

## DRIVER EDUCATION VOCABULARY WORDS

The following terms are needed by every driver. These are the things you as a driver and operator of a motor vehicle will utilize while driving, servicing and maintaining your vehicle every day. Most of these definitions have been taken from the Drive Right Textbook 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> editions, TEA Glossary of Terms, TXDPS Texas Drivers Handbook Appendix A Glossary of Terms, and the World Wide Web. By Mr. Santos.

### A

**Acceleration lane:** - Lane that permits drivers entering an expressway to accelerate to the speed of expressway traffic.

**Adverse Conditions:** - Conditions that present a negative effect on the driving task.

**Advisory Speed Limit:** - Speed limit set for special conditions such as sharp curves.

**Aggressive Driving:** - The behavior of driving in a combative, forceful, or competitive manner, usually caused by frustration of other drivers.

**Aim High:** - Aim high in driving encourages you to scan up to 15 seconds ahead. This gives you plenty of time to react to upcoming traffic events. Primary focus should be closer to the vehicle while maintaining a 4 second gap with traffic in your lane. You look ahead 12-15 seconds into your target area as you drive.

**Air Gauge (Tire Gauge):** - A tire gauge measures the air pressure in any pneumatic (air-filled) wheel or tire.

**Air Quality Alert Day:** - Is designed to help protect public health by issuing an alert on days when air quality is unhealthy due to a high level of particle pollution and/or ozone.

**Alignment:** - All of the elements that make your car go straight are called "alignment." The inclusive term "wheel alignment" involves three main measurements caster, camber, and toe. These measurements have standards that a technician uses as targets of adjustment.

**Alternator:** - Is an electromechanical device that converts mechanical energy to electrical energy in the form of alternating current.

**Anti-Lock Braking System:** - Helps maintain control by preventing any of the wheels from locking while applying a hard brake. The pedal vibrates when pushed, but steering control can be maintained with the rolling traction. Computer-controlled braking system that keeps the wheels from locking when the driver brakes hard. It allows for steering and braking actions to occur at the same time.

## **B**

**Balancing:** - Properly balanced tires are important for driving comfort and long tire life. Unbalanced tires can cause vibration, resulting in driver fatigue, premature tire wear and unnecessary wear to your vehicle's suspension. Tires should be balanced when they are mounted on wheels for the first time or when they are remounted after repair. Tires should be rebalanced at the first sign of vibration or "shimmy."

**Basic Speed Law:** - Law stating that you may not drive faster than is safe and prudent for existing conditions, regardless of posted speed limits.

**Battery:** - An electrical battery is one or more electrochemical cells that convert stored chemical energy into electrical energy.

**Blind Spot:** - Area that rearview mirrors cannot show.

**Blood-Alcohol Concentration (BAC):** - Amount of alcohol in the blood expressed as a percentage of ethyl alcohol related to the volume of fluids in the bloodstream. The ratio between the alcohol consumed and the blood in the body.

**Blue Book:** - or Bluebook is a term often referring to an almanac or other compilation of statistics and information.

**Braking distance:** - Distance your vehicle travels from the time you apply the brake until your vehicle stops.

## **C**

**Carbon Monoxide:** - Colorless, odorless, tasteless gas contained in the exhaust fumes of gasoline engines.

**Catalytic converter:** - part of a vehicle's emission system that converts harmful gases into less harmful gases and water.

**Center of Gravity:** - The point at which the entire weight of a body is considered concentrated so that if supported at this point, the body would remain in equilibrium in any position. A point around which the vehicle's weight is evenly distributed.

**Central Vision:** - The field of vision around your focal vision in which you can see clearly while looking straight ahead that aids in determining vehicle position to the roadway.

**Collision:** - Contact between two or more objects, as when two vehicles collide into each other.

**Collision Insurance:** - Provides coverage to pay the costs of repair or replacement of your vehicle from a collision.

**Common Speed:** - Speed used by the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of drivers on an expressway.

**Comprehensive Insurance:** - Provides coverage for replacement or repair of your vehicle from damage other than from a collision.

**Compromise (Space Cushion):** - Reducing conflicts for space and avoiding "pressure" in traffic situations. Open area around a vehicle that consists of adequate following interval between it and the vehicles ahead and behind that allow the driver to stop, plus swerve paths to left and right.

