Unit Six: Driving Faster with More Risk
Objectives For Unit Six

- Students will be able to describe the skills necessary to safely and legally drive on urban, suburban, and rural roads.

- Space Management
- S.E.E.
- Steering

- Students will also be able to evaluate the inherent risks of these types of roads and determine how distraction will impact those risks.

- Students will be able to describe the types of vehicles typically found on urban, suburban, and rural roads and what laws apply to those vehicles and railroad safety.

- What hazards might a new driver see in an urban area?
- What hazards might a new driver see in a suburban area?
- What hazards might a new driver see in a rural area?
- What should a driver do at a railroad track?
What Is The Impact Of Distraction?
Bright Lights, Big City, & Risky Driving

What are the potential risks?

- Public Buses that may stop unexpectedly
- Work Zones
- Commercial Vehicles
Urban Roads: Narrow, Congested Roads

What are the risks of this narrow, congested road?

- Parked cars
- People crossing the street between cars without looking carefully
- Limited ways to avoid crashes or change direction in an emergency
- Traffic
- Alleys
Risk Factors On Urban Roads

Mixed use roads: why are they risky?
- People coming and going to work
- People coming and going home
- People coming and going to shop
- Children coming and going to school
- People doing the unexpected all the time

What if the driver in the white car was distracted or speeding?
Pedestrians: The Risks

- According to a recent study, up to 50% of pedestrians who crossed against the light were distracted.
- A pedestrian is killed, on average, every two hours on American roads.
Pedestrians: The Law

- Pedestrians have the right-of-way at street crossings.
- They must obey traffic signals.
- A driver must yield to hearing, sight, or mobility impaired pedestrians in the crosswalk.
Why Search Is So Important......

Hit by a vehicle traveling at 20 MPH: 9 out of 10 pedestrians survive.

Hit by a vehicle traveling at 30 MPH: 5 out of 10 pedestrians survive.

Hit by a vehicle traveling at 40 MPH: Only 1 out of 10 pedestrians survive.
Urban Roads: A Variety Of Vehicles

- Buses
- Cars and Light Trucks
- Commercial Trucks
- Delivery Trucks
- Bicycles
- Motorcycles
- Emergency Vehicles
Emergency and Service Vehicles

- Tow Trucks and Service Vehicles
- Fire Truck
- Law Enforcement
- Ambulances
Emergency and Service Vehicles: The Law

- Emergency vehicles always have the right of way when using lights or sirens.

- When an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind, a driver must move as close as possible to the edge of the road and stop until it passes.

- If you are going in the same direction as the emergency vehicle, you may not pass it unless it stops or you are directed to do so by law enforcement.

- If an emergency vehicle, tow truck, or other service vehicle is pulled over to the side of the road, you must either “move-over” one lane or slow down to a safe speed.
Urban Driving: Alleys

- Alleys create additional “entry points” onto roads.
- Vehicles may unexpectedly appear to merge onto a main road.
- Drivers should expect the unexpected.
Why My Horn Doesn’t Help?

What to do:
- Traffic is part of urban driving.
- Stay calm.
- Pay attention.
- Stay focused.

What NOT to do:
- Don’t honk your horn.
- Don’t get mad.
- Don’t yell at other drivers.
Urban Driving

What Will A Driver Have To Do?

- Navigate One Way Streets.
- Navigate Through Complicated Intersections.
- Make Right Turns On Red.
- Parallel Parking.
One Way Streets

- One way streets are frequently found in urban areas.
- Indicated by a black and white regulatory sign that shows the direction of traffic flow.
- May also have a red Do Not Enter sign or Wrong Way sign
Intersections: Why Are They Risky?

Intersections – multiple “conflict points”

- Places where vehicles, pedestrians, and other road users may all be at the same time.
- Conflict points pose the greatest risks for crashes.
- High number of conflict points make it challenging for a driver to effectively search and evaluate all possible paths of travel.
- High number of conflict points make it likely that the road may change quickly and frequently.
Urban Driving: Intersections
Intersections: Search

Searching Constantly: Critical To Safe Driving In Intersections

Are there parked cars around you?  
Is there a bike lane?

