



From One Second to the Next – Reaching for the Stars

Discuss each of the following questions based on the video and what a new driver might say to excuse his/her actions or make a victim feel better in this type of circumstance.

1	What happened in this video?
2	How do you believe the injuries to the two engineers could have been avoided?
3	Who else was affected in this crash?
4	What are some of the risks of driving on expressways that this video highlights?
5	Megan O'Dell, the daughter of one of the men killed, forgave the young man in the accident. Would you have been able to do that?
6	The texting driver, Reggie Shaw, said, "To be a good member of society you have to give back more than you take." If you caused a fatal crash because of texting how would you make amends to the families of your victims? Could you ever make it right?

Driving on Interstates

How should a driver safely adjust to the following situations on a high-speed interstate highway?

Motorcycles

Search

Evaluate

Execute

First Responders

Search

Evaluate

Execute

Construction zones

Search

Evaluate

Execute

Large commercial trucks and buses

Search

Evaluate

Execute

Tunnels, bridges and toll plazas

Search

Evaluate

Execute

Aggressive drivers

Search

Evaluate

Execute

Driving with Motorcycles

A motorcyclist is SIX TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE HURT than a car driver in a crash.

Yield!	Yield right—of--way to an oncoming motorcycle when turning left. Violating a motorcyclist's right of way can result in a citation with significant penalties if you cause a serious injury. Drivers are at fault in just over half of car crashes with motorcycles.
Search!	Look twice before changing lanes or merging into traffic. Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to be sure it is safe before merging or changing lanes. Motorcycles can be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size.
Space!	Do not share a lane with a motorcycle. Motorcyclists often adjust their position in the traffic lane to avoid road hazards like potholes or oil spills, because of wind, or to be seen by other road users. Motorcyclists are entitled to use the entire lane.
Passing!	Allow plenty of space between your vehicle and the motorcycle when passing. After passing a rider, make sure you can see the motorcycle's headlight in your rearview mirror before moving back into the lane. If you are being passed by a motorcycle, simply maintain your speed and allow the motorcyclist to complete his/her passing.
Don't Tailgate!	Allow at least 3 to 4 seconds of following distance between your vehicle and the motorcycle in front of you. Motorcycles may need to slow for road hazards like gravel, wet road or railroad crossings that don't affect cars the same way. Motorcyclists often reduce speed by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, which does not activate the brake light. So, be alert and leave plenty of space around motorcycles.
Groups!	Use care when driving near a group of motorcyclists. Motorcyclists participate in organized rides which can involve many motorcycles. Driving around these groups requires communication and patience. If you need to change lanes or reach an exit, signal your intention early and wait for the riders in the group to create a gap for you. Do not merge in between groups or riders unless there is sufficient space to do so. If it is a small group, it may be easier to slow and let the group pass before making your lane change.
Dangerous Groups	Males are most often the victims and drivers in pedestrian-involved crashes. Males accounted for the greatest number of pedestrians involved in crashes. Nearly 70 percent of all pedestrian fatalities were male. Approximately half of all drivers involved in a pedestrian crash were male.

Sharing the Road with Motorcycles

1 What are some possible risks of driving on the road with motorcycles?

2 What can drivers do differently when traveling near a motorcycle?

3 What's the best way to practice S.E.E. when driving near a motorcycle?

Search

Evaluate

Execute





Expressway Hazards

Name the potential problems that might be encountered with the following interstate users and conditions.

Other cars and trucks
Motorcycles
Law enforcement and other types of emergency vehicles
Large commercial trucks and buses
Tunnels
Bridges
Toll plazas
Construction zones
Traffic

Cars and Trucks: Risks

Speeders

Distracted
Driving

Aggressive
Drivers

Tailgaters

1. What are some of the risks that road users have with each type of driver?

Speeders

Distracted Drivers

Aggressive Drivers

Tailgaters

2. What are some of the consequences of displaying each type of behavior on an interstate

Speeders

Distracted Drivers

Aggressive Drivers

Tailgaters

3. As a new driver, what makes these drivers particularly frightening?

Speeders

Distracted Drivers

Aggressive Drivers

Tailgaters

Merging On & Off the Interstate

Circle T (True) or F (False) for each of the statements below.

1	T	F	One of the dangers on a highway merge is stopped traffic ahead of you.
2	T	F	Prepare to use the shoulder of the interstate if no gap in traffic is available.
3	T	F	The best way to merge onto an interstate is to jump over two lanes at once to get out of the lane used by merging traffic.
4	T	F	If you miss your exit, pull over to the shoulder and back onto your exit.
5	T	F	The only place that you need to look to remain when safe while merging is your rear view and side view mirrors.
6	T	F	When exiting, a good way to stay safe is to prepare to adjust your speed for a potential blocked ramp.
7	T	F	When merging onto the interstate using a weave lane, existing traffic has to yield to newly entering traffic.
8	T	F	When approaching your exit, reduce your speed to near the ramp's speed while still in the drive lane.
9	T	F	Move into the lane closest to your anticipated exit at least a half mile before reaching it.
10	T	F	You don't need to signal when merging onto an interstate since it's obvious that you'll need to move over.

Unit 7 Review

1 What is an expressway?

2 How is an expressway different from other types of roads?

3 What are some of the other types of vehicles a driver might encounter on an expressway?

4 Why are motorcycles risky?

5 Why are commercial vehicles risky to drivers?

6 What is the move-over law?

7 What are some of the risks of work zones?

8 How are work zone speed limits enforced?

9 What is a blind zone?

10 What are some of the risks of toll plazas?

11 What are some of the risks of bridges?

12 What are some tools used to control traffic on bridges?

Unit 7 Review *Continued*

13 How do you merge onto a highway?

14 Who has right- of-way when merging onto a highway?

15 What is one of the most important differences between driving on an urban road and on an expressway?

16 What is fatigued driving and why are highway drivers prone to drive fatigued?

17 What is the best way to avoid fatigued driving?

18 What is a weave lane?

19 What is an Exit Only lane?
