

Defensive Driving Safety Skills

Driving Safety Skills	Description	Example	Applicable Active Safety Systems
Adjusting following distance	Increasing following distance in the presence of hazards or dangerous driving conditions.	Increasing following distance by an additional second when it begins to snow; increasing by another second when large trucks enter the roadway	Adaptive Cruise Control; Forward Collision Warning
Delayed acceleration	Delaying acceleration from a stopped position due to the presence of hazards and/or difficult driving conditions, such as descending a hill.	Delaying one's acceleration when beginning to descend a hill.	Hill Start Assist; Hill Descent Control; Intersection Collision Avoidance
Fatigue and drowsiness	Ensuring you are rested enough to be able to drive safely.	Refraining from driving when one begins to feel as thought they may fall asleep.	Drowsiness and Attention Assist
Headlight adjustments	Ensuring the headlamps are at an appropriate setting to allow you to see the road ahead of you without blinding the drivers of oncoming vehicles.	Turning off the brights when approaching multiple vehicles in the opposite lane.	Advanced Headlamps
Hill - ascending	Understanding the limitations of you vehicle when going up a hill.	Being prepared for vehicle to roll back when starting to go up	Hill Start Assist



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		a hill from a stopped position.	
HIII - descending	Understanding the limitations of you vehicle when going down a hill.	Taking a slow approach down a hill and keeping pressure on the brakes.	Hill Descent Control
Intersections (approach and proceed)	Scanning and reducing acceleration when approaching intersections.	Slowing when approaching a stale green light.	Intersection Collision Avoidance; Intelligent Speed Adaptation and Assistance
Lane changes	Being sure that there is sufficient space between you and the vehicle in the lane you are changing into before changing lanes.	Checking to see the full front tires of a truck in the sideview mirrors before changing into the lane in front of it.	Lane and Road Departure Warning; Lane Keeping Assist; Blind Spot Detection and/or Warning; Lane/Sideview Camera
Mitigating distractions - inside car	Mitigating the risk of being distracted while driving.	Setting up the GPS before beginning a trip.	Health and Workload Monitoring System; Audible Navigation System
Passing safely	Knowing when it is safe to pass a vehicle, and allowing a sufficient amount of distance between your vehicle and the vehicle behind you before passing back into its lane.	Checking to see the full front tires of a truck in the sideview mirrors before passing in front of it.	Lane and Road Departure Warning; Lane Change Warning (as part of Blind Spot Detection and/or Warning); Intelligent Speed Adaptation/Assistance
Scanning	Watching the roadway ahead for potential dangers.	Scanning ahead and seeing a slow-moving vehicle about to turn right into the	Advanced Headlamps; Night Vision (w or w/o Infrared); Intersection Collision Avoidance; Pedestrian Detection; Back-up/Rearview



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		lane ahead of you.	Camera; Lane/Sideview Camera
Sharing road with animals	Scanning the roadway for animals and increasing stopping distance as a result.	Going slower in zones in which there are deer warnings.	Pedestrian Detection (Front and Back); Back- up/Rearview Camera; Back-up Warning System
Sharing road with larger vehicles	Being aware of larger vehicle's blind spots while driving.	Avoiding a large trucks "no zone."	Lane and Road Departure Warning
Sharing road with smaller vehicles	Recognizing that smaller vehicles and motorcycles may enter your blindspot; being aware of the limitations of active safety systems meant to detect other vehicles to your sides.	Double-checking one's blind spot when sharing the road with a motorcyclist.	Lane and Road Departure Warning
Sharing road with pedestrians	Scanning the roadway for pedestrians and increasing stopping distance as a result.	Going slower in school zones.	Pedestrian Detection (Front and Back); Back- up/Rearview Camera; Back-up Warning System
Speed adjustments	Decreasing one's speed when encountering dangerous roadway conditions or other hazards, such as approaching a curve.	Decreasing one's speed when entering a busy urban area with numerous pedestrians.	Adaptive Cruise Control; Curve Speed Warning
Stopping distance	Allowing oneself sufficient amount of distance to stop depending on the roadway conditions.	Allowing oneself additional stopping distance on loose gravel or lightly packed snow.	Forward Collision Warning; Anti-Lock Braking System; Traction Control System; Road Surface Warning



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Turns	Using enough braking force, acceleration and steering pressure to make turns safely.	Taking a slow turn at a sharp curved exit.	Cornering Braking Control; Electronic Stability Control; Active Steering
Vehicle inspections (inside)	Ensuring that the vehicle is distraction-free and free of any potential hazards before beginning to drive.	Ensuring that the vehicle's air conditioning is operational before proceeding through a drive in the desert.	Health and Workload Monitoring System
Vehicle inspections (outside)	Inspecting the condition and safety of the vehicle at set intervals or prior to long trips.	Checking the tires' pressure after it begins to get warm outside after a cold winter.	Tire Pressure Monitoring System
Visibility adjustments	Adjusting side-view mirrors, head restraint and rearview mirror prior to every driving trip to ensure you have optimal viewing angles of the roadway behind you; ensuring your windshield is clear of debris prior to driving so that you have a clear view of the roadway ahead of you.	Changing the windshield wipers for snowy weather.	Advanced Headlamps