Driving Hazards Observation

New drivers should perfect hazard recognition while riding in a passenger seat prior to getting behind the wheel.

Instructions:
• For 2 minutes, have a passenger listen to the driver as the driver calls out the potential hazards that they observe around their moving vehicle.
• The passenger should mark each hazard on this worksheet as it is called out by the driver.
• There should be no discussion between the driver and passenger during this observation.
• After the vehicle has been parked, the observer should discuss the observation with the driver and note those areas that need improvement.
• Count the total hazards recognized in the 2 minutes and record at the bottom.

Keep Your Eyes Out Front:
• Objects 12 seconds out in front
• Traffic zones
• Signals and Signs
• Pavement Markings
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles

Intersections and Traffic Lights:
• Traffic Lights
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles
• Approaching vehicles

Space Cushion:
• Maintains 4 second following time
• Space in front when stopped

Left Intersection:
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles
• Driveways
• Parking Lots

Right Intersection:
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles
• Driveways
• Parking Lots

Left Side of Roadway:
• Pedestrians
• Parked Vehicles
• Trees, bushes or objects near the road
• Eye contact

Right Side of Roadway:
• Pedestrians
• Parked Vehicles
• Trees, bushes or objects near the road
• Eye contact

Left Mirror:
• Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles
• When changing lanes, uses blinker, mirror and turns head

Right Mirror:
• Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles
• When changing lanes, uses blinker, mirror and turns head

Middle Rearview Mirror:
• Checks a mirror at least every 8 seconds
• Pedestrians
• Vehicles

Speed:
• Speed and Speed Limit
• Reasons to reduce speed

Total Hazards = _____
Before Starting the Engine:
- Never drive impaired
- When approaching your parked vehicle, look in front, under and behind, scanning for any objects in your travel path
- Adjust the seat position and mirrors
- Verify that all occupants are belted-in
- Eliminate distractions prior to driving

Keep Your Eyes Out Front:
- Keep your eyes out front, aiming at an area at least 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle
- Remain patient in traffic
- Slow down when approaching work zones and school zones
- Stay centered in traffic lane
- Enter curves with an escape route in case another vehicle is in your lane
- If your wheel drops off the pavement, slow down and ease your way back on the road
- Recognize traffic signs by their shape
- Shift your eyes to different hazards every 2 seconds

Intersection and Traffic Lights:
- Look left, right, then left again before entering the intersection
- Always be prepared to stop, even if you have the right-of-way
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings
- Don’t assume that other drivers will obey the law
- Come to a full stop at stop signs
- Signal your intention to turn well in advance
- Watch closely for motorcyclists
- Don’t underestimate the speed of approaching vehicles
- Apply right-turn-on-red correctly
- Stop behind stop line or crosswalk
- When entering highways, search for an open space to merge and establish your cushion

Space Cushion:
- Maintain a 4 second following time
- Use a space cushion to avoid sudden stops
- When stopped in traffic, leave a space with the car in front and count to 4 when that car starts up to establish your proper following distance
- Increase following time as speed increases or road conditions change
- Increase following time in inclement weather
- When another vehicle moves into the space cushion, back off to re-establish the proper following time.
- Stop when approaching a stopped school bus

Left Mirror:
- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening on the left side of your vehicle at all times
- When moving out away from the curb or when changing lanes – turn on your blinker, look into your mirror and turn your head to clear your path

Middle Rearview Mirror:
- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening behind your vehicle at all times
- Check to the rear when slowing or stopping
- Avoid all unnecessary backing
- Back immediately after scanning the area
- Continuously scan the area into which your vehicle is backing
- Back slowly and be aware of children

Right Mirror:
- Check one of your mirrors to follow-up on any hazard at least every 8 seconds
- Know what is happening on the right side of your vehicle at all times
- When changing lanes – turn on your blinker, look into your mirror and turn your head to clear your path

Speed:
- Do not speed! Know the speed limit
- Adjust your speed to varying road, weather and traffic conditions
- Slow down in areas where you expect pedestrians, such as in shopping centers and school lots
- Reduce your speed when entering curves