



# RISK REMINDER

July 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Driving Safety



Winter weather is often thought of as more dangerous than sunny, clear summer days, but don't be fooled: summer driving has its share of hazards. More teens and vacationers are on the road and may be unfamiliar with the area, tire blowouts and construction are more prevalent in the summer, and you'll see more motorcycles and bikes, too. Not to mention the weather, which can range from triple digit temperatures to torrential rains, leading to overheating, flooding, even hydroplaning.

### No. 1: Double Down on Equipment Maintenance

Extreme heat takes a toll on vehicles. It can lead to tire blowouts and can affect your vehicle's braking ability. It causes your engine to overheat more easily and places increased stress on just about every mechanical function your vehicle performs.

Paying extra attention to tire pressure and tread, checking the brakes frequently and making sure that your vehicle's cooling system has all the proper fluids can help keep vehicles from being sidelined during the summer months.

### No. 2: Watch Out for Distracted Drivers

Whether it's families on vacation or students heading toward the beach, summer roads are filled with drivers who are more distracted than usual. While distracted drivers are already a threat on the roads, summer can bring more distractions than usual, so watch out for drivers who aren't watching out for you. If you see a distracted driver, avoid being near them on the road.

### No. 3: Pay Attention to Weather Forecasts

Depending on what part of the country you're in, your summer weather patterns could include thunderstorms, downpours that result in flash flooding, tornados and more.

These often can happen with little to no warning, so make sure you know the forecast for the area you're driving each day, and check in periodically just to make sure nothing has changed.

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## No. 4: Keep an Eye on the Calendar, Too

Some days are more dangerous than others; weekends and certain holidays are associated with an increase in drinking and driving. So, for professional drivers who are behind the wheel during that time, it requires more attention to the surrounding hazards.

July 4 is particularly deadly, both in terms of motorcycle fatalities and passenger vehicles. On the weekends, the highest number of fatal crashes happen between 3 and 7 p.m., so be aware of increased risk when you're behind the wheel — and take extra safety precautions as needed.

## No. 5: Take Care of Those Eyes

Driving can be hard on the eyes, period. But during summer months, when the sun is out in full force, there's also an increased amount of sun glare coming off the road and other vehicles. This can be particularly dangerous during the early morning and late evening, so invest in a good pair of polarized sunglasses. They'll help protect your eyes from fatigue and damage, cut down on glare and make it easier to see clearly.

## No. 6: Increase Following Distance

Whether you're hauling a heavy load or driving a light-duty vehicle, increasing your following distance can help offset the dangers brought by heavier traffic, construction zones and vacationing drivers who are traveling in unfamiliar areas.

## No. 7: Respect the Effects of Heat

Finally, it's easy to dismiss just how much the sun can affect us, but it's important to pay attention to how it affects both drivers and vehicles. Heat exhaustion can make drivers drowsy, and an overheated vehicle can leave them stranded.

**QUIZ QUESTION: TRUE or FALSE**  
Extreme heat can cause blowouts?