce your speed. Take a quick glance in your mirrors. Also check your mirrors when you are preparing to turn into a side road or driveway and when you are stopping to pull into a parking space.
- Drive down a long or steep hill. Watch for large vehicles because they can gather speed very quickly.
- Back up. Backing up is always dangerous because it is hard to see behind your vehicle. When you are backing out of a parking space:
  - Check in front and behind the vehicle before you get in.
- Know where your kids are. Make sure they are away from your vehicle and in full view before moving your vehicle.
- If other children are nearby, make sure you can see them before backing up.
- Do not depend only on your mirrors or only looking out a side window.
- Turn and look over your right and left shoulders before you begin backing. As a safety measure, also look over your right and left shoulders again while backing.
- Back slowly to avoid collisions.

Check traffic behind you often to know if you are being tailgated (another driver is following too closely). If you are being tailgated, be careful! Brake slowly before stopping. Tap your brakes lightly a few times to warn the tailgater you are slowing down.

"Lose" the tailgater as soon as you can, by changing lanes and allowing the tailgater to pass you or slowing down to allow enough "cushion" between you and the car in front of you. If this does not work, pull off the road when it is safe and let the tailgater pass.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS THAT CAN CAUSE COLLISIONS** There are many contributing factors that can cause collisions. We will discuss these in further detail later, but for now here are some of the most common causes of collisions:

- Driving at unsafe speeds.
- Driving on the wrong side of the road.
- Making improper turns.
- Violating the right-of-way rules.
- Violating stop signals and signs.
- Driver distractions.

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**TYPES OF COLLISIONS**

*Rear-end* collisions are most common. If aware (screech of tires, rear-view, horn) apply brakes and brace yourself, plan to steer/avoid other traffic.
Fixed-object - less common, but very dangerous.

Two car crash - most significant cause of fatalities, serious injuries, and property damage.

Try to avoid frontal crashes ("head-on"). These are most often fatal. Due to the physics involved in a sudden stop, the car could be sheared in two, or wrapped around the object. Cars involved stop almost instantly, but the occupants are thrown forward at the speed they were going at collision, either into or through the windshield (if not properly wearing their seatbelt), or into the dashboard. It is quite common that one or both vehicles in a head-on collision will go into an uncontrolled spin and their occupants be thrown out of the vehicle.

Possible results:
- Run over by another vehicle.
- Thrown into a curbing or other fixed object.
- Having own vehicle roll over or run over them.

One third of all traffic collisions happen at intersections, and about 40% of all urban collisions occur there. Unless prohibited, there are only four maneuvers that a driver may do at an intersection: Right; Left; U-turn; continue straight through.

There are four general rules for intersection safety:
1. Know your route, plan ahead.
2. Slow for intersections and expect the unexpected.
3. Show your intention by position and signal.
4. Go with care.

Let other drivers know what you plan to do. By following the suggestions below, you may be able to avoid a collision. Keep Your Car Where It Can Be Seen!
Most drivers hit the brakes first to avoid a collision. Sometimes this locks the wheels (unless you have antilock brakes). The car begins skidding, making things worse.

**YOU CAN DO THREE THINGS TO AVOID AN ACCIDENT. YOU CAN STOP, TURN OR SPEED UP.**

- To stop quickly, apply firm, steady pressure on the brake. If the car begins to skid, release the brake. Step on the brake again, using firm, steady pressure. Repeat this process until the car stops. **NOTE**-Antilock brakes must not be pumped.

- If you don't have time to stop or turn, run off the road if you have to and if there is room. Running off the road is usually better than hitting another car. Try not to brake as you turn.

- Sometimes you can speed up to avoid a collision. This may work if a car is going to hit you on the side or rear.

When you follow too closely and another driver "cuts" in front of you, the normal reaction is to slam on your brakes and swerve out of the way. Swerving out of the way most often results in cutting someone else off or possibly driving off the roadway. It might also result in the car behind you crashing into you or other cars around you.

*If another driver "cuts" in front of you, it would be better if you just take your foot off the gas. This will give you space between your car and the other driver without swerving into another lane. Don't overreact if you are cut off. Plan your emergency escape route before an emergency happens."

**IF YOU CAN'T AVOID A COLLISION, PROTECT YOURSELF AS WELL AS YOU CAN**

If you are going to be hit from the rear:

- Be ready to brake so that you won't be pushed into another car.

