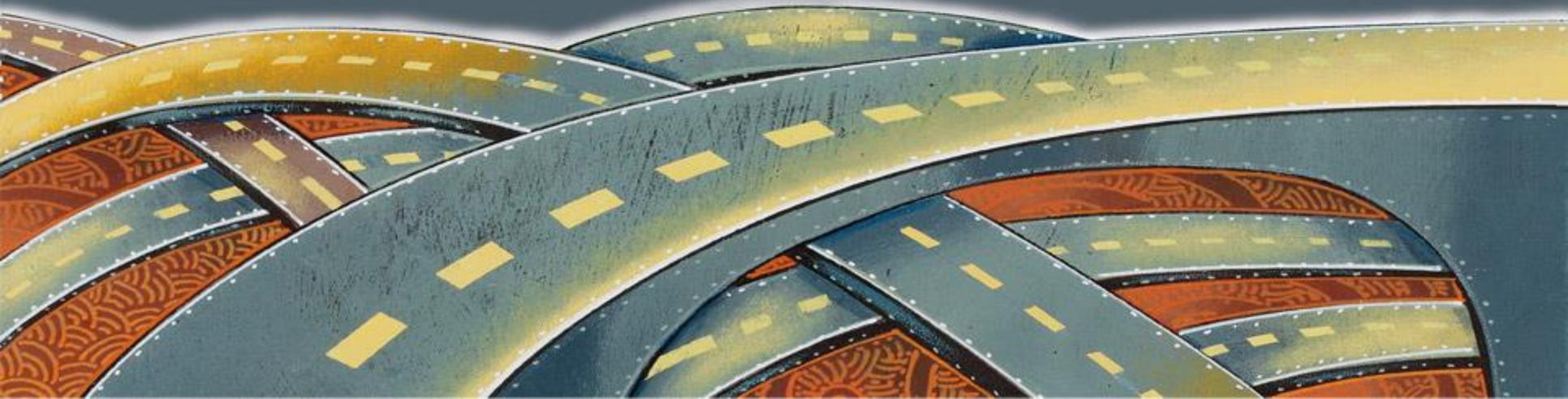


DEFENSIVE DRIVING

It's an Attitude



RLI Professional Services Group



Professional Services Group Learning Event



PSGLE 124



July 28, 2015

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Course Description

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, **roadway incidents were the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in 2013.**

This session will emphasize the importance of having the right attitude while traveling out on the road. Although driving may be secondary to your responsibilities, and having the right driving attitude may be far from your thoughts, it may be the most important thing you do each day.



Course Presenter



Sean is a Senior Loss Control Coordinator at RLI with 27 years experience in safety and health. He is a Certified Safety Professional and an Associate in Loss Control Management and joined RLI in February of this year.

Course Learning Objectives

Participants will:

Explore the basics of defensive driving for the benefit of both employees and the driving public in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community at large.

Learn to avoid unsafe driving behaviors that can lead to vehicle accidents resulting in accidental injury or death and/or property damage.

Discover the driving conditions that are under your control, and those that are not, so you can more effectively protect yourself and other drivers on the road.

Find out how to best navigate driving in the city, intersections, curves/ramps, underpasses, and merges to arrive safely at your destination.



What Does Defensive Driving Mean to You?

- Going the speed limit?
- Using your turn signal?
- Not tailgating?
- Braking early?
- Slowing down at yellow lights?