**Controlled Intersection:** - Intersection at which signals or signs determine the right of way.

**Covering the Brake:** - Take your foot off the accelerator hold it over the brake pedal to reduce response time for brake application and maintain speed of vehicle.

**Cross buck:** - Large white X-shaped sign located prior to a railroad crossing.

## **D**

**DE-964:** - The official state driver education document certifying completion of an approved driver education course.

**Deceleration Lane:** - Area where speed can be reduced to exit safely. Expressway lane used to slow your vehicle without blocking vehicles behind you.

**Defensive Driving:** - Protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected driving situations by using a space management system.

**Depth Perception:** - Ability to judge distance between yourself and other objects.

**Dipstick:** - A graduated rod for measuring the depth or amount of liquid in a container, as of oil in a crankcase.

**Disc Brake:** - The disc brake or disk brake is a device for slowing or stopping the rotation of a wheel while it is in motion. A brake disc (or rotor in U.S. English) is usually made of cast iron, but may in some cases be made of composites such as reinforced carbon-carbon or ceramic-matrix composites. This is connected to the wheel and/or the axle. To stop the wheel, friction material in the form of brake pads (mounted on a device called a brake caliper) is forced mechanically, hydraulically, pneumatically or electromagnetically against both sides of the disc. Friction causes the disc and attached wheel to slow or stop. Brakes convert motion to heat, and if the brakes get too hot, they become less effective, a phenomenon known as brake fade.

**Driver Inattention:** - The driver is distracted, asleep, or fatigued, or otherwise “lost in thought”.

**Driver Responsibility:** – A driver’s moral, legal, and mental accountability to the driving task.

**Driving as a Privilege:** - An opportunity granted to a person to drive within the HTS.

**Driving at the Common Speed:** - Driving at the speed of traffic to establish and maintain a safe space around your vehicle. A driver must avoid the possibility of exceeding the legal posted speed.

**Driving Conditions:** - When making the decision whether to drive of the appropriate speed is safe/reasonable, the driver must take in consideration the condition of the weather, visibility, traffic, roadway, and vehicle.

**Driving task:** - All social, physical, legal, and mental skills required to drive.

**Drum Brake:** - A drum brake is a brake in which the friction is caused by a set of shoes or pads that press against a rotating drum-shaped part called a brake drum. The term “drum brake” usually means a brake in which shoes press on the inner surface of the drum. When shoes press on the outside of the drum, it is usually called a clasp brake. Where the drum is pinched between two shoes, similar to a conventional disk brake, it is sometimes called a “pinch drum brake”, although

such brakes are relatively rare. A related type of brake uses a flexible belt or “band” wrapping around the outside of a drum, called a band brake.

**DUI:** - Driving under the influence (DUI) - A Class C misdemeanor for which a minor can be charged in Texas if driving with any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor’s system. An offense for which a driver can be charged in some states if the driver’s blood-alcohol concentration is above 0.05.

**DWI:** - Driving while intoxicated (DWI) - An offense for which a driver can be charged in all states if the driver’s blood-alcohol concentration is above a certain level.

## **E**

**Engine Failure:** - Vehicle failure that occurs when the engine quits running completely because the engine becomes flooded, overheats, etc.

**Emergency:** - An unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.

**Emotion:** - Strong feeling such as anger, fear, and joy.

**Engine Starting Procedures:** - Check parking brake; foot on brake; key in ignition; gear in “Park or Neutral”; check for fuel injection or automatic choke; turn key to “on” position; check alert lights and gauges; turn key to start engine; adjust Heating,

**Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC);** set accessories (headlights or daylight running lights are recommended); check warning lights and gauges.

**Entrance Ramp:** - The ramp to enter the expressway. This area gives the driver time to evaluate traffic conditions. It can be level with the expressway or on an uphill or downhill grade.

**Evasive action steering:** - Emergency steering technique used to quickly steer around an object in your path. Without removing hands from the steering wheel, turn the wheel so that the forearms touch each other, then turn the wheel in the opposite direction until the forearms touch again. Return the wheel to center position. This is the maximum steer input for lane change and activated ABS. Less input may be used to perform maneuvers for emergency lane adjustment to the left or right.