If you are going to be hit from the side:
• Brace yourself with the steering wheel. Perhaps you can keep yourself from being thrown against the side of the car.

*If you are going to be hit from the front:*

• Use your arms and hands to protect your face if you are wearing a shoulder strap. This only applies if you DO NOT have an active airbag. Otherwise doing so could result in bodily injury to yourself (i.e. broken nose, arms).

• If you are not using a shoulder strap, throw yourself across the seat so that you don't hit the steering column or the windshield.

16000. Collision Report

PAGE BREAK
Careless driving is very dangerous and can come with many consequences. It can lead to a collision, which can cause damage to or the loss of your vehicle. The cost to get your vehicle repaired, possible insurance increase, or having to buy a new vehicle can get expensive. If your car is damaged beyond repair and your insurance does not cover...
renting a car, it can be difficult or an inconvenience to figure out daily transportation.

If you are involved in a collision, anywhere in the state, on public or private land, you must stop, render aid, and identify yourself. If you don't stop, you may be convicted of "hit and run" and could be severely punished. If anyone is hurt, call the police or CHP. Dial 9-1-1. In cities or towns, report to the local police or dial 9-1-1. If you are involved in a minor traffic collision (no one is injured or killed), move your vehicle out of the traffic lane. Show your driver license, registration card, evidence of financial responsibility, and current address to the other driver or persons involved, or to any peace officer.

If someone is injured and there isn’t a phone nearby, send someone for help. DO NOT attempt to move an injured person unless they are in immediate danger of being further injured (such as laying in the way of oncoming traffic). It is better to alert oncoming vehicles of the potential hazard. In the mean time, you can assist the situation by obtaining names and addresses of any witnesses. When the officer arrives you should give all the accurate facts and offer any additional assistance with the situation.

20001. Duty to Stop at Scene of Collision

If no one is present, you must leave a note with name, address, license number, owner, how collision occurred, and notify police as soon as possible. Failure to comply is a misdemeanor (Felony if injury/death occurs.)

20013. Reports as Evidence

An extreme consequence to careless driving can be death, to yourself, your passengers and/or others. If anyone gets seriously injured or killed, it can have a grave impact on your life, your family and friends and of the same for those who were involved in the incident. It is very important to pay attention to the road and follow the laws of traffic to ensure everyone’s safety.

Motorists will be required to provide evidence of insurance to the DMV at the time that they register their vehicles. Evidence must be on a DMV form that includes:
• Name and address of the applicant (owner).
• Year, make, model and identification number of the vehicle.
• Name, identification number and address of the insurer.
• Effective and expiration dates of the policy.
• Statement from the insurance company that the policy meets the minimum liability requirement.

20002. Permissible Action: Duty Where Property Damaged

Motorists must also provide evidence (proof) of insurance to a peace officer when stopped for a suspected vehicle code violation (except parking). Acceptable evidence is the name of the insurer and the number of the policy. Evidence must be in writing and can be established by noting the required information on the vehicle registration card.

20008. Duty to Report Collisions

If you are involved in a collision with property damage in excess of $750 you must report it to the DMV within 10 days and/or any injury or fatal collision to the police or CHP within 24 hours.

Drivers should carry proof of insurance in their cars. They should write the name of the insurer and the number of the policy on the vehicle registration card and also keep in the car any insurance identification card provided by their insurance company. Penalties for motorists convicted of not having automobile insurance are severe:

• Fines for a first offense range from $500 to $1000, not including penalty assessments.
• Fines for subsequent convictions range from $1000 to $2000.
• A court may impound the uninsured vehicle.
• Providing false evidence of insurance is a misdemeanor.
If a motorist who has insurance is cited for failure to provide proper evidence to a law enforcement officer, in some cases the violation can be corrected by providing appropriate proof to the court, along with a fee.

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE WITHOUT BEING FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE**

20014. Use of Reports

**CVC section 4000.38 - Financial responsibility**

The DMV no longer has the choice of canceling the registration of any vehicle when it is determined that the vehicle is not covered by a valid form of financial responsibility, but instead the DMV is mandated to cancel the registration by law. Additionally, the DMV may charge a reinstatement fee to cover the cost of reinstating the registration after cancellation.

