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DRIVING SAFETY | STAYING ALERT

Get Defensive

Since you share the roadways with so many other drivers, it's critical to keep your head in the game as you commute.

Even if you're the safest driver in the world, the actions of others can impact your drive in a negative way. Defensive driving is key to making sure you protect yourself and your passengers. Here are a few quick tips to become a better defensive driver.

PUT AWAY THE DEVICE

There's nothing smart about using your smartphone while driving. Talking on the phone or texting serve as major distractions that can divert your attention from the road.

Rather than have your device in your lap or in your hands, give it over to a friend or put it in the glovebox for your commute. If you need navigation for your trip, mount your phone to the dashboard so you can keep your hands free.

There are Bluetooth products on the market that can help equip your car with the latest and greatest connectivity capabilities if it isn't outfitted. Ask your local car detailer or electronics company for options that may be right for your vehicle.

SLOW DOWN

Tens of thousands of people

die every year due to speeding. By simply following the speed limit posted on busy highways and roads, you can ensure a safer commute. Do not feel like you need to keep up with the flow of traffic if it makes you uncomfortable. Stay safely in the right lane to avoid being

distracted by faster drivers weaving in and out of their lanes. Remember that defensive driving is all about paying more attention to drivers around you.

WATCH THE SHOULDERS

Always be prepared to move

to a left lane if someone is pulled over on the shoulder of the road. It is illegal in many states to stay in the right lane if a police officer or emergency vehicle is parked on the shoul-

Stay defensive around other drivers who may wait until the

last minute to swerve into a left lane. They may see the emergency vehicle at the last minute and be forced to make a quick decision. Be mindful of how other drivers may react to certain situations and you'll increase your chances of staying safe on the roads.

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