Lesson 9

Objective: to understand the importance of smooth stops and safe speeds.

Questions to Ponder:

What is a safe speed?

What are some things you must consider when stopping?

Who determines the speed limits?

What should all things be placed safely in your vehicle before you drive?

Lesson:

It takes a great distance for a vehicle to stop in ideal road conditions. In order to stop safely, 3 things must occur:

Must see and recognize danger (deer in roadway) or need to stop (stop sign)

Brain must tell foot to press brakes.

Foot must actually move the pedal and operate the brakes.

To actually stop 2 things must occur:

Braking time – time it takes for the brakes and friction between road and tires to stop vehicle

Braking distance – distance vehicle travels during the above.

Braking ability varies due to the following factors:

Road surfaces

Tires

Brakes

Weather

Other factors

Types of stops:

Legal

Safety

Staggered

PONR (point of no return)

Review PowerPoint for lesson

Speed is a major factor of motor vehicle crashes. In NH and other states, officers look for speeders by using radar, aircraft, motorcycles, and vehicles.

A safe speed is one that allows the driver have complete control of the vehicle and can handle an emergency situation.

Speed is determined by the following:

Road conditions – curves, slippery, bumpy (all require slower speeds)

How well you can see – darkness, rain, fog snow, intersections, hill, curves, ( slower speeds)

How much traffic there is on roadway

How fast traffic is moving - if going in same direction less likely of crash. The safest speed is one in which you are moving with the flow of traffic providing that the speed is not greater than the posted speed limit.

The condition of the vehicle

Your physical and mental condition.

The speed limit is set by the Highway Department. The speed limits are the maximum speed you may travel under IDEAL road conditions.

In NH the speed limits are:

In posted school zone, 10 miles less than posted speed limit, 45 before and after school.

30 MPH in business or urban residence district

35 MPH in rural residence district

45 MPH when towing a house trailer

55 MPH all areas not other areas not otherwise posted

65 MPH specific sections of the interstate

45 MPH is minimum speed limit on all interstates

Fines for speeding in a work zone is not less than $250.00 not more than $500.00

High speed driving facts:

When you double your speed, stopping distance is nearly 4 times greater

Risk of serious injury or death is 4 times greater at 60 MPH than at 30 MPH

You waste fuel at higher speeds

Waste about 1 C of gas for every 6 minutes of idol time

Slow driver facts:

Often block those behind them causing them to jump lanes

Against the law to drive at a slow speed that you hold up traffic

If you need to drive slow, you should allow others to pass you when safe, by pulling off the roadway

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