20015. Counter Reports: No Determination of Fault

**POSSIBLE AUTO INSURANCE INCREASE** If you’re ever involved in a collision, it could possibly affect your auto insurance. If you are not considered to be at fault, most likely the rates will not be increased. On the other hand, being at fault in a collision will impact rates depending on the company's guidelines. It may cause you to lose your good driver discount which ranges in the area of 20%. If there was only one vehicle involved, usually the collision will be considered to be chargeable unless it was caused by some kind of debris on the road or by a collision with nature's objects such as a falling tree, an animal etc. To determine fault, a police report will usually indicate the at-fault party. Without a police report, insurance companies may investigate through
witness reports and driver statements. Usually, if both drivers are found liable or 50% at fault, both drivers would be considered at-fault.

Whether or not there were injuries involved will also have different impacts on rates. If one was at fault but there were no injuries, it would have less of an impact than if there were. Sometimes the police report may be acceptable proof of no-injury; however, not all companies will accept it since persons may not feel injured until a couple days later.

If a driver involved in a collision was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, it will be considered a "major violation" and may cause a bigger impact on premiums since it will be in conjunction with a DUI (driving under the influence) or DWI (driving while intoxicated).

A collision may be dismissed or non-chargeable if the property damages were under a certain amount, usually $750 in damage; however, the amount may vary within carriers. Usually when there is insignificant damage to the vehicles (fender benders) and no injuries are involved, then rates are not impacted.

If a collision occurred more than three years ago, usually it will be not be considered chargeable since guidelines usually dismiss them after a certain time. Check with the insurer to see how long until they dismiss them. Also, the number of collisions one is involved in determines impact. Multiple collisions within a certain period may cause non-renewal and significant rate increases.

**HOW MUCH INSURANCE MUST YOU CARRY?** State law says you must be financially responsible for your actions whenever you drive and for all motor vehicles you own. It is illegal to drive without being financially responsible. Most drivers choose to have an automobile liability insurance policy as proof of financial responsibility. If you have a collision not covered by your insurance, your license will be suspended. If the driver is not identified, the owner of the motor vehicle involved will have his or her license suspended.

The minimum amount your insurance must cover per collision is:

- $15,000 for a single death or injury.
- $30,000 for death or injury to more than one person.
- $5,000 for property damage.
**16056. Requirements of Policy or Bond**

If you are visiting California, or have just moved here, you should be aware that many out-of-state insurance companies are not authorized to do business in California. Before you drive here you should ask your insurance company if you are covered in case of a collision. Should you become involved in a collision in California, all three of the following conditions must be met to avoid suspension of your driving privilege:

1. Your liability policy must provide bodily injury and property damage coverage which equals or exceeds the limits stated above;

2. Your insurance company must file a power of attorney, allowing the DMV to act as its agent for legal service in California; and

3. You must have insured the vehicle before you came to California.

**16020. Evidence of Financial Responsibility**

Many lawsuits are settled for much more money than the minimum amounts set by the Financial Responsibility Law. You may have to pay the extra money if your insurance doesn't pay it all.
Since 1915, when California first began to issue licenses, driving has been held to be a privilege granted and revocable by the state. DMV has been granted the authority to deal with these procedures by the legislature.

Division 6, CVC sections 12500 - 12804, (Requirements for licensing). Stated briefly, it is unlawful to drive on any public roads or property unless licensed, and the license must be correct for the class of vehicle driven (certain exemptions apply).

• You must apply upon entry into California as a resident.

• You have 10 days to submit a change of address.

• You must now provide your Social Security number when applying for or renewing a license or registration.

You are required to have a valid and current driver’s license, vehicle registration, and insurance in order to operate a vehicle. All of these items must be valid and current at the time that you operate your vehicle. Even if your vehicle meets all the requirements to drive safely on the road, if any of these are expired or invalid in any way, then you cannot and should not drive. In addition to keeping these items up-to-date, you must always maintain proof of their validation in the vehicle when operating it. If you are pulled over by an officer while not having one or all three, then you can expect to be fined for it. It’s best not to drive until you can ensure that you have valid and current proof of all these items.
The following are the types of licenses available in California

**A** - Any vehicle (motorcycle must have M endorsement).

**B** - Bus, farm labor vehicle, single vehicles w/ 3+ axles.

**C** - You may drive a:
- 2-axle vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 26,000 lbs. or less.
- 3-axle vehicle weighing 6,000 lbs. or less gross.
- House car 40 feet or less.
- 3-wheel motorcycle.
- Vanpool vehicle designed to carry more than 10 persons, but no more than 15 persons including the driver. (NOTE: The driver must have a valid medical certification on file with DMV and carry a valid medical card. The driver must keep in the vanpool vehicle a statement signed under penalty of perjury, that he or she has not been convicted or reckless driving, drunk driving, or hit-and-run in the last five years (CVC 12804.9(j)).

