

Ensure the Future

Lumley Insurance
Fleet Driver Safety Tips – Series 1




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Driving to the Conditions

Regardless of the posted speed limit, drivers need to keep these factors in mind when determining how fast to drive:

- The number and speed of other vehicles on the road
- Whether the road surface is smooth, rough, gravelled, wet, dry, wide or narrow
- Bicyclists or pedestrians walking on the road's edge
- Whether it is raining, foggy, snowing, windy or dusty

Use of a Horn

Use Your Horn

- When necessary, to avoid accidents.
- To alert other drivers and animals of your presence. Tap your horn to alert another driver, who might otherwise turn in front of you.

Don't Use Your Horn

- If a driver is going slowly, and you want him or her to drive faster. The driver may be ill, lost, intoxicated or having problems with the vehicle.
- If slowing or stopping your car will prevent an accident. It's safer to use the brakes than honk the horn.
- To show other drivers that they made a mistake. Your honking may cause them to make another mistake.
- Because you're angry or upset.

Turning beyond an intersection

If you plan to turn just beyond an intersection, start signalling when you are in the intersection.

If you signal too early, the other driver may think you plan to turn into the intersection, and he or she may pull out in front of you.

Tyre Blowouts

In the event of a tyre blowout;

- Hold the steering wheel tightly, and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow down gradually.
- Take your foot off the accelerator and use the brakes lightly.
- Do not stop on the road if at all possible. Pull off to the side of the road in a safe place.

Electronic Stability Control is very effective in assisting a driver to maintain steering control in this situation by limiting acceleration levels of the other wheels.

Personal Safety

While driving, take some personal safety precautions;

- While in your car, keep the doors locked at all times
- If you find yourself being followed while driving, try to keep calm and maintain your driving skills. Go to the nearest Police station, petrol station or well lit convenience store. Only leave your car when you feel the threat has passed. Report the incident to the police
- Plan your trip in advance so that you are not sitting in your car with the light on reading the street directory at night
- Be prepared in case of breakdowns or trouble
- Carry a pen and paper, a torch, a phone card or mobile and emergency numbers with you at all times

Personal Safety (cont)

- It is also a good idea to invest in a personal alarm for safety reasons. A cheaper alternative is a whistle to blow and attract attention if you are in danger
- If you break down, try to leave the car in a safe, well-lit spot. Put your bonnet up and turn on your hazard lights. If you have to call for assistance, ensure the car is secure and go to the nearest phone
- If someone stops to assist, do not get into a stranger's car. Give them your details and ask them to call for assistance

Safety in Car Parks

- Try to park in a place where there will be plenty of people around and that is well lit
- Avoid parking too close to walls and hedges
- Never leave valuables like purses, wallets or mobile phones in your car. Move things into the boot before you leave, rather than when you arrive at the destination
- Have your keys ready to open the car, rather than rummaging through your bag or pocket to find them
- If it is dark, have someone accompany you to your car. Try to avoid unsecure multi-story car parks
- Never double park or park in a clearway

Parking on a Hill

When you park;

- On a sloping driveway, turn the wheels so the car will not roll into the street if the brakes fail.
- Headed downhill, turn your front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road. Set the parking brake.
- Headed uphill, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches. The back of the front wheel should gently touch the curb. Set the parking brake.
- Headed either uphill or downhill and there is no curb, turn the wheels so the car will roll away from the centre of the road if the brakes fail.
- Always set your parking brake and leave the vehicle in gear.