Driving in Urban Traffic

Adjusting to Urban Traffic
Traffic Complexity

- 2 main factors make city driving difficult.
- #1 Traffic is more dense, more cars, buses, trucks and pedestrians per mile.
- #2 City Traffic hazards are closer to you and can quickly block your path.
How can you adjust to complex situations?

- Focus on Driving........
- not on...Cell phones, music, others in the car
- Slow down and give yourself more time and space.
Number of Hazards

- Time, Distance and Speed.
- Remember it takes time to use IPDE Process.
- Driving in city= dealing with…
- Many situations at the same time
- Closed Zones
- Line of sight restrictions.
I'M TOTALLY DISTRACTED

Absent Minded Drivers
- Stay off the phone when you are driving or use a hands free device.
- Let the cell phone take a message or pull over to talk.
Mile for mile, city roads have highest number/variety of hazards

It takes time to see, react and adjust (IPDE) to hazards
Following and Meeting Traffic

- An adequate following distance has these advantages…
- You can see further ahead to get the big picture
- Others can see you better
- You have more time to use IPDE process
- Better position to avoid the car ahead if it stops suddenly.
3-second following distance

- Provides a safe space cushion from the vehicle ahead in most normal driving conditions.
How do you check your following distance?
When do you increase your following distance?

- If you are driving behind a truck
- Carrying a heavy load or pulling a trailer
- Following a motorcycle
- Traction is poor
- You have a tailgater
- You are an inexperienced driver or learning to drive.
- The driver ahead seems unsure
Why do you increase your following distance when a tailgater is behind you?
Managing Tailgaters

- Tailgaters are hazards!!!!
- If you slow or stop, do it slowly & give the tailgater more time to respond
- Move to the right to give the tailgater a view to see around you.
- Signal early for turns, stops, & lane changes.
Managing Space

Look ahead while staying back

- Approaching Traffic Signals (Stale or Fresh?)
- Never speed up to get thru a green light before it changes.
- Cover the brake
If your not careful at intersections
This can possibly happen to you.
Managing Space in Urban Traffic

- Pointers…
- Think ahead!
- Adjust speed accordingly
- Select best lane
- Change lanes if necessary
Carpooling

- Carpooling saves time and fuel.
- It reduces traffic and parking problems.
- It reduces pollution.
- Carpooling is the simplest and most common commuting arrangement.
Bus/Carpool Lanes

- Many cities have special bus/carpool lanes to help move traffic during rush hours.
- Drivers who travel alone must use regular more crowded slower lanes.
Responding to Oncoming Traffic

- If a driver closes your front zone by crossing center line…
- You must react Instantly or ELSE!!!
Avoiding Oncoming Traffic Conflict

- Slow until other driver can return to normal lane.
- Turn on or flash headlights and sound horn.
- If your front right zone is open move to the right.
- If u must Swerve sharply to an open space on the right if needed.
What would you do if you were the car in the middle lane?
So relax pay attention and enjoy the privilege of driving!