Drive As If Your Life Depends On It. It Does!

Be a defensive driver. Protect yourself and others.

- Yield to drivers who are determined to get there first.
- Keep checking your rearview and side mirrors for oncoming traffic.
- Remember, your mirrors have “blind spots.” Always turn your head and look for other vehicles before changing lanes.
- Always expect the other driver to do the unexpected—speed up, slow down, pass, cut across lanes.
- Watch for sudden movements—like pedestrians, bicyclists, or animals darting into the road ahead of you.
- Carry emergency equipment—a jack, flares, flashlight, first-aid kit.
- Keep your mind on your driving, eyes on the road and other drivers, and both hands on the wheel.
- Constantly look well ahead for changes in traffic or road conditions. If you see a lot of brake lights, slow down and be prepared to stop.

Check Your Common ‘Safety’ Sense

Don’t speed.
Follow traffic rules, signs, and signals.
Don’t drive under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or fatigue.
Stay at least two seconds behind the other driver, more in bad conditions.

Keep your eyes and attention on the road and other drivers.
Adjust your speed and driving to changing weather and traffic conditions.
Expect the unexpected.
Buckle up for safety.

Be prepared! And have a safe trip!
Hold Onto Your Seat—

Some Seat Belt ‘Myth-Conceptions’

**MYTH:** My seat belt will trap me in the car if the car catches fire or goes underwater.

**FACT:** Only about one-half of one percent of accidents involve car fires or water. But even if you did have such an accident, wearing a seat belt makes it more likely that you would remain conscious—and able to get out of the car.

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**MYTH:** If I'm not wearing a seat belt, I'll be more likely to be thrown clear in an accident.

**FACT:** You are more likely to be thrown out of the car if you're not wearing a seat belt. But that's not a plus. You're 25 times more likely to be killed if you're thrown out of the vehicle. You'll probably be thrown through the windshield or door and into traffic or a tree.

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**MYTH:** I have automatic shoulder belts in my car, so I don't need to use a lap belt.

**FACT:** The combination of lap and a shoulder belt will keep you safer. Use them together. The lap belt will keep you in place so the shoulder belt can restrain you properly.

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**MYTH:** My car has air bags, so I don't need to wear a seat belt.

**FACT:** Air bags provide valuable protection, but they're not meant to be used alone. For one thing, they only inflate in a head-on collision. To be safe in a rear or side crash, you need both a lap and a shoulder belt. You also have to wear a seat belt to stay in position and get the safety benefits of an air bag in a head-on crash.

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**MYTH:** I'm just going a short distance. I don't need my belt.

**FACT:** There are more crashes—and more fatal crashes—on local roads than on highways. No trip is too short to be dangerous!