



<b>S&amp;W READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY</b>	<b>JANUARY</b>
<b>DRIVER SAFETY SERIES – MONTHLY TRAINING</b>	
<b>5 THINGS YOU’VE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN SINCE DRIVERS ED.</b>	

**Good, safe driving definitely involves a lot of skill, common sense and manners**, but a necessary part of the driving privilege is simply playing by the rules. Some of these rules might mesh with common sense, but then there are others that evade us shortly after taking the multiple-choice DMV test. Most of us probably need a little refresher once in a while. Several State DMV offices were asked in a recent survey what they thought drivers needed to be reminded about and this is what they mentioned as the top five things that are easiest to forget:

- **Right of way at a four-way stop.** Many fender-bender accidents are caused by drivers who fail to recognize the right of way at a four-way stop. Most states agree on the method here: Drivers may proceed through the intersection in the order that they arrived at a complete stop. Those who stop first go first. If in doubt or if several drivers stopped at nearly the same time, yield to the car on the right (counterclockwise around the intersection).



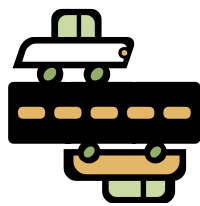
- **Stopping and yielding to school buses.** If the red flashing lights come on, you **MUST STOP**, regardless of which direction you’re traveling. Treat yellow flashing lights as you would a yellow traffic light at first—come to a stop—then proceed slowly and with utmost caution if the yellow lights don’t transition to red lights. Try to allow 30 feet between your vehicle and the school bus when stopped. Traffic in both directions must stop for the bus when traveling on any 2-lane road or 4-lane without a median or center turn lane.



- **Failing to come to a complete stop at stop signs.** Stop signs are to be taken seriously and rolling stops aren’t permitted for a reason. If the driver only comes to a rolling stop, he/she is less likely to thoroughly look in all directions for approaching traffic. Always come to a complete stop, then look in both directions and finally straight on for any other vehicles that might be turning, before venturing out into the intersection.



- **Lane discipline and following distance.** In restricted-access divided highways with multiple lanes, always yield to the right and pass to the left. Never ‘hog’ the far left lane by cruising in it and don’t try to pass in the right lane either, because it can create dangerous situations with merging, exiting and slow-moving vehicles. In addition, you should always leave a three-second following distance from the car ahead of you (5-8 seconds when traveling in a commercial motor vehicle). That means, observe where the car ahead of you is, count and note where you are. If you’re past the point where the car ahead of you was when you started the count, you’re following too closely.



- **Vehicles are for driving. Put that burger down!** Talking on a cell phone, reading, taking notes, eating/drinking, putting on makeup or doing any other distracting activities while driving is dangerous to you and to other motorists. Drivers fail to remember that driving is a responsibility and requires singular attention. Anything else is negligent and could be considered reckless driving.



As we become more comfortable with driving, we start doing things in our car that we would do at home. We need to understand is that we’re piloting a rolling weapon. **Doing anything else in the car (other than driving) is asking for trouble!**