

SafeDriver Monthly Newsletter

December 2021



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Visualizing Your Speed

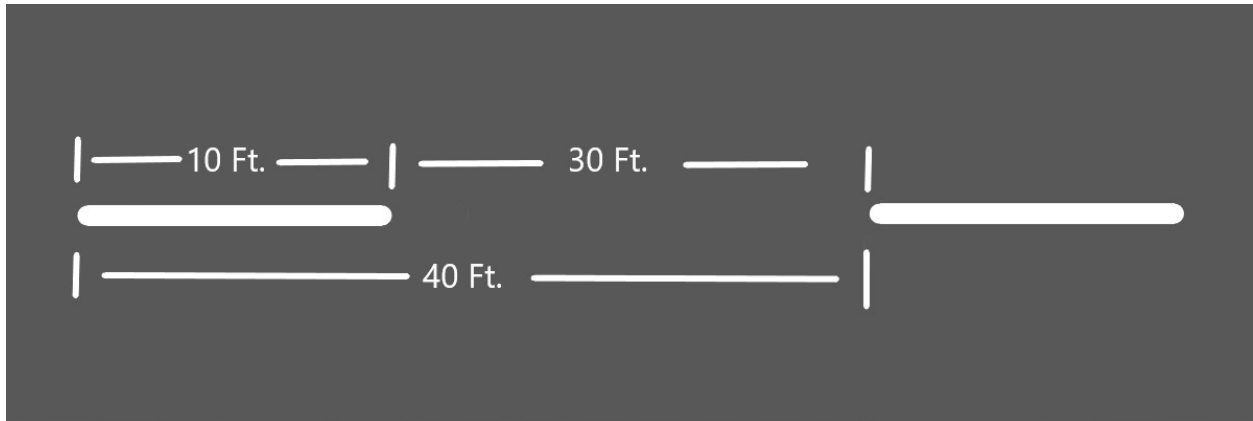
Speed is a problem on America's roads today and the pandemic has made the problem worse over the last two years. When the nation shut down in March of 2020, the empty roadways seemed to encourage those who were out on the roads to speed. The speeding drivers led to an increase in highway deaths in spite of the fact that there were fewer cars on the roads. The highway death rate increased even more as people returned to work because many drivers seem to have grown used to driving at higher speeds and are reluctant to give up the habit.

Higher speeds reduce a driver's ability to visually scan the whole driving picture ahead. The speeding driver develops a kind of tunnel vision because he or she is driving too fast to take in the whole scene. As a result, the speeding driver is unaware of hazards coming from the sides and is unable to anticipate and predict problems that may come from those areas.

Drivers also tend to ignore their speedometer and just move along with the flow of traffic. One should never drive so slowly that they impede the normal flow of traffic however, one should also be aware of just how fast the other traffic is moving. You're not allowed to speed in order to keep up with the flow of traffic.

It's easy to forget just how much distance you're covering in a short amount of time and that can lead to the tendency to follow too closely and not give yourself time to react to conditions ahead.

As an example; if you were to ask a group of people how far apart the dashed lines are spaced on an interstate highway are spaced, the general consensus would be between two and three feet. The actual distance of the dash itself is ten feet separated from the next dash by 30 feet. By federal law, it's a total of 40 feet from the beginning of one dash to the start of the next.



At 60 mph, you're traveling 90 feet per second and the dashes are passing by so quickly that they appear to be much closer than they are. At 60 mph, from the time you see a hazard ahead and react by hitting the brakes, you can travel more than 300 feet before you come to a complete stop.

That's why it's critical to give yourself enough clear space between you and the vehicles around you and why you should measure that distance in term of seconds rather than car lengths. You should allow a minimum of three to four seconds between you and the vehicle ahead. The three-second rule works to give you enough clear space no matter what speed you are going.

Slow down! Speed kills!



Holiday Parties and Your Responsibility

With the holiday season ahead, people will be looking forward to celebrating at various holiday parties. Those parties can be a lot of fun but they can also come with a great deal of responsibility.

People who host parties where alcohol is served can be held liable if one of their guests drinks and then is injured or killed in an alcohol related crash.

A recent news article from North Carolina reported on two people who hosted a Halloween party who have been charged with supplying alcohol to a minor who was killed in a car crash after leaving the party.

Providing alcohol to your guests doesn't have to just apply to underage drinkers. Party hosts can face lawsuits if they served alcohol to their guests and then didn't take care to ensure that those guests had a safe way to get home after the party.

There are several ways you, as a host, can lower the risk and ensure that your guests can have a good time while remaining safe.

- Take the keys from your guests and ensure they are fully sober before they can get their keys back.
- Make sure that your guests have a designated driver who doesn't consume any alcohol at all and provide gifts or find some other way to make the evening special for those designated drivers.
- Be a good host and act as the designated driver yourself.
- Make sure that there are alternate methods of transportation to get your guests home such as a cab or ride-share service.
- Look up recipes for non-alcoholic cocktails so your guests don't miss the alcohol.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

