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**Defensive Driving – Drive And Survive**

**By Philip Turner**

Defensive Driving techniques are increasingly seen as necessary by professional drivers. There are a lot of unskilled and reckless drivers on our roads today and drivers who drive defensively are less likely to be involved in an accident with one.

What is Defensive Driving? Essentially it is driving your vehicle correctly, while at the same time adjusting your driving to take into account the possible and actual actions of less experienced or more aggressive drivers.

You can do courses in Defensive Driving, and this should be your aim. You can only learn so much by reading.

How do I drive defensively?

1. Expect the unexpected. There may be a runaway horse galloping towards you just around that blind bend. Hey, there was a man killed in Ireland in March 2006 by running into two horses! 2. Expect aggression from other drivers, but avoid reacting to that aggression. 3. Use your mirrors and be aware of everything that is going on around you. 4. Know the dimensions of your car, so that you know exactly how far you can pull over, if necessary. 5. Avoid loud music while you are driving. You need to be aware of everything that is happening to your vehicle and to others on the road around you. 6. Make sure your vehicle is well maintained, with tire pressures set correctly. If your vehicle is well maintained you will be able to adjust your speed more quickly and more safely to traffic and other conditions on the road around you. 7. Driving needs all of your attention, all of the time. Make sure your passengers understand that. Avoid smoking, using the phone, or drinking soda while you are driving.

Look for clues as to what other drivers are going to do.

These clues may be simple ones like the lowered suspension favored by many aggressive drivers, or the direction another driver is looking in.

Look which way the front wheels are turned.

Listen for gear changes that signify another driver is getting ready to accelerate.

Watch the line other drivers take as they approach intersections, it gives you a good indication of where they are going, even if they do not use indicators.

Look out for small children in other vehicles, they may distract the driver at a crucial instant.

Sebastian Romero works in security and drives 30,000 miles a year. Find more articles at

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. Check out

<http://www.defensive-driving-help.info/>

and

<http://www.defensive-driving-services.info/>

for more help on driving safely.

## **Defensive Driving: The Basics**

### **By Robert Thatcher**

It is a fact that though drivers can control most of their actions most of the time, they are totally powerless when it comes to the actions of other drivers. They simply do not know what other drivers on the road are going to do. This is why it is very important for drivers to learn the special skill called defensive driving. So if you want to protect yourself and your loved ones from accident, then it is highly advisable that you take defensive driving courses. Such classes offer a wealth of information when it comes to preventing or fixing road mishaps.

What is defensive driving? Simply put, it is a way of driving where the driver takes every possible precautionary measure in order to prevent accidents or untoward incidents from occurring. Defensive driving is probably the best way to ensure the safety of a driver and his or her passengers,

Below are some of the basics of defensive driving:

Be ready with every possible situation that might happen on the roads. Constant preparedness is

## Defensive Driving – Drive And Survive

probably the best trait of a very good defensive driver. Before driving your car make it a habit to check the tire pressure, and the water, oil and gas levels. It is also important to check the lights and mirrors. It is also wise to make sure that you have all the necessary documents pertaining to your car with you before leaving.

Avoid showing road rage. You should also, as much as possible, avoid other drivers showing signs of road rage. Don't react to the anger of other motorists. Always keep your head cool. The color of your car is very important in defensive driving. You are in a better position if your car is brightly colored. Advantageous colors in defensive are red, orange, yellow or other brightly colored. Because they are easily seen, bright colored cars are less likely to get involved in an accident.

Remember to always use your headlight while night driving. It is very stupid, not to mention illegal, to drive without the headlights on at night.

Always follow the three second rule of driving. According to this rule, a driver must always be at least three seconds of driving time from the driver in front in all conditions. Drivers should be five second behind the driver in front during bad conditions.

Never follow a vehicle, especially big trucks and busses too closely. By doing so, driver will be sure to have perfect visibility.

Always avoid being in the blind side of other drivers. If an accident happens, It is pretty sure that you certainly cannot blame the other party for what has happened.

As much as possible, drive with a companion. This will ensure that someone will be there with you in case something happens.

While on the road, avoid getting close to cars that are broken down or has damages. These cars are most likely run by irresponsible drivers. You can bet that they are not defensive drivers.

The above are just the basics of defensive driving. To know more about defensive driving and how it can save you money, your car and even your life, then consider enrolling in a defensive driving school soon.

These are only a few of the defensive driving rules that are out there. You will find a wide range of them as well as places to take defensive driving classes on the web.

Robert Thatcher is a freelance publisher based in Cupertino, California. He publishes articles and reports in various ezines and provides defensive driving resources on

<http://www.aboutdefensivedriving.info>

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