

Driving in the Dark

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Most motor vehicle fatalities happen after dark, even though we drive less at night than in the daytime.

WHAT'S THE DANGER?

The long hours of darkness can put us at greater risk for fatal crashes this time of year, as many of us commute both to and from work in the dark. In addition, our after-work errands, sports and other activities put us out in the traffic in the dark.

EXAMPLE

Darkness – combined with weather conditions such as rain, sleet, snow and fog – make it hard to see. Add other traffic, pedestrians and glare from streetlights and headlights, and you have the conditions for a serious motor vehicle crash.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Allow yourself more time to get to work. Besides the darkness, there may be the problem of frost to remove from the windshield.
- Check your driving lights and signal lights regularly to make sure they are working and clear of obstructions.
- Turn your headlights on as soon as the light begins to get dim.
- Use your low beams when you are following another vehicle or when a vehicle approaches from the opposite direction. When you blind the other driver with your high beams, you are endangering yourself.
- Look beyond your own headlights. Use streetlights and the lights of vehicles in front of you to get an idea of what is happening down the road.

- Leave an extra cushion of space around your vehicle at night, to allow more reaction time for yourself and other drivers.
- Observe warnings of animal crossings. Animals are most likely to be active around roads in the early morning and early evening.
- Impaired drivers are a danger to everyone on the road. Statistics suggest that one out of 13 drivers is drunk in the early morning hours, so give others plenty of space to maneuver.
- If you have vehicle trouble, pull as far off the road as you can. Warn other drivers with your four-way flashers, headlights, interior lights and flares if you have them.
- Walking to and from your vehicle in the dark can also put you at risk for injury. Walk carefully in well-lighted areas and stay alert.

FINAL WORD

Adjust your driving habits to accommodate the long hours of darkness this time of year. Leave yourself more time to travel and be alert to dangers on the road.

QUIZ

1. Most fatal traffic crashes occur in the busy daylight hours.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
2. Safe drivers leave their headlights on the "bright" setting at all times.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
3. It is important to keep your windshield and lights clean and free of obstructions.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
4. If you can't see it in your headlights, you don't have to worry about it.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
5. It is important to be aware of traffic around you and far ahead of you.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False

AFTER THE TALK- CHECKLIST

- ## PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

TASK(S): _____

DATE: _____

TOPIC(S): _____

DATE: _____

OTHER (DESCRIBE): _____

MEETING DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

1. False 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True

ATTENDANCE

[illegible]

INSTRUCTOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

SAFETY TALK: _____