## **F**

**Fatigue:** - Physical or mental weariness resulting from exertion or other effect.

**Feet Per Second a Vehicle Travels:** -  $\text{Speed} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ speed} \times \# \text{ seconds} = \text{feet/second}$ .

**Field of Vision:** - All the area a person can see while looking straight ahead.

**Financial responsibility law:** - Law that requires you to prove that you can pay for collision damages you cause that result in death, injury, or property damage.

**Flash Flood:** - Sudden flooding caused by slow-moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area, or heavy rains from hurricanes and tropical storms.

**Flashing Yellow Light:** - Slow down and proceed with caution.

**Flashing Red Light:** - Stop completely before entering the crosswalk or intersection, and then proceed when you can do so safely.

**Flashing Signal:** - Traffic signal that alerts drivers to dangerous conditions or tells them to stop.

**Following Distance (Interval):** - Time recommended to follow another vehicle in the intended path of travel. Select an object near the road surface. When the vehicle ahead passes that object, start counting "one thousand-one," "one thousand-two," etc., until the front of your car reaches that point. For speeds under 30 mph, the minimum time with good road conditions is 2 seconds. For speeds above 30 mph, maintain 4 seconds (more for adverse conditions) of following time. Developing a 4 second following interval is the best practice for a novice driver.

**Force of Impact:** - Force with which one moving object hits another object; varies according to speed, weight, and distance between impact and stop and is based on forces of inertia and momentum.

**Freeway:** - A divided, controlled access highway for through traffic [Texas Transportation Code, Section 541.302(3)].

**Friction:** - Force that creates heat and helps each tire to maintain traction on the road, unless too much heat is generated which may cause traction loss due to melting of tire rubber on the roadway.

## **G**

**Gap:** - Time or distance interval between vehicles on roadway.

**Glare:** - A brightness that reflects and reduces a driver's ability to see.

**Glare Recovery Time:** - Time your eyes need to regain clear vision after being affected by glare.

**Glare Resistance:** - Ability to continue seeing when looking at bright lights.

**Good Driving:** - Loosely defined term that many drivers assume includes themselves when each reaches the point of skilled vehicle operation.

**Good Samaritan Law:** - Liability for emergency care: a person in good faith administers emergency care, including using an automated defibrillator, at the scene of an emergency (not in a hospital or other health care facility or means of medical transport) is not liable in civil damages for an act performed during the emergency unless the act is willful or wantonly negligent [Civil Practices and Remedies Code, Section 74.001].

**Graduated Licensing:** - Requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages with various restrictions as to accompanying drivers, times permitted to drive and allowable passengers.

**Green Light:** - Check traffic, and proceed if safe to do so.

**Guide Sign:** - Sign that gives directions, distance, services, point of interest, and other information.

**Gravity:** - Force that pulls all things to earth.

## **H**

**Head Check:** - After signaling and discouraging other motorists from driving into the lane next to you it is important to check over the appropriate shoulder for approaching speeding vehicles and to ensure that the driver in the next lane is not about to drift over without a head-check.

**Hand-Over-Hand Steering:** - Pulling the steering wheel down with one hand while the other hand crosses over to pull the wheel farther down. Used for quick turns at speeds below air bag deployment speed.

**Hand Position:** - Placement of the hand at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4 o'clock for best balance on the vehicle steering wheel and input.

**Highway Hypnosis:** - Drowsy or trance-like condition caused by concentration on the roadway ahead and monotony of driving.

**Highway Transportation System:** - The highway transportation system (HTS) is a complex system including a consortium of federal, state, local, and individual systems functioning together to provide a reduced-risk and lawful driving Highway Transportation System environment made up of people, vehicles, and roadways.

**Hydroplaning:** - Occurs when a tire patch loses roadway contact by rising up on top of water.

**I**

**Implied Consent:** - States that anyone who receives a driver's license automatically consents to be tested for blood-alcohol content and other drugs if stopped for suspicion of drug use while driving.

**Information Sign:** - Inform of local regulations and practices.

**Insurance:** - Pays other people's expenses for accidents caused by drivers covered under owner's policy.

**Insurance Responsibility Act:** - Was enacted to ensure all drivers are financially responsible for the death, injury, or property damage they may cause while operating a motor vehicle.

