



RISK REMINDER

June 2026

Name: _____ Company: _____

Driving Emergencies

Have you ever had a blown tire? Gone into a skid on a slick roadway? Had your steering fail? What did you do? Would you know how to react to these driving emergencies?

You blow a tire. If your steering wheel begins to vibrate and your vehicle pulls strongly to one side, you may have blown a front tire. If a rear corner of your vehicle drops, and your vehicle starts to swing back and forth, you may have blown a rear tire. In either case:

- **Hang on.** Don't let go of the steering wheel.
- **Don't brake suddenly.** Hard braking with a blown tire can send your car out of control.
- **Ease off the gas.** Coast until you have control of the car.
- **Turn on your hazard lights.** Warn the drivers around you.
- **Steer smoothly.** Don't jerk the wheel or turn sharply as you guide your car to the side of the road.
- **Brake gently.** Once you have control of the car, you may brake gently to bring it to a stop.



Your car skids or hydroplanes. Maybe you took that turn just a little too fast. Maybe the slick road conditions took you by surprise. Whatever the cause, your car is now moving sideways instead of forward. Here's what to do:

- **Make no sudden moves.** Don't brake hard or jerk the wheel.
- **Ease off the gas.** If you're hydroplaning, you'll start to feel contact with the road again as you slow down.
- **Steer gently.** Steer the car's nose gently in the direction you'd like to go. Make adjustments—gently—as needed, until the car moves in a straight line.

Your brakes fail. If you step on your brakes and nothing happens:

- **Downshift.** Unlike blown tires, skids, or failed steering, control of the car's direction is not an issue; it is safe to downshift so the engine will slow the car.
- **Move to the right.** Do your best to move to the side of the road. Remember to signal as needed.
- **Shift into neutral and apply your emergency brake.** Once you have moved to the right, shift into neutral and apply your emergency brake. This may not completely stop your car, but it should help slow the car down.
- **Rub the curb.** If you can run your vehicle along a curb or something else alongside the road, you can use friction to slow or stop your car.
- **It can be very dangerous when something goes wrong with your vehicle.** By being prepared for emergencies, you can decrease your chances of being injured.

Questions: True or False

1. If you blow a tire, don't brake suddenly. Hard braking with a blown tire can send your car out of control. ____
2. If you're hydroplaning, ease off the gas. ____
3. It can be very dangerous when something goes wrong with your vehicle. By being prepared for emergencies, you can decrease your chances of being injured. ____