What are the road signs telling you?  
Who is at the crosswalk?

Who is next to you?  
Who is behind you?
Intersections: Evaluate

Balance what you want to do & what you can do.

Is that really going to happen?
Intersections: Evaluate Successfully
Intersections: Execute

- Select the best lane of traffic.
- Signal if necessary.
- Continuously search and evaluate the safety of your course of action.
- Yield to pedestrians and other vehicles if necessary.
- Allow for appropriate following and stopping distance.
- Be sure to stay in your lane.
- Maintain your lane position.
- Continue to search even as you go through the intersection.
Making A Right Turn

- Search for any pedestrians & bicycles in your path.
- Signal your intent to turn at least 100 feet ahead of intersection.
- Check for any signs or traffic signals.
- Come to a complete stop.
- Follow process for turning.
Making Right Turn on Red

- Need to search EXTREMELY carefully.
- Evaluate carefully all possible actions.
- Check for any signs.
- Need to stop and search again before making turn.
- Does a driver HAVE TO MAKE a right on red?
Making A Left Turn

Search
- What are the possible risks for the red car to make a left turn?

Evaluate
- What are the possible courses of action?
Intersections: Making Left Turns

- **Execute**
  - Yield to any oncoming traffic.
  - Search.
  - Check for any signs restricting left turns.
  - Signal at least 100 feet in advance.
  - Adjust lane position.
  - Reduce speed.
  - Continue to search:
    - Crosswalk
    - Bike paths
    - Path of travel
    - Intended destination
  - Begin turn when your front wheels are at the center of the intersection.
  - Turn wheel counter-clockwise.
  - Accelerate through turn until car is in line with your new path of travel.
  - Stay in your lane.
  - Complete turn by reversing steering process.
  - Turn off signal if necessary.
Intersections: Shared Left Turn Lanes

What two things can be done in a shared left turn lane?
• Turn left from a highway.
• Turn left onto a highway.

What are the arrows telling a driver he/she can do?
Intersections: Shared Left Turn Lanes

Search
- Check oncoming traffic.

Evaluate
- Is this a safe action to take?
- Signal, check mirrors, and left blind spot.

Execute
- Move into shared lane.
- Proceed when clear.
- Do not drive in these lanes for long distances.
- Do not use them for passing other vehicles.
Urban Roads: Parallel Parking

Search
- What is beside you and behind you?
- Check for other road users.
- Remember to check your mirrors.
- Remember a head check.

Evaluate
- Do you have enough room?
Urban Roads: Parallel Parking

Execute

- Position your vehicle next to the car in front of your spot.
- Check mirrors continuously throughout process.
- Shift to reverse and search again.
- Turn steering wheel to the right.
- Look over right shoulder and back slowly.
- When your back left bumper is aligned with the middle of the car behind you, turn the wheel in proper direction.
- Continue to back up slowly, straightening steering wheel.
- When both the front and back of your vehicle aligns with the vehicles in front of and in back of you, you are in the spot.
Parallel Parking
Parallel Parking: Mistakes

- Failing to signal.
- Not getting close enough (or too close) to the vehicle in front of you.
- Hitting the curb as you are backing up.
- Hitting the car in front of or in back of yours.
- Failing to check mirrors.
- Failing to signal when entering or exiting spot.
Suburban Driving
What Is A Suburban Road?

- **Suburban roads**
  - Large roads, usually 3 or 4 lanes going in each direction.
  - Speed limits are usually between 30-55 mph.
  - May connect smaller developments to larger more populated areas.
  - Have many entrance and exit points for shops, malls, neighborhoods, and restaurants.
  - Have larger and more complicated intersections.
  - May also have significant traffic congestion.
Suburban Roads: Risks

- Many of the same risk groups as in urban areas.
  - Variety of road users
  - Traffic and congestion
- Roads are larger and higher speed than in urban areas.
- Intersections are more complicated.
- Many entry and exit points along road:
  - Drivers going from neighborhoods or parking lots onto roads with speeds of 30-55.