**Intersection:** - A place where two or more roadway users meet and cross at a point.

**Intoxication:** - (a) Not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties by reason of the introduction of alcohol, a controlled substance, a drug, a dangerous drug, or a combination of two or more of those substances or any other substance into the body; or ... (b) Having an alcohol concentration of .08 or more [Texas Transportation Code, Section 724.001 (9), and Penal Code 49.01 (2)].

**Intoxilyzer:** - Breath-test instrument machine most commonly used for determining blood-alcohol content.

**IPDE Process:** - Critical-thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving process to use in the Highway Transportation System (Identify, Predicting, Deciding, and Executing).

## **J**

**Jack:** - Hand-operated device used to lift and hold one corner or side of the vehicle.

**Joining traffic:** - Turning right or left into lanes of other vehicles.

**Judgment/Reasoning:** - These psychological functions are the first ones affected by alcohol. A person's ability to judge right from wrong, good from bad or their ability to reason is affected.

## **L**

**Lane Change:** - Lateral movement of the vehicle from one lane to another using proper space management procedures.

**Lateral Maneuver:** - Vehicle movements to the side (swerve, pulling to and from the curb, lane change, merging, exiting).

**Liability Insurance:** - Provides compensation for damages which the insured is legally obligated to pay; covers others when you are at fault.

**Line of Sight (LOS):** - Distance from the driver's eyes to the target at the end of the intended path of travel you can see ahead.

**Litter:** - Defines vast range of materials such as grease or leftover food from restaurants, building materials abandoned at construction sites, and packaging materials from stores.

**Loading Considerations:** - Distributing the weight evenly throughout vehicle. Do Not Overload.

**Low Water Crossing:** - Roadways that may have been covered with water or even washed away during flooding, creating unsafe driving condition. Drivers who repeatedly drive through flooded low-water crossings often do not recognize the dangers of a small increase in the water level.

## **M**

**Maintenance Checks:** - Checks and routine maintenance performed to ensure that a vehicle operates properly.

**Median:** - Area of ground separating traffic moving in opposite directions.

**Merging Area:** - This is the area to move onto the expressway. Stretch of roadway at the end of acceleration lane on an expressway where vehicles join the flow of traffic.

**Minimize a Hazard:** - Reduce the possibility of conflict by putting more space between your vehicle and the hazard.

**Minimum Speed Limit:** - Speed limit to keep traffic moving safely by not allowing drivers to drive slower than a certain speed.

**MIP:** - Minor In Possession (Alcohol). A minor commits an offense if he/she; attempts to purchase, purchase, possesses, consumption, or misrepresentation of age regarding an alcoholic beverage [Alcohol beverage Code, Section 106.04 (a)].

**Mirrors:** - Detection devices and should be checked prior to and after any speed or position change.

**Moving Vehicle:** - A vehicle that is self-propelled.

**Moving Forward:** - Vehicle movement moving the vehicle to the front.

**MPG:** - Miles per Gallon the distance (in miles) a vehicle can travel on one gallon of fuel. For vehicles that operate on fuels that cannot be measured in gallons (electricity, natural gas, hydrogen), the gasoline gallon equivalent is employed to give a reference point for comparison.

## N

**Night Driving:** - Operating a vehicle during the hours of darkness.

**Night Time:** - The period beginning one-half hour after sunset and ending one-half hour before sunrise.

**No-Zones:** - Large mirror blind-zones where truck drivers cannot see other vehicles to the front, side, or rear where truck drivers cannot see other vehicles and where most collisions occur. These no-zones are in front beside the truck, to the sides of the truck, and to the rear of every large truck.

**Nystagmus:** - Involuntary jerking of the eyes as a person gazes to the side. Part of the sobriety tests is called gaze Nystagmus.

## O

**Obligations of a Driver:** - If a driver encounters conflict with other roadway users or the roadway and consequences occur, the driver has the obligation of driving to accept the consequences and be morally and financially responsible.

**Orderly Visual Search Pattern:** - Process of searching critical areas in a regular sequence from the intended path of travel.

**Other Drugs:** - Legal and illegal drugs other than alcohol.

**Other Roadway Users:** - People who use the HTS by walking, driving. Or riding (including other cars, vans, pick-up trucks, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, semitrucks, pedestrians, animals, etc.).

**Overdriving headlights:** - Driving at a speed that makes your stopping distance longer than the distance lighted by your headlights. Low beams are limited to 45 mph and high beams are limited to 65 mph for stopping purposes.

