

OSC | 11
Ohio Safety Congress & Expo



#514 Are you a good driver?

Mark Bloom

Thursday, March 31, 2011
1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

 Bureau of Workers' Compensation



Mark Bloom

- 10 - years racing various sports cars
- 20 - years teaching advanced driver training programs
- 10 - years with The Mid-Ohio School
- President & Owner – BSDD, Inc.



The BSDD Six:

- Seat belts and seat position (hands, feet, steering wheel, mirrors)
- 100% focus 100% of the time is ideal but it's critical at intersections
- Drive the speed limit
- Drive for conditions*
- Everyone else on the road is incompetent (a BOZO!) – Defensive Driving
- Don't be a BOZO – Don't do anything that causes another driver to change their behavior



F - FOCUS
A - AWARENESS
T - TIRES
E - EYES

Your FATE is in your hands and totally under your control nearly 100% of the time!



Do You Take Driving Seriously?

- Exposure to injury or death – people are killed in automobile crashes every single day
- Crash vs. Accident
- "... but it wasn't my fault."



Multiple Causation Theory:

Series of events or occurrences which lead to crashes – three causes in general:

- Mechanical failure – 4% of time
- Road conditions – 11% of time
- Driver error – 85% of time*

Source:
Ohio Department of Public Safety



2008 Ohio Driver Crash Statistics:

1,099 Fatalities

- Failure to control
- Exceeded speed limit
- Improper lane changes
- Failure to yield
- Driver inattention / distraction

77,296 Non-fatal injury crashes

235,705 Property damage crashes*

Source:
Ohio Department of Public Safety



A Function of Luck not Skill –

When the brain is asked to perform two tasks at once, it gives priority to the more deeply ingrained skill.

Since we learn to talk before we learn to drive, our mental resources go to the conversation instead of driving the vehicle. This causes a driver to miss visual cues and experience impaired peripheral vision and diminished coordination.

Using brain imaging, researchers also discovered that just listening to a cell phone reduces by 37 percent the amount of brain activity associated with driving.

Source:
2008 Carnegie Mellon University study




CLARK COUNTY
Woman's Arm Severed In Car Accident

A Letcher County woman suffered a horrible injury early Thursday when her arm was severed in a car crash on the Mountain Parkway in Clark County.

Jacqueline Dotson and her six-year-old daughter had to be cut out of their vehicle after the accident in which Dotson veered into the median and over-corrected, rolling her truck over the guardrail and landing upside down after flipping several times.

Several people stopped to help, and it turns out, the good samaritans may very well have saved Dotson's life. Sheila Vice, a nurse's aide, and an off-duty EMT from another county stopped to help, and put a tourniquet on Dotson's arm to stop the bleeding. Her arm was found near the accident still clutching a cell phone.

"Basically we stayed there and talked to them until the EMT drivers got there," said Vice.

Rescuers used the jaws of life to get the Dotson and her daughter out of the truck. Both were flown to hospitals, and Dotson is listed in serious condition at UK Hospital. Her daughter is not in the hospital, and sheriff's officials say they believe she's going to be fine.

Both were wearing seat belts.



Texting while driving leads to CRASHING while texting!




Above-average driver?

- 72% regard themselves as such
- "Lake Wobegon Effect" – at both demanding and undemanding tasks
- An above-average juggler?
- Is driving an undemanding or a demanding task?
- Fundamental information imbalance – poorest performers are least likely to admit or recognize their own lack of skill...*

Sources:
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Dead Man Driving – Oliver Broudy



Near Misses –

- For every actual crash, drivers experience 11 near crashes
- Evasive maneuvering is critical
- Nearly 30% of drivers never take evasive action
- Requires skill development and habit formation
- Practice, practice, practice!*

Sources:
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
Dead Man Driving – Oliver Broudy



Three Components

- Basic ability to operate the vehicle
- Driver education – “Rules of the Road”
- Emergency Driving Skills



Knowledge

- Basic driver education
- “Rules of the Road”
- Street signs, traffic signals, speed limits, etc.



Experience

- Five years
- Most incidents are surprises or moments of sheer terror
- A few crashes, parking lot bumps, speeding tickets, etc.



Practice

- 20 – 25% daily “back & forth”
- Limited or no exposure to emergency driving situations
- Need drill & rote driver training to develop emergency driving skills



Misconceptions

- Mirrors
- Green light on a traffic signal
- 10 & 2
- “Pump” the brakes – know your braking system
- One car length for every 10 mph



Driver error – 85%

- Cars react from driver input
- Fear brings panic
- Panic input is ALWAYS wrong!

Source:
E. Paul Dickinson
epaul.com



The goal of advanced driver training:

Change *panic input* which is ALWAYS wrong to –
trained reaction which can save a life.



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