Lesson 11

Objetive: To understand how to handle hazardous driving conditons

Questions to ponder:

1. What are some driving hazardous driving conditions you can think of
2. What do ice, leaves and water on the roadway all have in common
3. What constitutes a hazard on the roadway

Lesson:

Other hazardous driving conditions and solutions:

Ice, snow or sleet are the three main conditions in the winter. You should do the following

 Get the feel of the road

 Never spin tires

 Lower your speed

 Pump brakes gently

 Keep vehicle in best possible driving condition

 Keep windows clear

 Watch for danger spots ( bridges)

 Make sure all snow is removed from your vehicle before you head out on a trip

 Keep exhaust system free from leaks

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a deadly gas that gradually builds up in the car if it is parked for a period of time or has a leak in the exhaust. The signs are:

 Being tired

 Yawning

 Dizziness

 Suddenly sick to your stomach

The only way to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning is to get clean fresh air in the vehicle.

If you become stuck in a snowstorm or blizzard you should:

 Stay with vehicle

 Put red flag on the radio antenna or driver door

 Wrap yourself and passengers in blankets

 Run the engine to only heat the car up and then turn off

 Provide fresh air by rolling down a window a little

 DO NOT LET ANYONE GO TO SLEEP

Fog is another weather condition that requires caution. If you are in heavy fog you should:

 Avoid driving if you can

 Lower your speed

 Turn on headlights and leave on low beam

 Look for road edge markings (fog lines)

 Lower your speed more when you see headlights or taillights

 Be ready to stop quickly

 Do not creep along at 5 or 10 mph.

 Use emergency flashers

Rain can cause the roads to get very wet and slippery too. If you are in a rain storm, you should:

 Lower your speed

 Allow more distance to stop

 Roads are most dangerous at the beginning of the rain ( oil and water mix)

 Wet leaves on pavement are like driving on ice

 Keep windshield wipers and defrosters in good condition

 Turn on headlights

 Signal all turns and signal well before you need to turn

 Hydroplaning occurs at speeds as low as 35 mph

To reduce the chances of hydroplaning you should:

 Reduce speed during rainstorms or when roads are slushy

 Reduce speed if the road has standing water or puddles

 Replace tires when they are worn (less than 2/32 of inch)

 Keep tires properly inflated

If you do hydroplane you should:

 Take foot of gas pedal

 Move in straight line

 Gently pump brakes

 Do not turn or stop until tires grip the roadway

Night driving has many hazards too. The fatal crash rate is nearly 3x greater than daytime driving. Here are some reason why night driving is dangerous:

 Seeing distance is shortened

 Objects on side of road are hard to see or blend in with the darkness

 People try to drive as fast at night as they do during the day

 Headlights on high beam illuminate about 350 feet and on low beam about 100 feet

 Law states you must turn on your headlights 30 min after sunset and 30 min. before sunrise

 Turn on headlights anytime you cannot see at a distance of 1000 feet

 Glare of lights oncoming or behind you may temporary blind you and reflect in your mirror

 To reduce glare, shift eyes to the lower right edge of the road and look at fog line

Fatigue is when you are tired and drowsy and the enemy of all night drivers. Fatigue also creates highway hypnosis and is like being drugged. It usually happens when you drive long distances. To reduce fatigue you should:

 Stop often as you need, at least every 2 hours

 Have a cup of coffee or soft drink

 Get out of vehicle to stretch or get fresh air

 Let someone else drive

 Talk to passengers

 Chew gum

 Listen to radio

 Sing aloud

 Move your eyes around

 Open windows to get fresh air

 Change your body position

 Turn on wipers

 If nothing works, get a room or park in rest area

Here are some night driving tips:

 Keep headlights clean

 Dim lights within 150 feet of oncoming vehicle and 150 if following

 Reduce speed when you near a curve

 Never wear dark glasses

 Keep dash lights low

 Watch for pedestrians and road signs

 Do not stop in the road for any reason and if you do use emergency flashers

Curves call for special attention. Therefore, here are some important tips to follow:

 Brake before a curve never in the curve ( in curve can cause a skid)

 Once in curve speed up gradually

 Assume that there may be something you cant see in every curve

 Centrifugal force will push you away from center and cause you to go off road

 Right hand curve steer toward the right side of the road

 Left hand curve steer toward center of road, but not over it

Hills require you to do the following too:

 Lower speed as you get the top

 Shift to lower gear if steep downgrade

 Never coast down hills, it is against the law

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