**Oversteer:** - When the rear tire patches lose varying degrees of traction and the front tire patches have more traction causing a spinning effect (yaw) around the vehicle's center of gravity. The vehicle has a tendency to spin to the left or right even though the driver is not turning the steering wheel.

**Overtaking:** - To pass the vehicle ahead.

**Owner's Manual:** - Owner's manual (also called an instruction manual) is an instructional book or booklet that is supplied with almost all technologically advanced consumer products such as vehicles, home appliances and computer peripherals. Information contained in the owner's manual.

## **P**

**Parallel parking:** - Parking where the vehicle lines up parallel or going the same direction as the curb. When parallel parking, the vehicle must be at least 6 inches but not more than 18 inches from the curb.

**Path of Travel:** - (POT) Space to the target ahead that your vehicle will occupy as you travel on the roadway.

**Pavement Marking:** - A marking on the pavement to warn or direct drivers and to regulate traffic.

**Pedestrian:** - Highway user on foot.

**Peer pressure:** - Mental and social influence of others of a similar age on decision making skills.

**Peripheral Vision:** - Area a person can see that is around the central field of vision. It is conical in shape around the other vision fields. It functions to notice changes in color and object movement.

**Point of No Return:** - Point beyond which a driver can no longer stop safely without entering the intersection.

**Possession:** - Dominion over, and exclusive control and use of, a material object or property resulting from the fact of holding it (whether rightly or wrongly) in one's power. Possession is said to be the "nine-tenths of the law" and is a prima facie evidence of ownership-good against any other claim, except that of the legal owner. It may mature into legal ownership due to passage of time, as in adverse possession.

**Protected Left Turn:** - Left turn made on a left-turn light, green arrow, or delayed green light while oncoming traffic is stopped.

**P.S.I.:** - Pounds per Square Inch. The pound per square inch or, more accurately, pound-force per square inch is a unit of pressure or of stress based on avoirdupois units. It is the pressure resulting from a force of one poundforce applied to an area of one square inch: 1 psi approximately equals 6,894.757 Pa, where Pascal (Pa) is the SI unit of pressure.

**Push-Pull-Slide:** - When you use push-pull steering, the palms of both hands should be facing you. To turn right, firmly grasp the steering wheel with your left hand at about the 7 o'clock position. Push the wheel until your hand is at about the 11:00 o'clock. Slide your right hand up to about 12:00 and pull the steering wheel down while moving your left hand back down to 7 o'clock. Continue pushing and pulling the wheel as you complete the turn.

## R

**RD + BD = TSD:** Reaction distance + Braking distance = Total Stopping Distance

**Radiator:** - The automotive radiator is defined as a device that gives off heat very fast. It also cools the engine coolant as it flows from one end to the next. The automotive radiator consists of a tank on either end, a pressure cap, core and a petcock drain. The radiator allows the heat, which the coolant absorbed while circulating through the engine, to escape in the atmosphere when the coolant returns to it.

**Reaction distance** - Distance vehicle travels from the point the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes that action through braking, steering, or acceleration. Distance your vehicle travels until the driver perceives the need to change speed or position.

**Reaction Time:** - The time the vehicle travels from the point where the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes the action through braking, steering, or acceleration to change speed or position.

**Reckless Driving:** - A person commits an offense if the person drives a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

**Red Traffic Light:** - Stop before the stop line, entering the crosswalk or intersection. Wait for green light to proceed.

**Regulatory Sign:** - Regulates the speed and movement of traffic.

**Responsibility of a Driver:** - A driver's moral, legal, and mental accountability to driving practices that utilize the knowledge, understanding, skills, and experiences. A 12 driver has the responsibility of driving a vehicle in the Highway Transportation System without conflict with other roadway users or the roadway.

**Right-of-way:** - The privilege of having immediate use of a certain part of a roadway. The right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or

pedestrian that is approaching from a direction, at a speed, and within a proximity that could cause a collision unless one grants precedence to the other.

**Right-turn-on-red:** - Turning right when the red signal is on, after stopping behind the intersection guides, unless specifically prohibited to turn.

**Risk:** - Chance of injury, damage, or loss. In driving, risk-taking (potential or immediate) is chancing the possibility of having a conflict that results in a crash or collision with another vehicle.

