2026 WEBINAR SERIES

Roadway Safety
Defensive Driving and Controlling Distracted Driving

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Risk Management Considerations

- Profile of Drivers: Who are they and what do they know or not know?
- Vehicle Types (specific safety issues)
- Driver Qualification, and Clear & Consistent Disqualification
- Loss History
- The Driving Environment
- **Residual Risks: What RM's and Drivers need to know**
- Technology Readiness
- Program Standards

Driver Profiles: Who Knows How to Drive?

- Defensive Driving training is about increasing your accident prevention skills, should not be viewed as Common Sense.
- Are they confident they can keep the risks of being in an auto accident to minimum?
- Are they confident they can avoid being struck by a vehicle while on foot?
- Assume the public may not be aware or driving safely
- What are their safety values?
- Some of the most common phrases used by people involved in accidents are: “I didn’t know” and/or “I didn’t see”.

Commercial Auto MVR Guidelines

Minimum Driver qualifications:

- Current, valid license for the vehicle class; CDL may be required for heavier vehicles.
- At least **2 years driving a similar vehicle** and **5 years of verifiable driving experience**, documented by a current MVR.

Unacceptable MVR — within the past 36 months:

- Unverifiable MVR or **any major violation**, including DUI/DWI, vehicular homicide, motor vehicle felony, hit-and-run, eluding police, reckless or negligent operation, drag racing, failing to stop for a school bus, texting while driving, speeding in a work/construction zone, or driving with a suspended license.
- License suspension for cumulative moving violations.
- **More than 1 at-fault accident** or **more than 3 minor-violation convictions**.
- **1 at-fault accident plus 2 minor-violation convictions**.

Loss History

- Ground up (first dollar) Auto Loss Data most indicative of past trends and progress of outcomes
- Analyze 48 months of data

Actual Public Entity Auto-Related Claims "Reality Check"

- Worker struck by a vehicle while weed-eating beside a road
- Waste truck struck a pedestrian in a crosswalk
- City-owned Ford struck a pedestrian during a left turn
- Traffic-control worker was struck by a vehicle and later died
- Pedestrian fatally struck by a police patrol vehicle

The Driving Environment

- Scenery
- Tourists
- Elderly/Teenagers
- Vehicle Traffic
- Pedestrians
- E-bikes
- Scooters
- Skateboards

