

Provo High School Driver and Traffic Safety Education

Behind the Wheel and On the Road

These skills should be practiced by the Teen driver and Parent with a Practice Permit and also reviewed in the Behind the Wheel phase with a certified Driver Education instructor.

RESIDENTIAL DRIVING: Right and Left turns. Stop and Yield signs. Speed Limit. What are the hazards to look out for? Different dangers at different times of day. Turns on green arrows, red lights. Why drive with the lights on? Three-point turns, U turns (residential and intersection), round-a-bouts, parallel parking. Learn how to read the street signs. Check the rear-view mirror when braking.

Turns: Avoid dry steer turning. Have vehicle rolling when steering sharply. CHECK YOUR SHOULDER any time you pull away from the curb. Get through the maneuver quickly. Learn how to proceed through 4-way stop intersections.

U-turns: Residential U turn (curb to curb). Business U turns (inside lane to curb), Intersection U turn (two points for checking on each corner of turn). Signal to and from curb. 3-point turns or Y turns. Know what is behind you. Look for garbage cans, light poles, and mailboxes. Let other drivers know what you are going to do by using the proper signal.

Parking: Angle parking. Parallel parking. Perpendicular or 90` parking. Have straight wheels anytime your vehicle is stopped. Give notice to vehicles behind you (signal all intentions). Up-hill and down-hill parking require your tires to be turned a proper way for safe parking.

Railroad: Always slow down and check when crossing railroad tracks. Some electrical gates may not work. **Look and Listen** when crossing tracks. Know how many tracks your vehicle may need to cross. Never go around gates that are down. It is illegal and dangerous.

Hills: Learn the proper use of gears D1, D2, D3. Parking up and down hill. Brake and roll through dips. Check rear-view mirror whenever you cover your brake. Look for blind driveways and hazardous hill areas with low visibility. Scan and search from curb to curb. Make sure you can see at least 12 seconds ahead around curves. Accelerate and coast in curves and turns when driving canyons and traveling up and down hills. Learn to enter and exit the roadway in the canyon.

City Driving: Learn to keep your speed up in traffic. Keep speed up when turning into fast oncoming traffic. Avoid slowing down in the lane you are turning into. Shoulder checks BEFORE you change lanes. What do you do when approached by emergency vehicles? Keep a three-second space cushion in traffic. Check rear-view mirror when braking. Learn to read street signs. Turns on red lights and Stop signs. Practice driving at the Malls. Controlled and uncontrolled intersections. Practice driving to the grocery store, post office, and Grandma's house. Practice driving to school. Can you figure out how many different routes just in case the road is closed for construction? City driving is different at night. Use night time rear-view mirror adjustment. Driving from a late night drive-in movie with heavy traffic.

Open Highway: Understand that open highway is the most dangerous type of driving. Hazards include: Fast moving freeway speeds. Residential areas with pedestrians, farm animals, bicycle riders, joggers, vehicles turning

on and off the roadway. Business areas turning into residential areas. Two-way traffic with no divider between lanes. Multiple lanes of fast moving traffic. Headlights should be on even in the daytime to alert other drivers of where you are – oncoming traffic can see you better. Traffic lights control speed of movement so you could be traveling at 55 mph and be stopping for a red light. Open highways can be practiced on Geneva Road, going to Springville, even the canyons.

Freeway driving: Practice getting on and off the freeway by using on and off ramps. Metered-lights controlling rush-hour traffic onto freeway. Learn to read the signs. Merge sign awareness. Speed adjustments when entering and exiting the freeway. Proper lane change procedures. Signal, shoulder check/mirror check, accelerate, and move when it's clear. Be able to see the car's front headlights in your rear-view mirror before you pull in front of it, when passing on the left. Keep at least a four second space cushion when traveling on the freeway. Learn to use cruise control, but never use it in heavy freeway driving or at night when you are tired. Be aware of how freeway driving differs at night time versus during the day time. Glare from headlights, animals that may cross the road. Reduce your speed at night time.

Practice changing lanes and driving with semi-trucks. If you cannot see their side mirror, they cannot see you. Stay out of their blind-spots. Avoid lingering next to them or directly behind them. You could pick up a flying rock from their rear tires, or from the load they are carrying. Large semi-trucks need a five-second space cushion behind them. Before changing lanes in front of them, see the pavement in front of their vehicle in your rear-view mirror.

***The pre-drive check is very important every time you get into a vehicle:** Know where your gear selector is, your turn signals, window wipers/washers. Check your fuel gauge, oil and water gauge. Adjust the mirrors. Use daytime mirrors and learn about the night time adjustment. Adjust the side mirrors – you should see a sliver of your car, the full lane next to you, and more sidewalk than sky.

Use a pillow or cushion if you have difficulty seeing over the steering wheel. Learn how to adjust the steering wheel.

Find the park brake. Use the park brake any time you secure the vehicle.

Look for special feature your car may have. Do you have day time driving lights? Does your vehicle alert when an object is behind you? Is your radio properly tuned? Do you have easy access to it? Pre-set stations so your attention is directed at driving and not finding the channel.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY-BELT – IT'S A NO BRAINER!

Parents, you can ensure the success of your student's driving habits by properly training him or her in correct driving skills. If you have any questions about any of the maneuvers that we teach or the concepts that he adhere to in driver training, please feel free to call. We are all in this together to assist these young novice drivers to be SAFE and CONSCIENCIOUS drivers. Require your student to always wear their safety belt. Set a good example yourself. Discuss ROAD RAGE and different ways to avoid it. Above all, practice with your new driver. Have fun.

Practice the following:

- *putting gas in a car
- *underground parking – Provo Mall/Provo Library/Provo Parking Terrace
- *automatic car wash
- *bank – put \$ down the chute
- *fast food drive-through – get a burger/milkshake