

# RISK ADVISOR

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C O N S T R U C T I O N

## Safe Driving Tips for Fleets

Safe driving is a crucial responsibility for those in the construction industry, as fleet vehicles (e.g., cars, vans and trucks) are commonly used during projects and standard operations. Safe driving practices involve recognizing and addressing common driving hazards, including distractions, speeding, impaired driving, fatigue and adverse weather conditions.

Safe driving tips for fleet vehicle operators include:

- **Stay focused** by remaining attentive on the road and avoiding distractions like texting, phone calls, eating and using in-car entertainment systems while driving. Keep conversations and activities with passengers to a minimum.
- **Obey speed limits** and reduce speed in adverse weather conditions or in areas with heavy pedestrian or cyclist traffic.
- **Use turn signals** when turning, merging and changing lanes to help other drivers anticipate actions.
- **Never drive under the influence** of alcohol, drugs or any substances that impair judgment or reaction times.
- **Maintain a safe following distance** and increase the following distance in adverse conditions or when operating a large vehicle.
- **Wear a seat belt** at all times and ensure all occupants in the vehicle wear them.
- **Manage fatigue** by avoiding driving when tired or drowsy.
- **Take regular breaks** on long journeys to stay alert.
- **Adapt to weather conditions** by adjusting speed and driving style to match current weather conditions and, if necessary, avoid driving in hazardous conditions.
- **Check blind spots** before changing lanes, turning and merging.
- **Follow traffic rules, signals and signs**, including yielding the right of way, obeying traffic lights and stopping at stop signs.
- **Pass safely** by checking surroundings, mirrors and blind spots. Use turn signals, don't linger in blind spots and

ensure the passed vehicle's headlights are visible in the rearview mirror before pulling back in front of it. Avoid passing in unsafe conditions, near intersections and in no-passing zones.

- **Perform regular maintenance** and routinely inspect fleet vehicles' brakes, tires, lights and other critical components, repairing them when needed. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for proper vehicle care.
- **Drive defensively and exercise patience**, especially in heavy traffic or with slower-moving vehicles.
- **Stay calm**, as road rage and aggressive behavior can escalate situations and endanger others.
- **Watch for pedestrians and cyclists**, especially at crosswalks and intersections, and always yield to pedestrians. Give cyclists adequate space when passing them.
- **Plan routes in advance**, especially for long trips and note alternative routes and potential rest stops.
- **Use daytime running lights** to increase visibility to other drivers.
- **Stay updated on traffic and weather conditions**, and be prepared for unexpected road closures or detours.
- **Respect school zones** by being extra cautious and adhering to reduced speed limit laws.
- **Avoid driving when under extreme stress or emotional distress**, as it can impair focus and decision-making.

Safe driving is a conscious choice that can prevent accidents, save lives and reduce the costs associated with road incidents. It is essential for fleet drivers to practice safe driving through defensive driving techniques, regular vehicle maintenance, adherence to company policies and respectful sharing of the road.

Contact us today for more information.