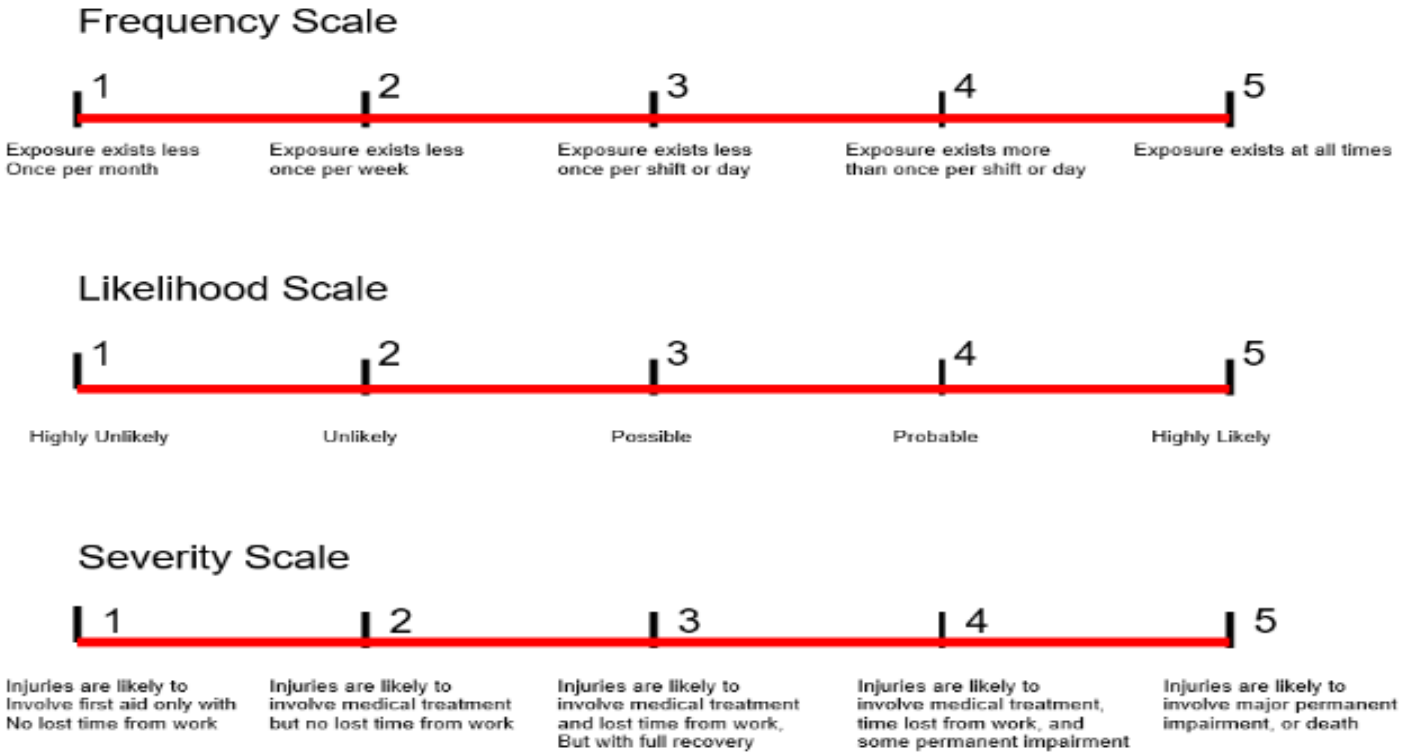




Driving Hazards to Name a Few

Follow Distance	Read-End Collisions	Visibility limitations	Impairment	Passengers including Pets
Pedestrians	Crosswalks	Cyclists	Sideswipes	Head On Collisions
Distracted Drivers	Skidding	Overhead Clearances	Deer and other animals	Road Rage/Aggressive Drivers
Intersections	Speeding			

Motor Vehicle Accident Risk Assessment



Hazard	Frequency	Likelihood	Severity	Risk
MVA's	5	5	5	125

Distracted Driving: How big is the problem? (According to NHTSA)

Distracted Driving (Cognitive, Visual, and Manual)

In 2024 : 3,208 fatalities and approximately 315,167 injuries due to distracted driving.





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Distance traveled in seconds at various mph speeds	Distracted Driver: Average Distance Traveled Before Response to Road Hazards
45 mph = 66 ft/sec	198 ft.
50 mph = 73 ft/sec	220 ft.
55 mph = 81 ft/sec	242 ft.
60 mph = 88 ft/sec	264 ft.
65 mph = 95 ft/sec	286 ft.
70 mph = 103 ft/sec	308 ft.
75 mph = 110 ft/sec	330 ft.
80 mph = 117 ft/sec	352 ft.
85 mph = 125 ft/sec	374 ft.
90 mph = 132 ft/sec	396 ft.
95 mph = 139 ft/sec	418 ft.
100 mph = 147 ft/ sec.	440 ft.

"It takes about 1 second for the undistracted driver to respond to road hazards"

DOES A SECOND OR 2 MAKE DIFFERENCE?





Distracted Driving
(What is your Distracted Driving Policy?

- Only text when parked.
- Lower speed and increase following distance when distracted.
- Stay mentally, physically, visually alert.
- Use hands-free phone features.
- Focus on the road; distractions delay hazard response.

Pedestrians & Cyclists

(72% of vehicular pedestrian deaths occur at non-intersection locations.)



Tap horn if necessary to alert. Use lights make sure they see you.



Yield in lots, roads, intersections.



Look actively for pedestrians and cyclists.



Signal at least 8 flashes before turning or changing lanes.

General Safety



Wear seat belt when driving.



Inspect vehicle for safety defects.



Drive within speed limits.



Avoid road rage.



Signal, check mirrors, look over left shoulder when pulling out.

Intersections & Visibility

- Look left-right-left at intersections.
- Cover brake through intersections.
- Be prepared to stop at stale green lights.
- Negotiate right-of-way safely.
- Make lane-for-lane turns and don't switch lanes at intersections.
- Keep mirrors and windows clean.
- Avoid tunnel vision; view the whole road.

Crosswalks:

- Treat like all other intersections with respect to prevention and reasonable hazard control.
- Use hindsight and credible legal advice to consider reasonable redesign after incidents and reports of dangerous conditions.

Sideswipes & Cut-In

- Follow mirror and check standards.
- Adjust mirrors for blind spots.
- Check mirrors every 5–8 seconds.
- Avoid driving in others' blind spots.
- Yield to merging vehicles.

Mirror Adjustment





Rear-End Collision Prevention

- Maintain 1 second or 1 vehicle length/10 mph or following distance for trucks.

- Match speed with traffic flow within range of speed limit.

