

DRIVER SAFETY CHECK-UP



Mixing up a serious message with a quiz that's fun and offers a prize can help drivers keep safety in mind at all times.

It's likely that most fleets have a safety program. And, it's just as likely that these fleets have spread the safety message to their drivers.

While this message has probably gotten through, it is always good to review and give drivers a "safety check-up."

One of the most effective, interactive (and fun) ways to do this is to include a quiz in the company newsletter, Intranet, or Facebook page — with a prize (for getting the most number of correct answers) as a motivation to participate.

Below is a sample safety quiz that can help jump start an interactive safety program.

Safety Quiz

1 It's late at night and you notice a vehicle behind you making erratic movements, such as tailgating, veering from side-to-side, and using high beam headlights. You determine that the driver is probably impaired:

- a. Accelerate quickly to get far enough ahead to avoid contact.
- b. Pull into the next lighted public area off the street and report the driver to the police.
- c. Turn at the next corner and hope the impaired driver goes straight.
- d. Touch your brake to alert the other driver to not follow so closely.

2 If you experience a blowout at highway speeds, you should:

- a. Brake hard and steer to the right.
- b. Maintain control, take your foot off the gas, and coast to the shoulder.
- c. Maintain control and continue driving to the nearest service station.
- d. Brake hard but continue driving at a slower speed to the next exit.

3 An accident has occurred immediately in front of your vehicle on a crowded, multi-lane highway:

- a. Steer into another lane immediately before braking.
- b. Brake hard and hold your position until the vehicle stops.
- c. Pump your brakes and steer off the highway.
- d. Brake hard and move into another lane.

4 You're driving at 45 mph on a rural, two-lane road that has a double yellow center line. As you approach a gentle curve to the left, an oncoming car is passing a truck and is partially in your lane, forcing your right-side wheels onto the road shoulder:

- a. Turn the steering wheel quickly to the left to regain the road surface.
- b. Step on the brakes hard to slow down as fast as possible.
- c. Take your foot off the gas, continue to leave your right wheels off the road as long as it is safe, and allow the vehicle to slow down to a more controllable speed before attempting to return to the roadway.
- d. Accelerate and steer gently to the left to regain the road surface.

5 You're accelerating down the ramp prior to entering a crowded expressway when you notice the vehicle in the right lane is speeding up to get ahead of you:

- a. Increase your speed to get onto the expressway faster.
- b. Back off, using your brakes, and wait for another opportunity.
- c. Slow down by driving in the shoulder area and as soon as the driver is ahead of you, accelerate and pull in behind the vehicle.
- d. Use your lights and horn to help establish your position in the lane.

6 The vehicle immediately ahead of you starts to skid sideways on a multi-lane overpass and will probably end up spinning all the way around since the driver has lost control of the vehicle:

- a. Hit the brakes hard to stop as quickly as possible.
- b. Brake gently and move to another lane.
- c. Take your foot off the gas pedal and steer gently toward the right shoulder.
- d. Accelerate quickly and change lanes to go around the car.

7 You are approaching a four-way intersection with a flashing red light and stop signs at each corner. Another vehicle is about to stop to your immediate right:

- a. Accelerate immediately through the intersection to take advantage of the situation.
- b. Stop completely and allow the other driver the right-of-way to proceed.
- c. Stop completely, then immediately move into the intersection.
- d. Establish eye contact, honk your horn, and proceed into the intersection.

8 You should check the air pressure in your tires regularly, but when and how often?

- a. Anytime you stop to get fuel.
- b. When you change your oil.
- c. Once a week in the morning, or at least before the tires have had time to heat up.
- d. I thought that's what TPMS was for!

9 For proper vehicle control, your hands should be placed in which of the following positions?

- a. One arm outside the window and the other arm draped over the top of the steering wheel.
- b. One hand at the bottom of the steering wheel, while the other is holding your cell phone.

c. One hand at the nine o'clock position, the other at the three o'clock position.

d. Both hands holding the center crossbar on the steering wheel.

10 When the left-turn signal at an intersection has a green arrow, you may not make your turn when it switches to green even though there is oncoming traffic:

a. True.

b. False.



Quiz Answers

1. b. Your safety at this point is of primary concern. Pull into the nearest lighted public area and either use your cell phone or a public telephone to call the police.

2. b. Whether your blowout is in the front or rear, the first order of business is to maintain control of the vehicle. To do this, take your foot off the gas and let the vehicle slow naturally. Once you have the vehicle under control, head for the shoulder before attempting repairs.

3. b. For vehicles equipped with ABS brakes, hit the brakes hard and keep them depressed until you stop or, at least, until your speed is slow enough to safely steer around the accident vehicles.

4. c. Lift your foot from the gas and let the vehicle slow down before you try to return to the roadway. At 45 mph, a fast movement of the steering wheel may send you straight across the road, into oncoming traffic or a ditch.

5. c. The defensive driver will slow down, and use the full extent of the entry lane, plus right shoulder if necessary, to allow the other driver time to establish a position ahead.

6. c. Since you can't be certain where the skidding car will eventually stop, the best strategy is to take your foot off the gas and steer to the right shoulder. Coming to an abrupt halt could cause a rear-end collision. For that reason, the best defensive driving tactic is to slow down, increase following distance, and move toward the shoulder area.

7. b. The laws in all states are consistent: The driver of the vehicle to your immediate right has the legal right-of-way at any four-way intersection controlled by either a flashing red light or stop sign.

8. c. Air expands when heated and tires certainly can get very warm after being driv-

en for a while. Therefore, the most accurate air pressure reading is before you begin driving. By making this check a weekly routine, you can watch for any undue tire wear or sidewall damage.

9. c. Both hands on the steering wheel will provide you with greater control and safety. Placing the left hand in the nine o'clock position, while the right hand is in the three o'clock position on the wheel, offers the best

steering control in all circumstances.

10. b. False. Unless there are local prohibitions to the contrary, the only time you must wait at a left-turn light occurs when the left turn is governed by both a green arrow light and a red stop light. Otherwise a left turn, after the green arrow light has gone off, is legal as long as it is done safely and during the green cycle of the main intersection light.

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