You may tow a:
- Single vehicle with a GVWR or 10,000 lbs. or less, including a tow dolly, if used.
- With a vehicle weighing 4,000 lbs. or more, unladen, you may tow a:
  - Trailer coach or 5th-wheel travel trailer under 10,000 lbs. GVWR when towing is not for compensation.
  - 5th-wheel travel trailer exceeding 10,000 lbs. but under 15,000 lbs. GVWR, when towing is not for compensation, and with endorsement.
- A farmer or employee of a farmer may drive:
  - Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,000 lbs. or less, if used exclusively in agriculture operations and it is not for hire or compensation.

Note: *Class C licensees may not tow more than one vehicle.

- A passenger vehicle, regardless of weight, may not tow more than one vehicle.
- No motor vehicle under 4,000 lbs. unladen weight may tow any vehicle weighting 6,000 lbs. or more gross. (CVC 21715)

M - 2 wheeled motorcycle only.

Remember, **DRIVING IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT!**  It is important to be aware of reasons why you would get your license restricted:

1. A person with a history of alcohol and/or drug abuse can be refused a license. A person with a substance abuse problem is a hazard to himself and others. He or she should not be permitted to drive a motor vehicle. If the DMV becomes aware of such a problem, it will legally refuse to issue a driver's license.

2. Any person who has used his or her license illegally could have it revoked and be denied another license.

3. False information on a driver's license application is grounds for refusal to issue a license.

4. Failure to demonstrate a minimal level of driving skill is grounds for refusal.
5. The DMV has a legal right to refuse to grant a license to people whose medical condition makes them a driving hazard.

**PROVISIONAL LICENSES FOR MINORS**

A driver's license issued to a person at least 16 years of age but under 18 years of age shall be issued pursuant to the provisional licensing program.

During the first 12 months after issuance of a provisional license the licensee may not do any of the following unless accompanied and supervised by a licensed driver who is the licensee's parent or guardian, a licensed driver who is 25 years of age or older, or a licensed or certified driving instructor:

(A) Drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

(B) Transport passengers who are under 20 years of age.

(2) A licensee may drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. or transport an immediate family member without being accompanied and supervised by a licensed driver who is the licensee’s parent or guardian, a licensed driver who is 25 years of age or older, or a licensed or certified driving instructor, in the following circumstances:

(A) Medical necessity of the licensee when reasonable transportation facilities are inadequate and operation of a vehicle by a minor is necessary. The licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from a physician familiar with the condition, containing a diagnosis and probable date when sufficient recovery will have been made to terminate the necessity.

(B) Schooling or school-authorized activities of the licensee when reasonable transportation facilities are inadequate and operation of a vehicle by a minor is necessary. The licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from the school principal, dean, or school staff member designated by the principal or dean, containing a probable date that the schooling or school-authorized activity will have been completed.

(C) Employment necessity of the licensee when reasonable transportation facilities are inadequate and operation of a vehicle by a minor is necessary. The licensee shall keep in his or her possession a
signed statement from the employer, verifying employment and containing a probable date that the employment will have been completed.

(D) Necessity of the licensee or the licensee's immediate family member when reasonable transportation facilities are inadequate and operation of a vehicle by a minor is necessary to transport the licensee or the licensee's immediate family member. The licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from a parent or legal guardian verifying the reason and containing a probable date that the necessity will have ceased.

**VIOLATION OF LICENSE RESTRICTION**

At any time the DMV has the right to restrict your license. If you fail to comply with your driving restriction, several penalties may be placed on you.

- Your vehicle may be impounded and subjected to storage fees, or worse, sold.
- You may be fined.
- You may even go to jail.
- You may be penalized with one or all of the above penalties.
Traffic violations can damage your driving record. The DMV has a point system to gauge the quality of your driving; and the more points you accumulate, the more negligent you are considered to be. Both the DMV and your insurance company use the point system to determine penalties.

