



Driver Safety For Service Mechanics

I. START-UP/BACK-UP

Objective: To prevent start-up/back-up accidents by anticipating the hazards involved and knowing how to safely control them.

- A. Walk around vehicle and look underneath to ensure you have safe clearance for start-up.
- B. Check vehicle ladder & materials racks for security.
- C. Use warning flag to mark end of ladder/materials hanging over the top of the truck.
- D. Check blind area on right and in front as well.
- E. After your walk-around check, don't delay in moving vehicle. Do not allow time for another hazard to approach.
- F. Check mirrors for proper adjustment frequently.
- G. Start up slowly at first to allow other vehicles and pedestrians, who may have unexpectedly approached, to safely move away.
- H. Tap horn in congested areas or recruit a signalman.
- I. Ensure that all passengers have buckled their seatbelts properly.

II. DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Objective: To prevent accidents by trying to anticipate hazardous situations and adjusting driver behavior to compensate.

- A. Learn to recognize driving situations that can be hazardous.
- B. Assume other drivers will make errors.
- C. Adjust speed, position, direction and attention to be able to maneuver safely if a hazard develops.
- D. Scan far enough ahead to be able to react safely to approaching situations.
- E. Scan frequently to the side and rear for passing or approaching vehicles.
- F. Scan thoroughly before changing speed or direction.

III. RIGHT-OF-WAY

Objective: To prevent accidents by drivers giving "right-of-way" until it is apparent that right-of-way is being given by the other driver.

- A. Do not force other drivers to brake or steer because of your obstructive maneuver into their path.
- B. Assume other drivers will not see you and avoid you when you maneuver into their path.

- C. Move into your intended path or direction only after you are assured you will not conflict with other traffic

IV. PASSING

Objective: To prevent accidents during passing by anticipating the hazards involved and knowing how to safely avoid them.

- A. Before you pass, check to be certain no one is passing you.
- B. Assume the driver in front of you doesn't know you are passing. That driver may pull to the left to pass a vehicle in front or make a left turn.
- C. While you are passing, watch carefully for vehicles that may be entering the roadway from side roads or driveways.
- D. Assume vehicles approaching from the opposite direction will not see you or slow down for you to complete your passing maneuver.
- E. Watch out for vehicles passing other vehicles from the opposite direction.
- F. If the vehicle you are trying to pass speeds up, let it go. Don't get into a dangerous race.
- G. Don't take risks. If in doubt, don't pass.
- H. Signal your intentions to pass.

V. USING AND CHANGING LANES

Objective: To prevent accidents during lane use and lane changing by recognizing the potential hazards and knowing how to safely control them.

- A. The most important rule in lane usage is to maintain a safe following distance. Use any method you feel comfortable with. Just try to ensure that if the driver in front of you slams on his brakes, you can avoid a collision, stay in your lane and not be hit by the vehicle following you all at the same time.
- B. Try to scan ahead of what is immediately in front of you.
- C. If you see trouble ahead, flash your brake lights to alert drivers following you.
- D. If you cannot see ahead of the vehicle you are following, increase your following distance.
- E. It might swerve into the next lane to avoid a slow or stopped vehicle and leave you exposed to a rear-end collision.
- F. Blind spots to the right of large vehicles are well known. However, automobile drivers may not know you cannot see them as they pass you on the right. Scan to the right thoroughly before steering into the next lane. Give right-of-way, don't take it.
- G. Clean mirrors and check adjustment frequently.

VI. PARKING

Objective: To prevent accidents when parked, by anticipating the hazards involved and knowing how to safely avoid them.

- A. Always try to park your vehicle off the road altogether. Even leaving a small portion of your vehicle on the travel lane creates a serious hazard.
- B. If you pull off onto the shoulder, turn on your flashers day or night. At night, drowsy drivers who see only taillights on your vehicle may follow you onto the shoulder thinking you are still moving.
- C. If a sudden breakdown or other emergency forces you to park on a travel lane, turn on your flashers immediately. Then set up reflective triangles at the proper distances immediately. If you have a CB, call for help. At night, this is an especially hazardous situation for both you and other drivers, be extremely careful.

VII. DRIVING IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Objective: To prevent accidents by developing the driver skills and judgment necessary to operate vehicle safely during adverse traction and visibility conditions.

- A. Reduced traction conditions:
 - 1. Increase following distance enough to avoid a rear-end collision if other driver brakes hard.
 - 2. Use moderation in judging safe speed. To maintain a safe stopping distance, slow down, but not so much that you become a hazard to drivers behind.
 - 3. Apply brakes gently and steer without jerky movements.
 - 4. Beware of traveling too slowly on slick, banked curves. The vehicle might slide sideways into opposing traffic or off the road.
- B. Reduced visibility conditions:
 - 1. Use moderation in judging safe speed. To maintain a safe stopping distance during reduced visibility, slow down, but not so much that you become a hazard to drivers behind. Keep vehicle clean, especially headlights, windshield, taillights. Use emergency flashers in extreme conditions.
 - 2. Be prepared to get off road and wait for conditions to improve if necessary.