

DRIVER EDUCATION FORUM

5/10/2007



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CRASHES



- ◆ **Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people ages 16 through 24 years old.**

FATALS

- ◆ **The fatality rate for young drivers 16 through 19 years old is about 4 times as high as the rate for drivers 25 through 69 years old.**



General statistics

- **Each child born today can expect to live, on an average to 78 yrs old.**
- **1 out of every 90 will die violently in a motor vehicle crash.**
- **NJ averages 2 deaths per day.**
- **More than half of all deaths involving crashes of 16-17 yrs olds occur when passengers u/20 are being transported without adults in the vehicle**



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE FATALITIES?

- ◆ **How can you help?**
- ◆ **What is the most important issue that we can teach?**
- ◆ **What about the parents guide? Use as a tool in your schools and have parents sign it.**



SEATBELTS #1



- ◆ **Encourage the use of wearing a seatbelt and tell the driver to encourage all passengers!**
- ◆ **NHTSA study found males were less likely to wear seatbelts.**
- ◆ **Age group 16-24 year olds were less likely to buckle up.**

Pre-Operation Checks

Exterior of Vehicle

- ◆ **Lights – clean and all operational**
- ◆ **Mirrors – clean and operational**
- ◆ **Tires – pressure, damage, tread**
- ◆ **Windshield and Wipers**



Pre-Operation Checks

Interior of Vehicle

- **Adjust seat and headrest**
- **Fasten seatbelt**
- **Adjust mirrors**
- **Adjust climate control**
- **Secure all loose objects**
- **Start engine, check all gauges**



Proper Driving Position

- ◆ **Sit upright in the seat**
- ◆ **Pull the seatbelt tight**
- ◆ **Brace yourself with your left leg**



Distracted Driving



Common Distractions:

- #1 is changing the radio/CD
- Unknown Destination
- Multi-tasking
- Cell phone
- Be aware distracted drivers around you.
- Makeup



Driving Tips



◆ Scan the road ahead

■ Highway

- Constantly check mirrors, blind spots
- Try to anticipate other vehicle actions – “what if?”

■ City

- At intersections, scan right, left and ahead
- Cover the brake through intersections and when passing hazards

Driving Tips

- ◆ Following Distance
- ◆ Use the three-second + rule to determine safe distance.



Driving Tips

◆ Stopping Distance

- Perception distance + Reaction distance + Braking distance = Stopping distance
- ◆ At 55 mph, 140 ft + 60 ft + 144 ft = 344 ft
- ◆ At 65 mph, 440 ft
- ◆ By covering the brake, you can reduce or eliminate the reaction distance (60 ft at 55 mph.)

Driving Conditions



◆ Weather

- Use common sense
- Reduce speed
- Increase following distance

Driving Conditions

◆ Road Surface

- Be aware of changing road surface conditions.
 - Dirt roads
 - Weather-related
 - Blind curves



Driving Conditions

◆ Daytime Lighting

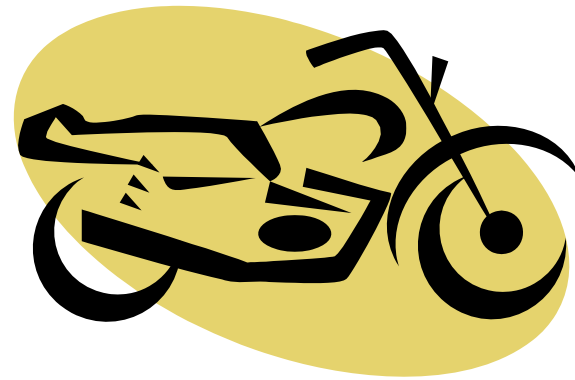
- Use sunglasses and visors for bright sun.