Definition

- The National Safety Council defines defensive driving as: “Driving to save lives, time, and money in spite of the conditions around us and the actions of others.”
- **2/3 of all accidents are preventable!**



Defensive Driving Basics

Stay alert to
changes

Look well
ahead

Aim high

Observe the
entire
situation

Recognize
potential
hazards

Decide on an
appropriate
response

Carry out your
plan

Defensive Driving Basics



Learn to recognize driving situations that can be hazardous



Assume other drivers will make errors



Adjust speed, position, direction, and attention to be able to maneuver safely if a hazard develops

Defensive Driving Basics



Scan far enough ahead to be able to react safely to approaching situations

Scan frequently to the sides and rear for passing or approaching vehicles

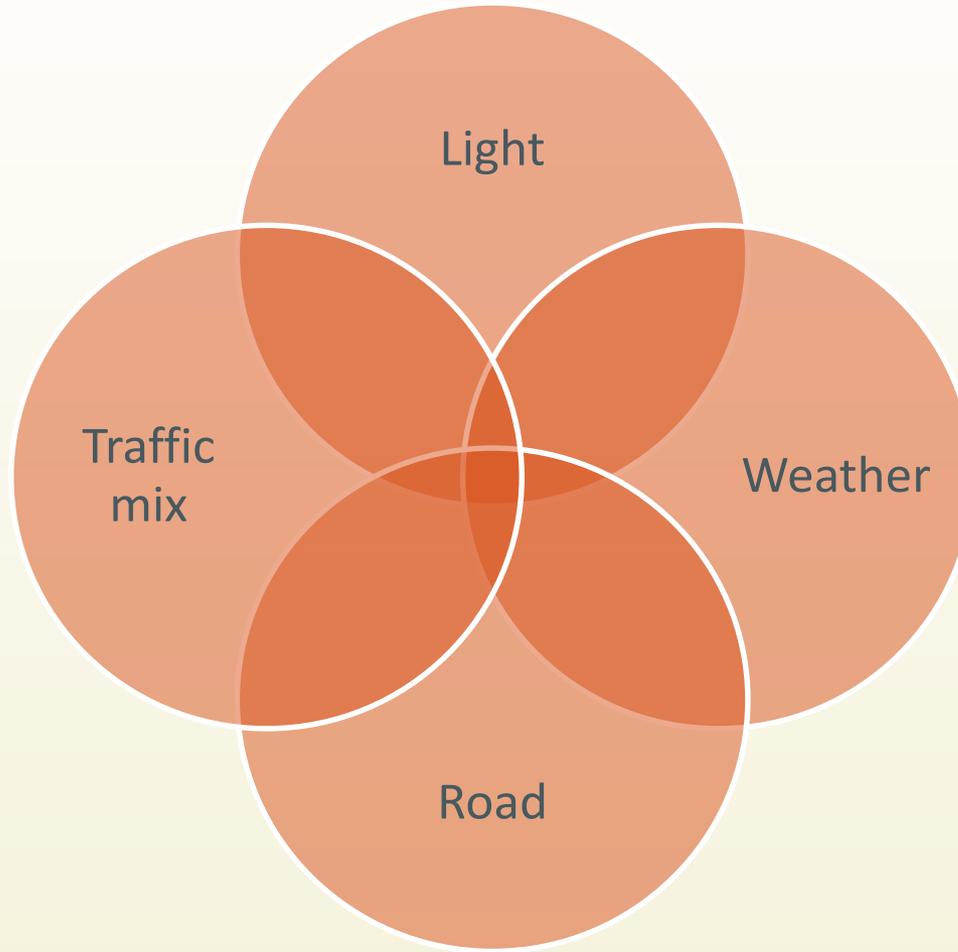
Scan thoroughly before changing speed or direction

Avoid 7 Most Unsafe Driving Behaviors

1. Improper speed
2. Violating right of way
3. Driving left of center
4. Turning improperly
5. Passing improperly
6. Following too closely
7. Distracted driving