6 Seconds Following Distance view at about 60 mph



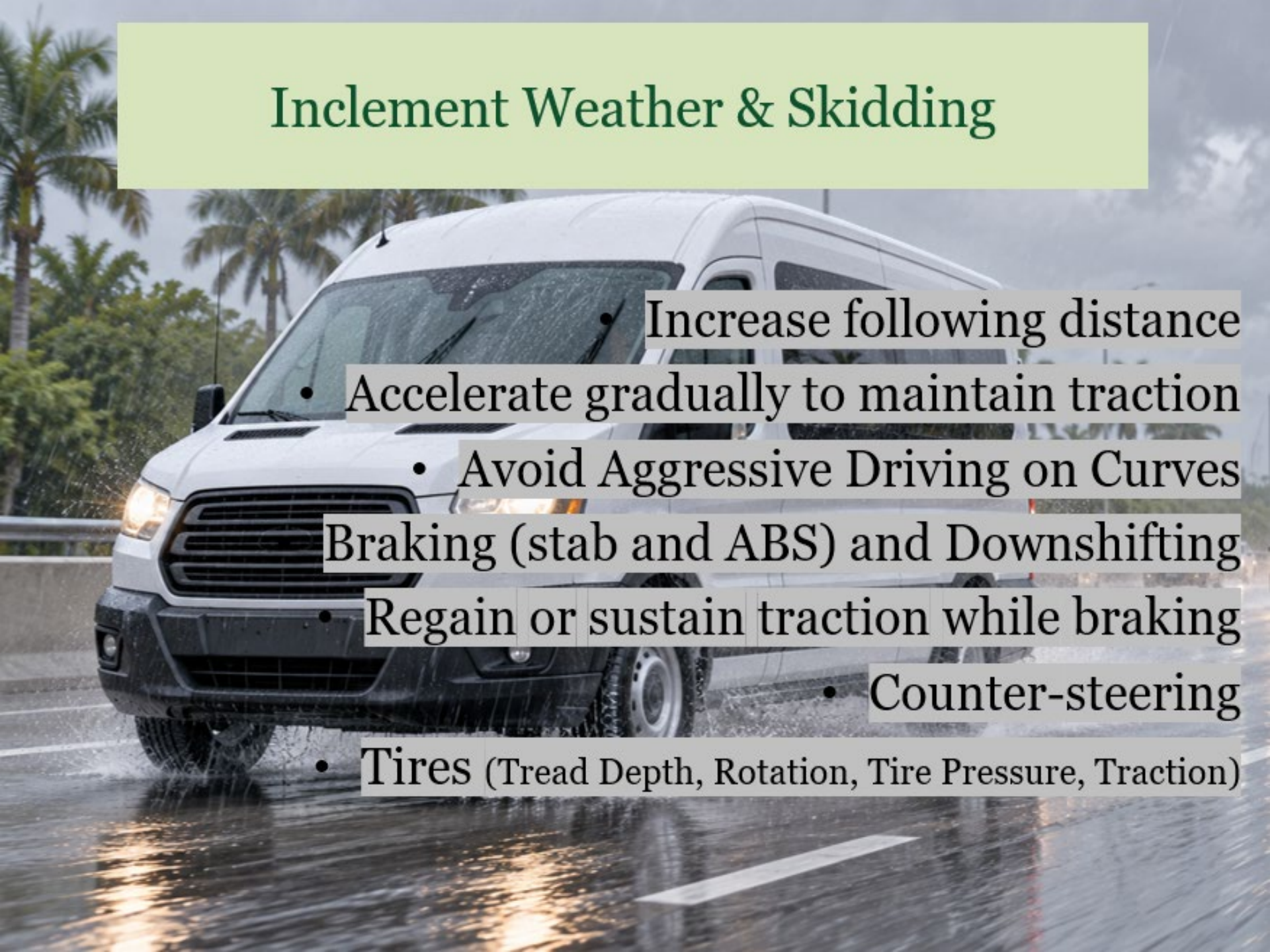
4 seconds Following Distance at Speeds of 40 mph



2 to 3 seconds Following Distance at Speeds of 20 to 30 mph



Inclement Weather & Skidding



- Increase following distance
- Accelerate gradually to maintain traction
- Avoid Aggressive Driving on Curves
- Braking (stab and ABS) and Downshifting
- Regain or sustain traction while braking
- Counter-steering
- Tires (Tread Depth, Rotation, Tire Pressure, Traction)

Backing Safety

- Back slowly using mirrors and camera.
- Be aware of camera limits.
- Plan your backing path before entering vehicle (get out and look).
- Back soon after starting vehicle “conditions, change constantly”.
- Park to pull forward when possible.
- Use driver-side backing before straight backup.
- Tap horn if no backup alarm.
- Use a visible, trusted guide when needed.