◆ Nighttime Lighting

- Look down to road and roadway lines rather than at oncoming lights.
- Use rearview mirror night setting
- Use high beams when necessary
- Adjust your speed to the range of the headlights (don't overdrive)

OTHER HIGHWAY USERS

- ◆ **Trucks-fully loaded @ 60mph=nearly 10 million lbs of force.**
- ◆ **Motorcycles-stop in a shorter distance.**
- ◆ **Pedestrians, scooters, bicyclists- know where they should be traveling.**



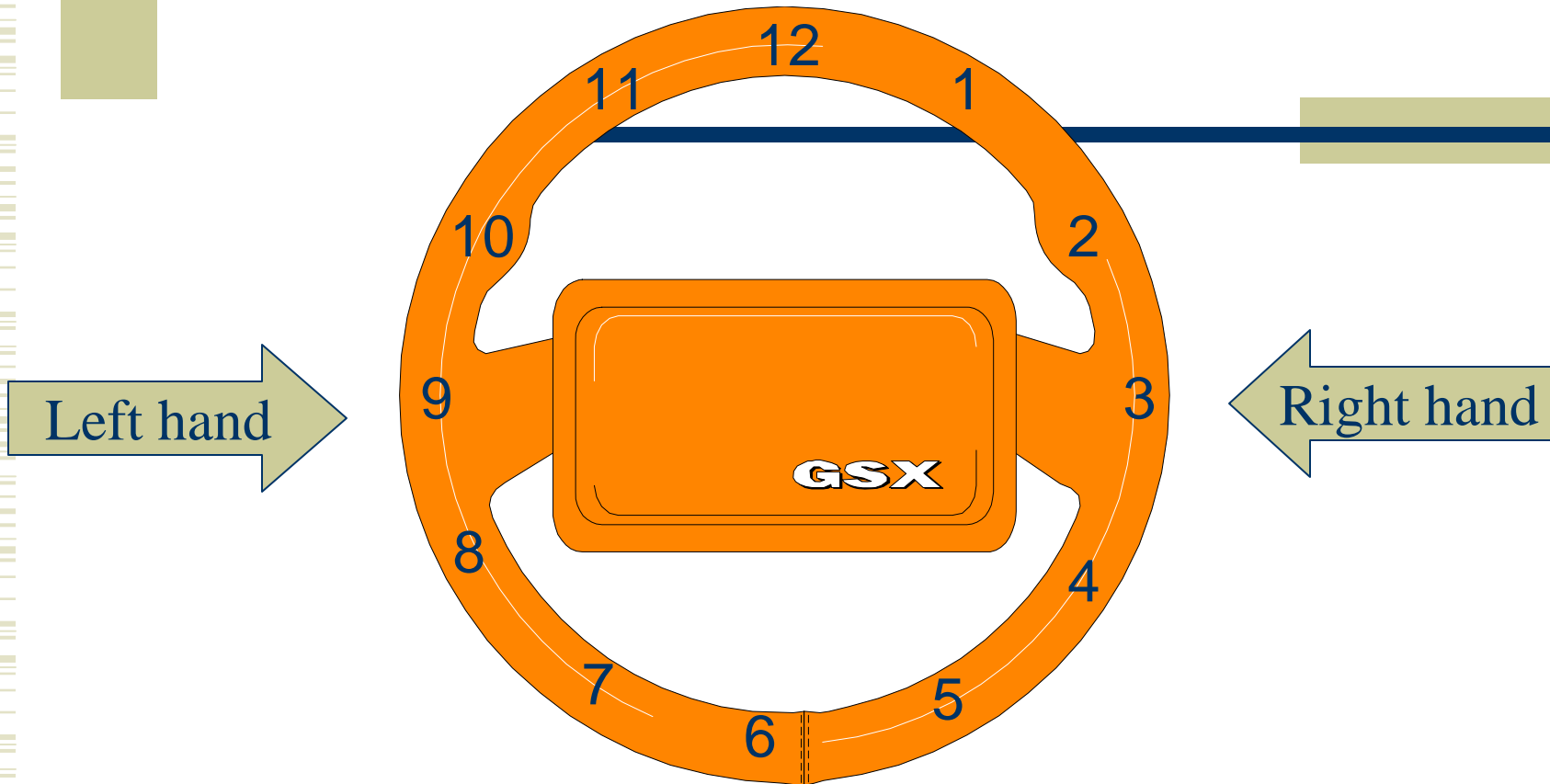
Driving Conditions

◆ Traffic

- Teach driver that different times of the day will make it more stressful.
- Traffic back-ups and heavy merges = **HIGH CRASHES**