Most traffic violations and minor collisions will count ONE point against a driver’s license. TWO points are assigned for the following:

- Reckless driving
- Vehicular manslaughter
- Driving over 100 miles per hour
- Illegal transport of explosives
- Causing injury or death while avoiding a law enforcement officer
- Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Hitting an unattended vehicle without notifying the owner
- Driving on the wrong side of a divided highway
- Causing property damage, injury, or death and then fleeing the scene without reporting to traffic law enforcement authorities
- Speed contests (drag racing) on public streets

The DMV considers drivers negligent operators of a motor vehicle and subject to license suspension or revocation if they accumulate:

- 4 points in a 12-month period
- 6 or more points in a 24-month period
- 8 or more points in a 36-month period
LICENSE PENALTIES FOR NEGLIGENT DRIVING  The Department of Motor
Vehicles developed a traffic control system called, the Negligent
Operator Treatment System (NOTS). Since 1915, when California first
began to issue driver's licenses, the DMV has had some responsibility for
highway safety through its licensing authority. Through the years, this
obligation has been re-emphasized many times in legislative actions. The
enforcement procedures given to the DMV include suspension,
revocation, and cancellation of a driver's license.

The Negligent Operator Treatment System (NOTS) is based on negligent
operator points and consists of a computer generated series of warning
letters and progressive sanctions against the driving privilege.

NOTS affects California drivers eighteen years of age and older. Younger
"provisional" drivers are also included in the NOTS program if they
violate provisional probation or suspension. Provisional drivers are
provided a hearing under Vehicle Code 12814.6 (c) only if they are
involved in a collision.

12810. Requires the department to assign one point to any conviction
"involving the safe operation of a motor vehicle upon the highway."

Negligent Operator Points

NOTS actions are based on the number of negligent operator "points"
drivers add to their driving record within specified time periods.
Negligent operator points are added to the driving record upon receipt of
conviction notices from courts and reports of responsible collisions from
law enforcement which indicate that the driver contributed, was at fault,
or was responsible to any degree or in any amount for the collision. The
initial reporting of the responsibility for a collision by law enforcement
can be refuted by credible evidence presented by the driver at an
administrative hearing. The department shall consider all evidence
submitted in reaching a final determination with regard to the driver's
negligent operator status.

16070. Suspension of Driving Privilege

SUSPENSION Suspension of a driver's license is an action taken by the
DMV that suspends a driving privilege for a specified period of time. A driver's
license still exists, but a person cannot use it to drive until the suspension has been removed.

**13102. Suspension**

**16004. Mandatory Suspension of License**

**16072. Period of Suspension: Restriction Alternative**

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The revocation of a license is a permanent removal of a driver's license. The driver's license will be physically taken from a person and destroyed. It may be reinstated only after the driver requests reinstatement and has satisfied the DMV that whatever events causing the revocation have been corrected. If the DMV allows the person to drive again, he or she must repeat the original process of getting a driver's license including application, testing, and fees.

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Cancellation of a license occurs when, for any reason, a driver voluntarily elects to surrender his or her license to the DMV. Protecting one's driving record is an act of intelligence and responsibility. Much of what drivers do involves common sense and having a safe driving attitude. They must have good driving skills plus a solid knowledge of the traffic laws of the state in which they are driving. With these things in place, any person of driving age can enjoy the privilege of driving for many years of safe transportation.
NEGLIGENT DRIVING AND LOSS OF LICENSE FOR DRIVERS  Your license can be taken away if you break the law or become an unsafe driver. When you are stopped by a police officer and cited for a traffic law violation, you sign a promise to appear in traffic court. There you may plead guilty or not guilty, or you may forfeit (pay) bail. Paying bail is the same as a guilty plea. If you ignore the traffic ticket and don’t keep your promise to appear in court, the failure to appear (FTA) goes on your driver record. If you fail to pay a fine (FTP), the court will notify DMV and this will also show on your driver record. Even one FTA or FTP will cause the department to suspend your license. Ending the suspension will cost you a reinstatement fee of $55. Each time you are convicted of a moving traffic law violation, the court notifies the DMV. A record of this conviction is placed in your driver license file.

SUSPENSION OF A LICENSE BY A JUDGE  A judge may suspend the license of anyone convicted of breaking speed laws or reckless driving for up to 30 days on the first conviction and up to 60 days on the second conviction, and up to six months on a third or later conviction. Suspension may result from conviction of:

- Driving under influence of liquor or drugs
- Hit-and-run
- Reckless driving causing bodily injury
- Failure to stop at railway crossing.