**Risk Reduction:** - Applying knowledge and understanding of Texas traffic laws; utilizing driver preparation procedures; utilizing occupant protection and having passengers utilize occupant protection; utilizing vehicle operation and control techniques; utilizing attention techniques; targeting line of sight and path of travel; utilizing vehicle movements procedures; utilizing reference points; maintaining vehicle balance; utilizing driver readiness techniques; timing divided attention tasks; managing distraction; and utilizing a space management system that includes information processing.

**Risk Reduction Techniques:** - Reducing the possibility of having a conflict (potential or immediate) that results in a non-incident, crash or collision.

**Risk-Taking:** - Taking a chance of injury, damage, or loss. In driving, risk-taking (potential or immediate) is chancing the possibility of having a conflict that results in a crash or collision.

**Road Rage:** - Popular term for aggressive driving. (See Aggressive Driving)

**Roadway:** - The portion of a highway, other than the berm or shoulder that is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicle travel. If a highway includes at least two separate roadways, the term applies to each roadway separately.

**Roadway Marking:** - Markings and lane delineators (reflectors) that give warning or direction.

**Roadway Users:** - People who use the HTS by walking, driving, or riding (including automobiles, vans, pick-up trucks, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, semi-trucks, pedestrians, animals, horse drawn vehicles, bicycles, etc.).

## **S**

**Searching:** - Keep the eyes moving from 12-15 seconds path of travel, side to side, the rearview and side view mirrors, vehicle reference to lane position, and the instrument panel, toward the target area.

**Seating Position:** - In order to establish vehicle balance and improve ability to see, drivers should sit in a comfortable, upright position squarely behind the steering wheel.

**Separate:** - Avoiding having to deal with many problems at once.

**Signaling:** - Letting others know when you are going to stop or turn. Give signal by either lights or hand/arm extended out of car window.

**Skid:** - A mark on the road surface from a tire that is sliding due to a loss of traction from braking or abrupt steering. When tire patches lose part or all of their traction on the roadway surface due to abrupt suspension balance changes or roadway surface conditions.

**Slow Moving Vehicle:** - Vehicle unable to travel at highway speed.

**Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem:** - Vehicles, which travel at 25 mph or less, must display this sign.

**Smith System:** - The Smith System stresses eye discipline and the idea of space cushion by following these steps:

1. aim high in steering
2. get the big picture
3. keep your eyes moving or scanning
4. leave yourself an out
5. make sure others see you.

**Space Cushion Driving:** - Open area around a vehicle that consists of adequate following interval between it and the vehicles ahead and behind that allow the driver to stop, plus swerve paths to left and right.

**Space Management System:** - The system a driver uses to perform the space management process. Texas has the SEE iT system: Search, Evaluate, and Execute, in Texas.

**Speed:** - The act or state of moving.

**Speed Limits:** - The safe and reasonable speed declared by the Texas Transportation Commission for that part of the highway system [Texas Transportation Code, Section 545.353].

**Stale Green Light:** – A traffic light that has been green for a long time.

**Stopping Distance (Position):** - Stopping behind a vehicle in a position that allows the driver enough space to steer around the vehicle to avoid a stalled, turning, or backing vehicle.

**Stop Sign:** - Stop before entering a clearly marked stop line, the crosswalk or the point where the intersections meet. Stop means bring the vehicle to a complete stop.

**Surface Street:** - A Street that is paved as a public thoroughfare in a built environment.

**Synergistic Effect:** - Chemical reaction between two or more drugs, which may produce a reaction greater than either drug alone.

## **T**

**Tailgate:** - To follow another vehicle too closely.

**Target:** - An object that appears in the center and the end of the visible intended path of travel.

**Threshold braking:** - Maximum controlled braking efforts that provide for maximum deceleration without loss of tire traction.

**Tire Footprint:** - Your tires are the only thing keeping your car on the road and driving safely. A tire's footprint, or the area that is actually in contact with the road, is quite small. In fact, it's less than a square foot per tire. This tiny tire footprint is what creates the traction that allows your car to accelerate, decelerate, and turn. If these contact points are hampered by poor tread or under inflation, your ability to steer, start, and stop can be adversely affected.

