

# ARKANSAS STATE VEHICLE SAFETY PROGRAM

AIDRM VSP 11-2021

## DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

- Observe Speed Limits and Traffic Laws** – Allow sufficient time to reach your destination without violating speed limits or traffic laws.
  
- Seat Belts** – Each driver and all passengers in any motor vehicle operated on State official business are required by law to wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. Statute: § 27-37-702
  
- Use of Wireless Telecommunications Device** – In accordance with A.C.A. § 27-51-1504 (a)(1), “Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a driver of a motor vehicle shall not operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless telecommunications device to (A) Write, send, or read a text-based communication; or (B) Access, read, or post to a social networking site. (2) A driver of a motor vehicle is not in violation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section if he or she reads, selects, or enters a telephone number or name in a wireless telecommunications device for the purpose of making a telephone call.” Communicating on the phone takes your attention away from driving, making you less likely to notice hazardous situations.
  
- Backing Crashes** – Most backing accidents are preventable. Whenever possible, park your vehicle where backing is not required. Know what is beside and behind your vehicle before you begin to back. Back slowly and check both sides as well as the rear as you back. Continue to look to the rear until the vehicle has come to a complete stop.
  
- Intersection Crashes** – When approaching and entering intersections, be prepared to avoid crashes that other drivers may cause. Take precautions to allow for the lack of skill or improper driving habits of other drivers. Potentially dangerous acts include, but are not limited to: speeding, improper turn movements, and failure to yield the right-of-way.
  
- Weather Related Crashes** – Rain, snow, fog, sleet or icy pavement increase the hazards of driving. Slow down and be especially alert when driving in adverse conditions. Discontinue use of cruise control in wet or icy road conditions.
  
- Passing Crashes** – When you pass another vehicle, look in all directions, check your blind spots, and use your signal. As a general rule, only pass one vehicle at a time.
  
- Rear-end Crashes** – The driver can prevent rear-end collisions, in spite of abrupt or unexpected stops of the vehicle ahead, by maintaining a safe following distance at all times. Most crashes can be avoided by maintaining the “four second rule” and following the vehicle ahead at a distance that spans at least four seconds. The distance should be increased when driving in adverse conditions.
  
- Security** – State vehicles **shall** be locked whenever they are unoccupied.
  
- Engines** – The engine of a State vehicle **shall** always be turned off before the driver exits the vehicle.