Conditions You Can't Always Control



Conditions You Can Control



Your body

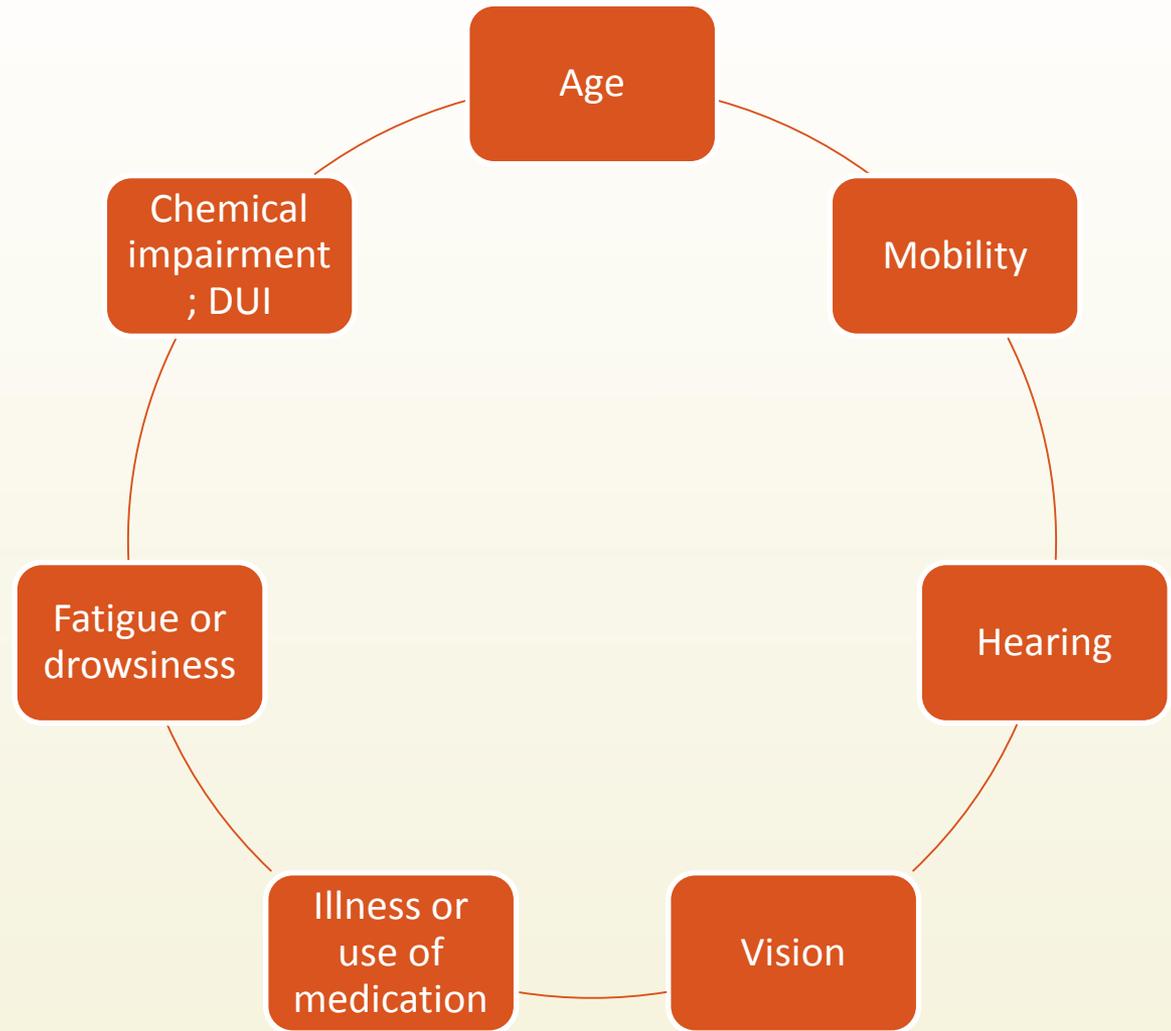
Your driving habits

Your vehicle condition

Your reaction to bad behavior

Your attentiveness

Physical Conditions That Affect Driving



Seeing and Being Seen

- Outside Vehicle Checks:
 - ✓ Lights
 - ✓ Mirrors
 - ✓ Windshield wipers
 - ✓ Tires
 - ✓ Under vehicle
- Driver Daily Vehicle Inspection Report (if applicable)



Seeing and Being Seen

- Inside Vehicle Check:

- ✓ Cleanliness
- ✓ Lock doors
- ✓ Adjust seat
- ✓ Adjust head restraint
- ✓ Adjust mirrors
- ✓ Fasten seatbelt with proper use
- ✓ Scan gauges for warning lights
- ✓ Adjust windows, vents, and heater or AC controls for comfort



Seeing and Being Seen

Keep the windshield and mirrors clean/clear

Use mirrors

Constantly scan traffic to the front and sides

Look 10 to 12 seconds ahead in the city

Look 12 to 15 seconds ahead on the highway



Seeing and Being Seen

- Keep signal on until move is complete
- Keep lights on for safety



Seeing and Being Seen

Walk around
and look
underneath



Check the
blind area



Do not delay in
moving



Signal in
congested
areas



Start up slowly



City Driving

- Keep your eyes moving
- Check all mirrors
- Watch the taillights
- Bikes and pedestrians
- Driveways, alleyways, parking lot entrances/exits
- Overhead wires, dumpsters, delivery vans, and double parkers



City Driving

- When stopped in traffic, wait to proceed until the vehicle ahead has moved
- Watch your speed
- Plan your route accordingly



Following Too Closely

Tailgating is the #1 driving cause of reputation loss



Safe following distance

Following Too Closely

- Leave one second for every 10' of vehicle length (consider all passenger cars to be 20', so 2 seconds minimum)
- Double the distance in adverse conditions



Following Too Closely

- Reaction Distance + **Braking Distance** = STOPPING Distance
- 35 mph/77 feet + 59 feet = 136 feet
- 45 mph/99 feet + 97 feet = 196 feet
- 55 mph/121 feet + 144 feet = 265 feet
- 65 mph/143 feet + 202 feet = 345 feet



