

Ch 1. You Are The Driver



The Highway Transportation System

H.T.S

- When you drive, you become part of the...
- Highway Transportation System.
- The H.T.S has 3 parts.
- People
- Vehicles
- Roadways



People

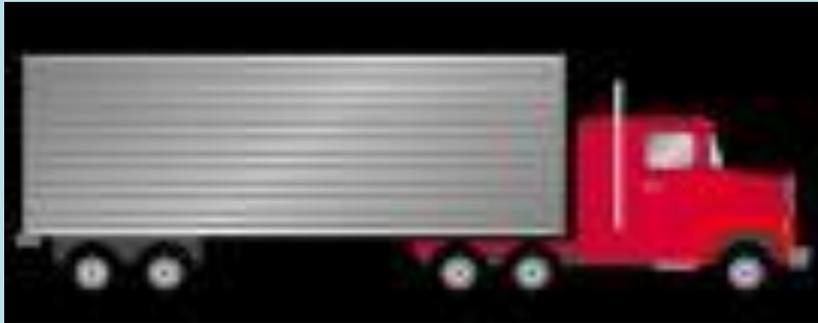
- Roadway users
- Walking, running, driving or riding in a vehicle.





Vehicles

- There is a wide range of vehicles.
- Small – with little protection
- Large trucks weighing many tons



Roadways

- Vary from dirt roads to gravel roads,
- To expressways and everything in-between.
- Some roads are flat,
- Some are hilly,
- Some have sharp turns.



H.T.S

- Purpose of Highway Transportation System?
- To move **people and cargo** from one place to another in a safe, efficient, and economical manner.

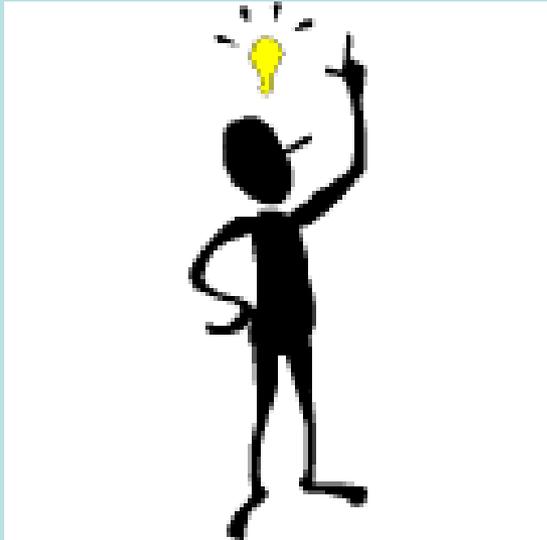


1. Federal Government- establish traffic-safety guidelines.
2. Federal, state and local government agencies help regulate the H.T.S.
3. Federal, state and local governments enforce the guidelines.
4. Courts decide if you are guilty or innocent.



Your Driving Task

- All the skilled actions a person must take to drive safely.
- Includes social
- Physical and
- Mental skills required to drive.



Your Driving Task

- **Social**- interacting and cooperating with others.
- **Physical**- the more you practice = the better you will become.
- **Mental**- decision making
- Safe, low-risk driving is a mental task.

The IPDE Process

- The IPDE Process is a process of seeing, thinking and responding.
- The four steps are:
- Identify
- Predict
- Decide
- Execute

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IPDE Strategy

Remember!

- Drive defensive to protect yourself and others from..
- Dangerous /unexpected changes in your driving environment.
- **DON'T ASSUME OTHERS WILL DO THE RIGHT THING!!!**

Defensive Driving



Zone Control System

- A method for managing the space around your vehicle.
- 6 zones Around your vehicle
- Zones are the width of a lane
- Zones can extend as far as the driver can see.



Your Driving Responsibilities

- Driving is a privilege – not a right.
- Based on the assumption that you will be a responsible driver.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Have a good attitude – avoid road rage, showing off, and negative peer pressure.



Your Driving Responsibilities

- **Attitude-** will guide you as you manage your relationships with others.
- learn safe-driving habits.
- Your mad or bad mood reflects on your driving.

Breakdowns in the H.T.S

- Occur when any part of the system does not work well.
- Your driving ability = major factor in helping you avoid being part of the breakdowns.
- Causes...
- Breaking the law
- Not wearing safety belts
- Not slowing down in adverse weather conditions
- Operating a defective car
- Following other vehicles to close
- Driving after drinking or using drugs
- Driving while tired.
- Traffic etc..
- Major causes of collisions = DRIVER ERROR!

Breakdowns in the HTS

- Difference between **Collision** or **Accident**?
- Accident implies that something happened by chance.
- Most collisions could be prevented.
- 90 to 95% of collisions = **Driver Error**.



Breakdowns in the H.T.S

- #1 cause of collisions are driver inexperience
- #1 cause of deaths for people 16-25 years of age = motor vehicle collisions.



Financial Responsibility

- Fuel costs
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- You are financially responsible by law for any damage or injuries that you cause.



Graduated Driver Licensing Program

- Requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages.
- 1. Learner's Permit Stage.
- 2. Intermediate License Stage.
- 3. Full Privilege Licensing stage.
- **Learning to drive is a continuous process.**
- **Good drivers never stop learning.**