3 & 9 Hand Position



Light pressure with fingers

Firm pressure with thumbs

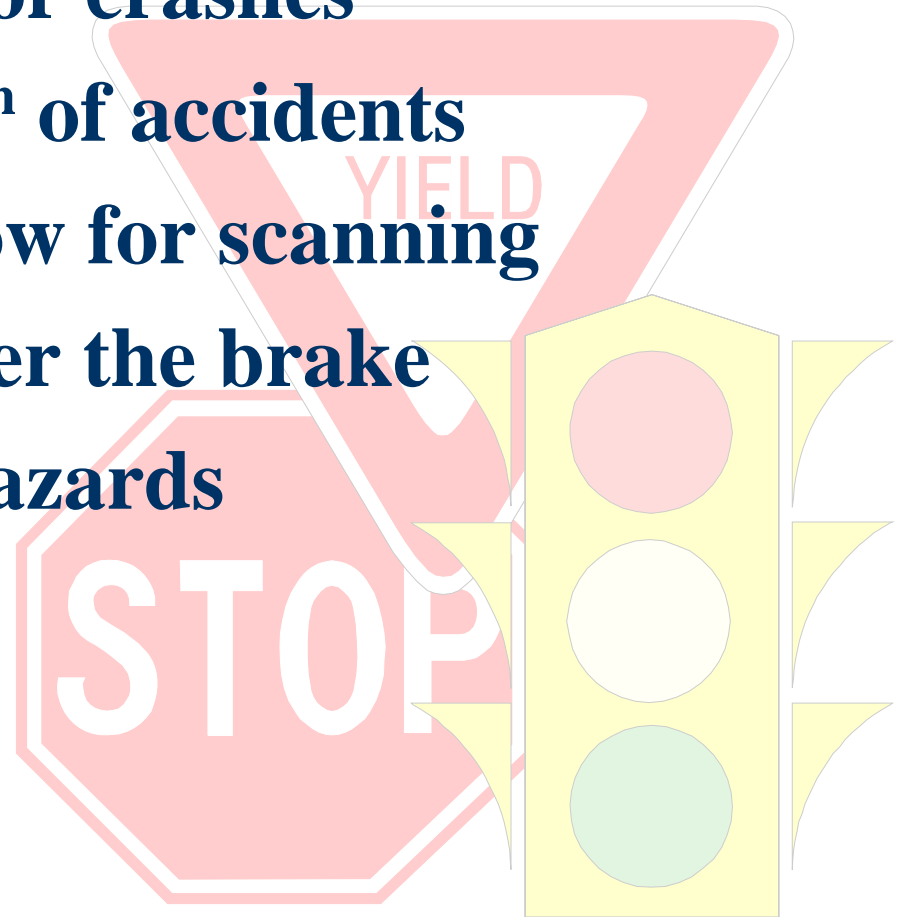
Emergency & Evasive Driving Techniques

Move to right, away from oncoming traffic

- **Drive off the road if necessary**
- **Maintain control by not skidding**
- **Hit an object that will absorb energy**
- **If you can choose, hit something**
 - going in the same direction rather than stationary
 - stationary rather than oncoming
- **Never hit anything head-on, use a sideswipe if possible**

Negotiating Intersections

- ◆ **Common location for crashes**
- ◆ **Approximately 1/5th of accidents**
- ◆ **Adjust speed to allow for scanning**
- ◆ **Slow down and cover the brake**
- ◆ **Look & listen for hazards**





Unregulated Intersections

- ◆ An intersection that does not have any traffic control devices
- ◆ When two vehicles enter from two roads at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right
- ◆ Do not take this for granted

Teaching the GDL to new drivers



- ◆ What is the purpose of the GDL law?
- ◆ To reduce young drivers exposure to crash risks and to save lives!

Enforcement of the GDL laws

- ◆ **Must have probable cause to stop the motor vehicle.**
- ◆ **Cannot “guess” the age of the driver by looking at a passing vehicle.**
- ◆ **Can summons the GDL holder as well as the “adult” supervisor.**
- ◆ **Fines do not adequately address violation for the new driver.**





PROVISIONAL DL

- ◆ **17 yrs and older and up – all restrictions apply.**
- ◆ **21 and older driver or passenger – no restriction for passenger nor hours driven.**

OTHER ISSUES WITH PROVISIONAL DL



- ◆ **Other passenger over 21 doesn't have to have valid DL!**
- ◆ **Can operate with bona fide employment or religious activity note.**

CRASH RISK



- ◆ **Highest crash risk is at lifetime high during the first 12-24 months of driving.**
- ◆ **We can make a difference if we save one life.**