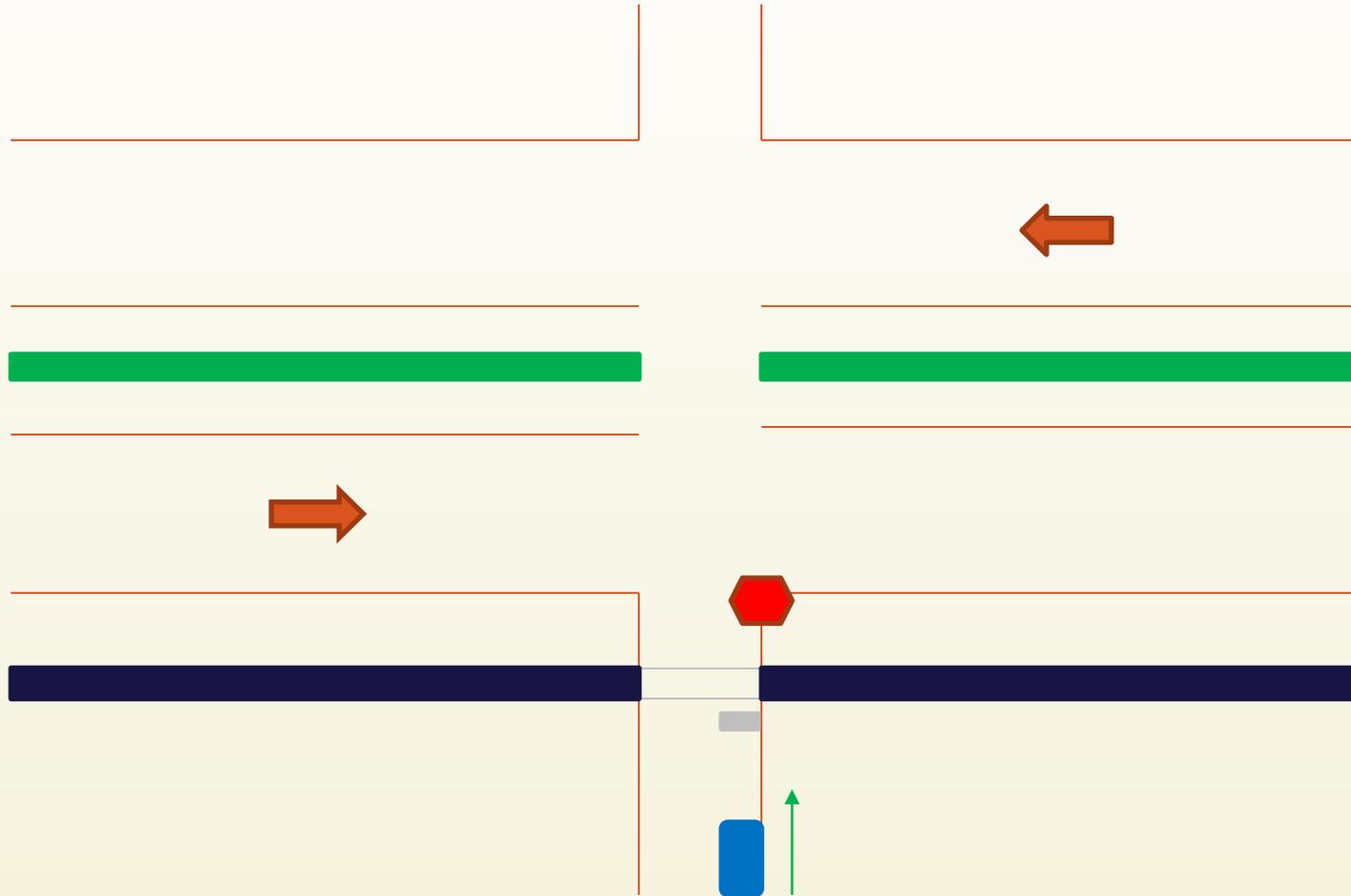
Intersections

- When approaching a controlled intersection, stop prior to the stop line
- If no stop line exists, then stop before entering the crosswalk on your side of the intersection or, if no crosswalk, stop at the nearest point of the intersection where you have a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway
- Make sure the intersection is clear of all hazards, enter slowly, scan left and right, and proceed if clear



Intersections

my neighborhood



Intersections

- Approach intersections assuming cross traffic may not obey traffic control devices; anticipate the need for avoidance
- At busy and unmarked intersections, stop, assume you don't have the right-of-way
- Slow down and watch for other vehicles, pedestrians, and people on bikes, skateboards, etc.



Intersections



Allow enough time to clear the entire intersection



Commercial vehicles take longer to cross due to additional length and slower acceleration



Be cautious crossing uncontrolled intersections at night



Keep vehicle lights and reflective devices clean and assure lights are operational

Curves/Ramps

- Secure contents to prevent moving from side to side
- Remember that top-heavy cargo will cause vehicles to roll over in curves at lower speed than those loaded with flat, compact cargo



Curves/Ramps



Reduce speed before entering curve

Maintain speeds below the curve advisory speed to prevent rollover incidents

Stay off the shoulder in curves

Underpasses



Merging On

- Size up the traffic
- Signal early
- Watch for an opening
- Build up speed
- Watch the mirrors
- Watch for oncoming traffic



Merging Off

Signal

Get into
the turn
lane as
soon as
possible

Check
mirrors

Shift down
to a lower
gear

Make the
exit

What is Defensive Driving?

- Operating a vehicle *with*:
 - ❖ Knowledge
 - ❖ Foresight
 - ❖ Alertness
 - ❖ Judgment
 - ❖ Skill
 - ❖ Patience
 - ❖ Cooperation
 - ❖ Courtesy on the road



What is Defensive Driving?

- Operating a vehicle *without*:
 - ❖ The “me-versus-them” mentality in our need to get where we are going



Repercussions



Impact of not driving defensively includes:

Direct and indirect costs

Driver financial responsibility and coverage status

Company insurance premium and coverage status

Thank you for your time!
QUESTIONS??

This concludes the Professional Services
Group Learning Event

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