



Defensive Driving – Emergency Situations

Defensive driving is driving so as to prevent accidents in spite of the incorrect actions of others or adverse driving conditions, such as weather, traffic, lighting, vehicle or road condition, or the driver's physical or mental state. The defensive driver assumes that other drivers may make mistakes and is on guard in the event an error is made.

Your safety program should include defensive driver training on the proper way to handle a vehicle emergency. Emergency situations include stalling in a travel lane, stopping for an accident in the driver's path, engine compartment fire, wheel fire, and a blown fuse in the lighting circuit. Having emergency equipment available in the vehicle, and knowing how to use them, will greatly assist a driver in avoiding hazards that arise in these types of situations. The following are management areas that should be addressed regarding defensive driving and tips to provide your drivers to help them become defensive drivers.

Management Issues

	Yes	No
Have drivers been trained regarding emergency procedures (e.g., placement of emergency warning devices, operation of a fire extinguisher, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you periodically provide emergency procedures retraining? Are your vehicles equipped with emergency equipment (e.g., warning devices, a fire extinguisher, extra fuses, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do drivers know how to set up and place emergency reflective triangles?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do drivers perform a pre-trip inspection to assure that emergency equipment is on the vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are drivers aware of the concept of a 'preventable accident' (A preventable accident is one in which the driver failed to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the accident. This is irrespective of the extent of property damage and/or personal injury, to whom it occurred or the location of the accident.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Driver Tips

To be a defensive driver when handling emergency situations, your drivers should:

- Turn on emergency flashers immediately and try to coast off to shoulder, if safe to do so, should the vehicle stall.
- Place emergency warning devices immediately, if the vehicle breaks down in a travel lane.

- Only try to extinguish a fire themselves if they have been trained in correctly operating the fire extinguisher and it does not put them in danger.
- Call for help as soon as possible.
- Know how to replace fuses (if fuses are used on the vehicle).
- Inspect the vehicle prior to operation to assure that all emergency equipment is in place.

For more information, contact your local AIG representative.

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