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Tasks On Suburban Roads: Yielding

- **What is a yield?**
  - It does not necessarily mean to stop.
  - It means to slow down and prepare to allow another driver to go in front of you.
  - You may also have to stop to let another vehicle in front of you.
  - There are laws for determining which vehicle must yield for another vehicle.
    - This is also called right-of-way.
Yielding: Who Has Right-Of-Way?

You should be prepared to yield:

- To a driver is at or arrives before you at the intersection,
- To a driver in the opposing traffic lane if you are making a left turn,
- To a driver on your right, if both of you arrive at the intersection at the same time, and
- To a driver on a public road if you are entering the highway from a driveway or a private road.

Or here...

If you do not want to yield, you may end up sitting here.
Rural Roads: Trains, Tractors, And Deer
Rural Roads: Risk Factors

- Trains
- Animals
- Curved roads with limited visibility
- Limited shoulder areas
- Higher speeds with no barriers
Trains

- Most dangerous crossing without warning lights or gates.
- Trains can take 1-3 miles to stop.
- Look and listen for trains when approaching tracks.
- Never go under or around a railroad gate.
- Never stop on railroad tracks.
- Be especially alert after dark.
Rural Roads: Deer

- Usually see them at dawn and dusk.
- Peak deer season is from October to January.
- Most frequently found on the outskirts of town and in heavily wooded areas.
- Deer almost never travel alone. If you see one deer, others are near.
How To Avoid A Crash With A Deer

- SLOW DOWN, especially at dawn or dusk.

- Look for the shine of eyes along the roadside.

- Use your high beams whenever the road is free of oncoming traffic.

- Deer can become mesmerized by steady, bright lights. If you see one on the road, slow down and flash your lights.

- Pay close attention to warning signs indicating deer.

- If you are on a multi-lane road, drive in the center lane to give as much space to grazing deer as possible.
Never swerve to avoid a deer.

Don’t rely on gadgets to scare off deer.

Call 911 if injured.

Never touch an animal that is in the roadway.

Report the incident to your insurance company.
Rural Roads: Winding & Narrow

No divider between lanes

Limited Visibility

Limited shoulder space
Pass With Care

Prepare to pass- Why do you want to?

Search

• What is around you in all directions?
• Why is it especially critical to SEARCH?

Evaluate

• Estimate the space & time needed to pass.
• Position yourself two to three seconds behind the vehicle you want to pass.
• Check mirrors and oncoming traffic.
• Check ahead for safe passing distance.
• Signal your intentions.
Passing: Execute

Overtake the ongoing car
• Signal your intention and accelerate into passing lane.
• Accelerate quickly to an appropriate speed, but do not exceed the posted speed limit.
• Concentrate on the path ahead.
• Check your mirror for following cars.

Return to lane
• Check your rear-view mirror for the front of the car you are passing.
• Signal your intention.
• Change lanes and maintain speed.
• Cancel turn signal.
Passing Procedures: True/False

- Always check ahead for a safe passing distance before being passed **✓**
- It is safe to pass on the crest of a hill. **✗**
- Drivers may not pass when there is a solid yellow line on their side of the roadway. **✓**
- It is legal to pass within 100 feet of a railroad crossing. **✗**
- You can pass within 100 feet of a tunnel or an intersection. **✗**
- You should always do a "head check" before passing. **✓**
Passing Procedures: True/False

- Before passing, you should position your vehicle 5 to 6 seconds behind the vehicle to be passed. ❌

- You should be able to see the headlights of the car that you passed in your rearview mirror before you return to your lane after passing. ✔️

- When moving into the passing lane, you may accelerate but may not exceed the speed limit. ✔️

- Cancel your turn signal after passing. ✔️

- The driver whose vehicle is being passed may speed up while being passed, making passing more difficult. ✔️
Review For Unit Six

- What are the significant risks of neighborhood driving, and how can a driver address them?
- What are the significant risks of suburban driving and how can a driver address them?
- What are the significant risks of rural driving and how can a driver address them?
- Why are intersections dangerous for drivers?
- What is a shared left turn lane and how can a driver use them?
- What steps a driver need to take to make a right turn on red?
- What are some of the common mistakes a driver can make when parallel parking?