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

Do page 59 in class