

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## GETTING READY TO DRIVE

1. Walk around the outside of the vehicle and look for any obstructions. Check the condition of the vehicle (windows, lights, body damage, tires and fluid leaks).
2. Enter the vehicle from the front if parked on the street. Place key in ignition and lock the doors. Make sure you have license, registration and proof of insurance.
3. Adjust seat and steering column. Your body should be at least 10 inches from steering wheel. Your right foot should be able to pivot on the heel smoothly from accelerator to brake.
4. Adjust head restraint to a level even with the back of the head.
5. Adjust the inside mirror so it frames the back window.
6. Adjust the outside mirrors to reduce blindspots and produce maximum visibility.
7. Fasten and adjust safety belts. Make sure all passengers are secured.

## DETERMINING FOLLOWING DISTANCE

1. Notice when the vehicle in front of you passes a fixed reference point (pole, driveway, tree etc.).
2. Begin to count "one thousand one...one thousand two...one thousand three.....".
3. Your vehicle should not pass that same reference point before you count "one thousand four." If you do, you are following too close. Slow a little bit.
4. Other traffic may enter this cushion. Be prepared to make adjustments to get to that safe following distance.
5. Increase your following distance in bad weather and if you know your reaction time is slower.

## UNDERSTANDING STOPPING DISTANCES

Stopping times and distances are longer than you may think. When you double your speed, your stopping distance becomes four times as far. It is important to understand stopping distances in order to judge safe following distances. Braking distances also increase with added weight.

- **Perception Distance** – the distance your vehicle travels from the time your eyes see a hazard until your brain recognizes it.
- **Reaction Distance** – the distance traveled from the time your brain tells your foot to move from the accelerator to until your foot is actually pressing on the brake pedal.
- **Braking Distance** - the distance it takes to stop once the brakes are applied.

## DRIVING OFF OF THE ROADWAY

Crashes that begin with the vehicle going off on the shoulder of the road are the leading cause of death on rural roadways. Drivers tend to jerk the wheel or overcorrect to get back on the road. The vehicle will careen across the road into the other lane where it is a head-on collision.

situation or all the way across into the other ditch where it is a rollover situation. Remember the Off/Off Rule. Keep your foot off the accelerator and off the brake.

1. **DON'T PANIC!!** Grip the steering wheel tightly.
2. **DON'T PANIC!!** Ease off the accelerator. Do not brake, unless you are headed for an obstacle.
3. **DON'T PANIC!!** Gently steer the vehicle parallel to the road, until you feel that you have the vehicle under control.
4. **DON'T PANIC!!** Gently turn the wheel into the lane you are re-entering.

### **ANTI-LOCK BRAKING SYSTEMS**

Take note of whether your vehicle has Anti-lock brakes (ABS). Beginning drivers should learn the correct braking methods for both ABS and non-ABS vehicles.

- ABS Vehicles – Steady pressure.
- Non-ABS Vehicles – Pump the brakes.

### **HYDROPLANING**

Your vehicle can hydroplane whenever water or slush collects on the road. It's like water skiing, your tires are riding on top of the water or slush. You may not be able to steer or brake. This can occur at speeds over 30 MPH, depending on the amount of water or slush on roadway.

- Do not brake.
- Take foot off of accelerator.
- Less likely to happen if your vehicle has good tires.

### **WET BRAKES**

Wet brakes cause lack of braking power, wheel lock-ups or pulling from one side to the other. Never drive through deep puddles or flowing water. If your brakes become wet or you must drive through a shallow puddle, you should:

- Slow down. Put vehicle in lower gear, if necessary.
- Put gentle pressure on the brake pedal. This presses the linings against the brake drums or discs and keeps water from getting in.
- When out of the water, maintain the light pressure on the brakes for a short distance to heat them up and dry them out.
- Make a test stop when safe to do so.

## BEING PULLED OVER BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Stop your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic to the right as quickly and safely as possible. If the police vehicle is unmarked and you can't identify the driver as a police officer, drive slowly to a well-lighted, populated area and pull over, or go to the nearest police station or call 911.

1. Stay in the driver's seat, and if you are stopped at night, turn on your interior (dome) light.
2. Keep your hands in the 10 and 2 position on the steering wheel at all times.
3. Wait for the officer to ask for your driver's license, car registration and proof of insurance. If these items are in the glove box, inform the officer and follow his/her instructions on how to retrieve them.
4. Obey all lawful orders and don't argue with the officer. You may attend the scheduled court hearing.
5. Officers are trained to ask for identification first and provide an explanation of why you were stopped second.
6. You are to be treated with dignity and respect by the officer and he/she expects the same. Officers are required to provide their names and badge numbers upon request.
7. Remember, in most cases, the officer is in uniform and is displaying his/her name and badge number. You have that advantage of knowing with whom you are dealing with; the officer does not.

## EMERGENCY VEHICLES

You must pull over to the right or clear the intersection as soon as you can safely do so and stop for an emergency vehicle using its lights and sirens.

When you pass a stopped emergency vehicle, you must (Scott's Law):

- Decrease your speed to reasonable and proper for conditions.
- If possible, move to a lane further away from the stopped emergency vehicle. If not possible, slow down as much as you can.
- Proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.
- Obey the directions of the law enforcement officer.

## INVOLVED IN A TRAFFIC COLLISION

Many crashes can be avoided if drivers would obey the traffic laws. If you are involved in a collision, Illinois law requires you to:

- Stop your vehicle immediately, in a safe place where no more damage can occur.
- Aid the injured if necessary or requested. Protect them from traffic and further injury. Cover them and comfort them to help them avoid shock. **DO NOT MOVE AN INJURED PERSON UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!!!**

- Do not attempt to give first-aid unless you have been trained to do so. **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**
- Get someone to warn other drivers.
- Ask all those involved and witnesses for their names ,phone numbers, driver's license numbers and license plate numbers. With cell phone cameras take pictures.

## **COLLISION REPORTS**

Regardless of fault, a collision report must be filed by the driver of a vehicle, if the collision involves death, bodily-injury or property damage over \$500.00:

- Notify police immediately.
- If in a rural area, the County Sheriff or State Police must be notified.
- A report must also be made to the Illinois Department of Transportation. This confidential report must be sent no later than **10** days after the collision.
- The form may be obtained from a police officer or an insurance agency.

## **FUNERAL PROCESSIONS**

Motorists encountering a funeral processions must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles in the procession. Motorists should not drive between vehicles in an organized funeral procession, except when required to do so by a law enforcement officer; join a funeral procession for the purpose of securing the right-of-way; or attempt to pass any vehicle in an organized funeral procession, except where a passing lane has been specifically provided.