

Safety-Gram

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Driving Safely

It is in the driver's hands.

Many of us don't realize, or forget the importance of taking safety precautions until it's too late. Each year thousands of lives are lost in transportation-related accidents in the U.S. Sadly, most of these accidents can be attributed to basic safety violations or to poor vehicle maintenance practices.



MOVING TOWARD SAFETY

- **Driver Education:** Risk can be reduced if you can ensure that your vehicles and equipment are always controlled by a well-trained driver. Having a comprehensive driver training program in place will help ensure the safety of you and your members.
- **Driver Responsibilities:** Once it is determined that the vehicle is safe for travel, the driver's responsibility is to drive safely. The lives of you and your members should only be entrusted to the most capable drivers.
- **Defensive Driving:** Everyone's safety depends on things the driver sees and does. Drivers should know what is happening in every direction. Policies should be in place to ensure drivers have their full attention on the task at hand and a full understanding of their limitations.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Establish a maintenance routine for all vehicles and equipment. No matter how far you are traveling, your vehicle and/or equipment needs to be checked by the driver before operation begins.
- **Accidents/Emergencies:** Establish emergency procedures for all involved. These procedures need to be covered and distributed at organizational meetings for all activities.



"Weather" or not: No matter what time of year it is, your group might encounter inclement weather. That means drivers must use extra caution to keep passengers safe.

Keep safety in mind on the job, on the road and at home. Safety has no quitting time.