**Tire Rotation:** - Tire rotation is the practice of swapping the front tires of a car with the back tires at regular intervals. The basic idea of tire rotation is to extend the life of the tires by allowing more even tread wear. Some specialty tire manufacturers do not recommend the practice for their customers, but most car owner's benefit from a regular tire rotation. Some tire stores even include a basic tire rotation as part of their service contract.

**Total stopping distance** - Distance your vehicle travels while you make a stop.

**Traction:** - Friction or gripping power between the tire patch and the roadway surface. The grip between the tires and the road surface that allows a vehicle to start, stop, and/or change direction.

**Traffic:** - Means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, and conveyances, including vehicles and streetcars, single or together while using the highway for purposes of travel [Texas Transportation Code, Section 541.301].

**Traffic Control Devices:** - Devices used to control the movement of traffic, such as, traffic signals, signs, and roadway markings.

**Traffic Flow:** - Number and types of vehicles that occupy a roadway (may differ during times of day or with other conditions).

**Traffic Laws:** - A traffic rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

**Traffic Sign Shapes:** - Octagon, exclusively for Stop Signs; Horizontal rectangle, generally for guide signs; Equilateral triangle, exclusively for Yield signs; Pennant, advanced warning of No Passing Zones; Diamond, exclusively to warn of existing or possible hazards on roadway or adjacent areas; Vertical rectangle, generally for regulatory signs; Pentagon, school advance and school crossing signs; and Round, railroad advance warning signs.

**Traffic Signal:** - Any signal used to control the movement of traffic.

**Transmission:** - A transmission allows power to be sent from a power source, most often an engine or motor, to a drive mechanism. Transmissions use gears and a clutch to convert the speed of the power source into torque. A simpler transmission is often referred to as a gearbox since it is basically a box containing a configuration of gears.

**Tunnel Vision:** - Being able to see in a narrow field of vision of 140° or less, with little effective peripheral vision.

**Turnabout:** - Turning maneuvers for turning into or out of an alley or driveway using reference points for best positioning.

## U

**Uncontrolled Intersection:** - Intersection that has no signs or signals to regulate traffic including railroad crossings that do not have flashing red lights or crossing gates.

**Understeer:** - When the front tire patches lose varying degrees of traction and the rear tire patches have more traction causing a pushing effect on the vehicle due to momentum and inertia forces. The vehicle has a tendency to go straight even if the steering wheel is turned more dramatically.

**Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Insurance:** - Covers costs up to a certain amount if you are struck by another vehicle whose driver has no insurance.

**Unleaded Gas:** - Gasoline that has not been treated with a lead compound.

**Unpaved Road:** - A road that is un-surfaced, such as, dirt or gravel.

**Unprotected Left Turn:** - Left turn made at a signal-controlled intersection without a special left-turn light.

**Urban District:** - The territory adjacent to and including a highway, if the territory: is not in a municipality; and is improved with structures that are used for business, industry, or dwelling houses and located at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of at least one-quarter mile on either side of the highway.

## V

**Vehicle:** - Means every device, in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

**Vehicle maintenance:** - Scheduled or unscheduled upkeep or repair of a vehicle.

**Velocitation Effect:** - The effect of traveling a constant higher speed has on a driver that makes the driver feel like the reduced speed is way too slow and the driver does not slow down enough for exits or frontage roads.

**Visual Lead Distance:** 12 – 15 Seconds Ahead (Searching) – Identify objects that require a change in speed or direction.

**Visual Search:** - Process can be described as an organized pattern of focused eye movement scanning the path of travel.

## **W**

**Warning Sign:** - Sign that alerts you to possible hazards and road conditions.

**Weather Conditions:** - Atmospheric conditions including fog, heavy rain, snow, wind, etc.

**Wolf Pack:** - Group of vehicles traveling together in a bunch on an expressway.

## **Y**

**Yaw:** - The spinning effect of a vehicle around its center of gravity. When a vehicle loses traction to the rear, the vehicle tends to move to the left or right around its center of gravity.

**Yellow Light:** - Slow down to stop, as a red light is next. Wait for green light to proceed.

**Yield:** - To allow another vehicle or roadway user to proceed first.

**Yield Sign:** - The road you are joining with another road ahead. You should slow down or stop, if necessary, so that you can yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the other road.

## **Z**

**Zero-tolerance law:** - Law stating it is illegal for persons under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in the blood.