

Defensive Driving



Yellow Cab Co. is strongly committed to a sound and thorough defensive driving policy. While operating an independently owned or company-owned vehicles, operators should always drive in the safest manner possible.

The core concepts of Defensive Driving are:

- Recognize the hazard.
- Understand the defense,
- Act in time.

Defensive Driving – Part 1

- **Intersections:** Be alert of other vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists when approaching intersections. Never speed through an intersection on a caution light. When the traffic light turns green, look both ways for oncoming traffic before proceeding
- **Yield:** Drivers must yield the right of way at all traffic control signals and signs requiring them to do so. Drivers should also be prepared to yield for safety's sake at any time. Pedestrians and bicycles in the roadway always have the right of way.
- **Collision Avoidance:** Drivers are required to maintain a safe following distance at all times. Drivers should keep a two second interval between their vehicle and the vehicle immediately ahead. During slippery road conditions, the following distance should be increased to at least four seconds.
- **Turn Signals:** Must be used at all times to show where you are heading; while going into traffic and before every turn or lane change.

Defensive Driving – Part 2

- **Passing:** Failure to pass safely indicates faulty judgment on your part as a defensive driver, and failure to consider one or more of the factors that need to be checked: Is there enough room ahead? Is there adequate space to move back into your lane of traffic after passing? Have you signaled your intentions?
- **Left Turns:** When waiting to make left turns, keep your wheels facing straight ahead. If rear ended, you will not be pushed into the lane of oncoming traffic.
- **Reversing/Backing Up:** is an extremely hazardous maneuver and the ultimate responsibility for safety during this maneuver remains with the operator.
- **Encroaching on Other Traffic Lanes:** Observant defensive drivers will not usually get trapped when other drivers change lanes abruptly. In the same manner entrapment in merging traffic can be successfully avoided by a good defensive driver.
- **Railroad Grade Crossings:** Railroad crossings, or in areas where there are rail vehicles demands special care. Careful observance of the traffic situation is your best defense.

Defensive Driving – Part 3

- **Turning:** Turning, like passing, is a dangerous maneuver, and demands special care and an observant eye from you as a defensive driver. You should be aware of other vehicles and of the complete configuration of the turn you are about to undertake.
- **Stopping:** When stopping behind another vehicle, leave enough space so you can see the rear wheels of the car in front.
- **Pedestrians:** Drivers must yield the right of way at all traffic control signals and signs requiring them to do so. Drivers should also be prepared to yield for safety's sake at any time. Pedestrians and bicycles in the roadway always have the right of way.
- **Extreme Weather and Road Conditions:** Drivers must honor posted speed limits. In adverse driving conditions, reduce speed to a safe operating speed that is consistent with the conditions of the road, weather, lighting, and volume of traffic. Tires can hydroplane on wet pavement at speeds as low as 40 mph.