Regardless of point count, many serious offenses in which a vehicle is used are punishable by heavy penalties such as fines and/or imprisonment. (Felony drunk driving, grand theft, manslaughter and DUI of narcotics or other dangerous drugs, injury/death caused while evading a peace officer).

DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING- AMENDMENT TO CVC 12509 The minimum age for issuance of an instruction permit is 15 years, 6 months. The Department, for good cause, may issue an instruction permit to any physically and mentally qualified person who meets the following requirements and who applies to the Department for an instruction permit: Is age 15 years and 6 months, or over and has successfully completed an approved course in automobile driver education and is taking driver training or is enrolled and participating in an integrated driver education program.

SB 1055- DMV Fee Increases
Increases several fees and penalties paid to the DMV. The fees were increased to stave off a shortfall in the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA). The MVA is largely funded from constitutionally protected revenue derived from motorist fees and is used to support the California Highway Patrol and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Fee increases include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Old Fee</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driver's License (5-year)</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplicate license</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operation fee</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle registration</td>
<td>$31</td>
<td>$34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHP-Fees-(paid w/ registration</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvage Certificate</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification Card</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$31 (*except free for seniors)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CVC SECTION 15300 - COMMERCIAL DRIVERS** States that a driver of a commercial vehicle may not operate a commercial motor vehicle for one year for the first conviction of specified offences, including DUI, hit and run or vehicular manslaughter, while driving any vehicle, not just a commercial vehicle. CVC 15302 provides for permanent disqualification of a commercial driver for two or more convictions of specified offenses, while driving any vehicle.

**Required Declaration on an Original or Renewal Application for a Driver License** — Adds Penal Code Sections 241.5 & 243.65 This law provides an increased penalty for assault and battery crimes committed against highway workers engaged in the performance of his or her duties. 241.5. (a) When an assault is committed against a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties and the person committing the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars ($2,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail up to one year or by both that fine and imprisonment. (b) As used in this section, "highway worker" means an employee or contractor of the Department of Transportation who does one or more of the following: (1) Performs maintenance, repair, or construction of state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones. (2) Operates equipment on state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones. (3) Performs any related maintenance work,
as required, on state highway infrastructures in highway work zones. 243.65. (a) When a battery is committed against the person of a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties and the person committing the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars ($2,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (b) As used in this section, "highway worker" means an employee or contractor of the Department of Transportation who does one or more of the following: (1) Performs maintenance, repair, or construction of state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones. (2) Operates equipment on state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones. (3) Performs any related maintenance work, as required, on state highway infrastructures in highway work zones.

Most information in your license file is open to the public. Law enforcement agencies, insurance companies and others check hundreds of thousands of driver records each year. Physical or mental condition of a driver are not public. Copies are available on request from DMV for a fee, with a valid reason. Public records of minor traffic convictions and collisions are kept for 3 years. (More serious convictions are kept up to 10 years). Some laws affect availability of the public record, and how and by whom it may be accessed. Your private record is only available to the DMV, courts, and police.
"Lucky" Walter Crashalot is driving the new Dodge Dart he just won on "Press Your Buck". He loves his new auto and in particular he loves his new sound system. The only problem is that he can't figure out how to turn it on. Walter quickly remembers that he brought his portable radio and headphones with him. Should Walt put on the headphones while driving? Is it legal? Lucky for "Lucky" he remembered that earphones are illegal for all autos, motorcycles, and bicycles. The Volume level of radios may not be so loud as to interfere with normal driving either. Certain high-noise vehicles and emergency vehicle drivers are exempted as per the California Vehicle Code. Good for him for remembering!

But unfortunately, Walt was too involved with the smell of his new auto to notice the car in front of him. Crashalot rear-ends the lawful driver in front of him and causes some bent metal to both cars. "Lucky" Walter wasn't so lucky this time, but what should he do? Should he leave his car and walk home or should he stick around and exchange insurance information? What does he legally have to do?

Well, Walter must remain at the scene of the crash and exchange insurance information. If there is any property damage in excess of $750 then he needs to report it to the DMV within 10 days. Of course, Walt should also determine if there were any injuries to the parties involved and if so, they should be reported to the police or CHP within 24 hours.

**TAKE QUIZ**