

# SMART DRIVER<sup>®</sup>

March 2022

## FOSTERING EFFECTIVE SPEED MANAGEMENT

Properly managing the truck's speed requires skill and good judgment. Failure to do so could have tragic consequences. To help avoid this, drivers must recognize the hazards that can lead to a crash, know the defense, and react properly. Read the information below and ask yourself how you can improve your driving style in any of the hazard categories.

### RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Adverse weather and road conditions are two reasons to slow down. Slippery conditions reduce traction, and poor visibility affects perception time. Both factors may lead to a critical crash.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

Speeding and traveling faster than the flow of traffic can lead to increased brake usage and tire degradation. These factors affect stopping distance and increase the risk of a critical crash.

#### **PERSONAL BEHAVIORS**

Speeding decreases a driver's perception and reaction time to hazards. Driving too fast for conditions, even if under the posted speed limit, may cause load shifts, rollovers, and other loss of control crashes.



### KNOW THE DEFENSE



#### **OBSERVE PROPER SPEED FOR CONDITIONS**

In adverse conditions, reduce speed 2-3 mph (3-5 km/h) below the flow of traffic, not to exceed the posted speed limit. On ramps, curves, and turns, reduce speed 5-10 mph (8-10 km/h) below the posted speed limit since it is intended for passenger vehicles.



#### **REACT PROPERLY TO HAZARDS**

Each hazard is unique; increase your perception and reaction time by slowing down to create greater stopping distance. On ramps, curves, and turns, slowing down before entering the curve can help prevent cargo shifts and rollovers by decreasing centrifugal force, which pushes the truck outward.



#### **MAINTAIN PROPER FOLLOWING DISTANCE**

Keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Add more space if additional hazards, such as traffic congestion, construction zones, rain, fog, etc., are present.



#### **BE ATTENTIVE TO THE ROAD AHEAD**

Watch for slowing or stopped traffic ahead. Slow down and increase following distance to allow more time to stop.



#### **VEHICLE INSPECTIONS**

Brakes and tires wear down faster due to speeding and are commonly cited in roadside inspections. Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection to ensure the truck meets requirements and is safe to operate.

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# Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Emp/Unit#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.*

1. In optimal driving conditions, you should keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
2. Slowing down before entering the curve can help prevent cargo shifts and rollovers.
3. Driving too fast for conditions may cause load shifts, rollovers, and other loss of control crashes.

True

False

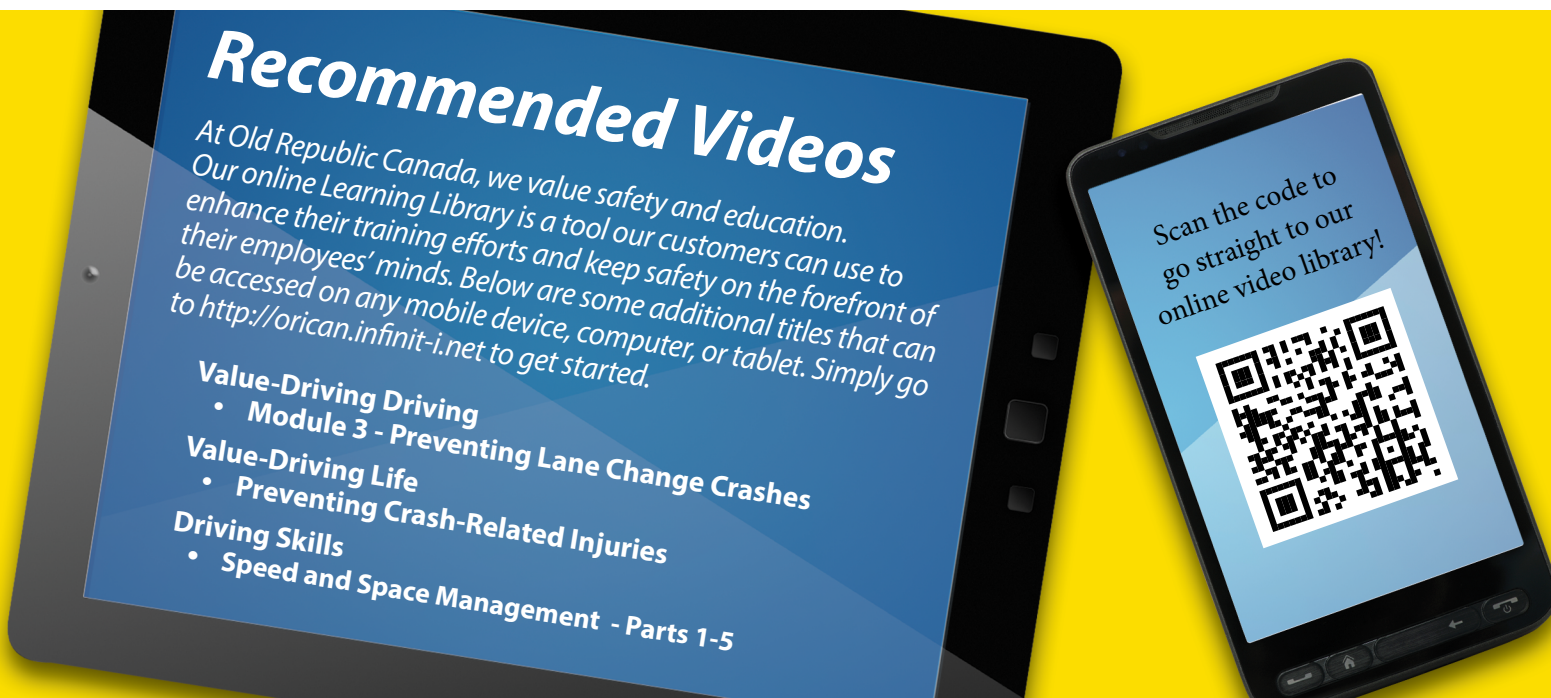
True

False

True

False

Answers:  
1. True  
2. True  
3. True



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