Struck By Traffic

- Follow MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Consistently wear high-visibility vests
- Don’t assume drivers see you or are aware of your presence

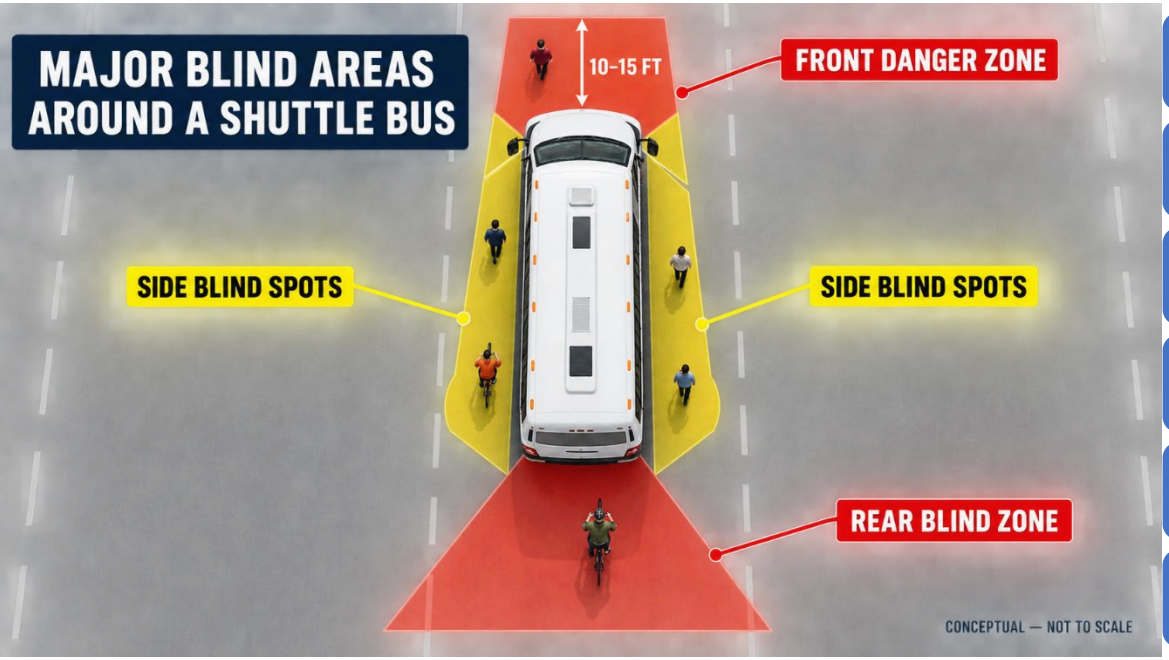
Overhead Clearance

- Know your vehicle height.
- Avoid overhangs and low structures.





Blind Spots All Around Vehicles



Approximate Blind Spot Distances:

Front: 10–15 feet

Right Side: Extends outward 1–3 lanes

Left Side: 1 lane (smaller but still present)

Rear: 20–200 feet, depending on mirrors/cameras

Above: Directly overhead, anything closer than ~13 feet (bridge clearances, wires, tree limbs)

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CONTROL THE BLIND SPOTS

1 WALK AROUND 360°



2 ADJUST MIRRORS & CAMERA



3 CLEAR FRONT, SIDES & REAR





4 USE A SPOTTER WHEN NEEDED



5 BACK SLOWLY — STOP IF UNSURE



IF YOU LOSE SIGHT, STOP.

Blind Spots All Around Vehicles



Approximate Blind Spot Distances:

- **Front:** 8–20 feet
- **Right Side:** Extends outward 1–3 lanes
- **Left Side:** 1 lane (smaller but still present)
- **Rear:** 20–200 feet, depending on mirrors/cameras
- **Above:** Directly overhead, anything closer than ~13 feet (bridge clearances, wires, tree limbs)

Blind Spot Safety Implications

Workers on foot: Maintain eye contact with the driver; never walk directly in front of or behind the truck without being certain the driver can see you.

Motorists and cyclists: Can linger in the truck's right-hand blind spot or tailgating close behind.

Large vehicle drivers: Always use mirrors, backup cameras, and spotters (best when in view driver's side mirror) when reversing or maneuvering in tight areas.

Extra caution is critical during **backing, turning, and curbside operations** to protect workers, drivers, and pedestrians.

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Roadway Safety for Law Enforcement

Observation, Coaching & Training Guidelines

Safety National Risk Control in collaboration with OSS Law Enforcement Advisors

Distracted Driving

- Seat Belts
- Use mobile data terminal only when parked.
- Maintain focus on the road; avoid distractions.
- Use hands-free devices for communication.
- During emergencies and pursuits, prioritize driving over multitasking.



Minimum 4 Seconds Following Distance



Sideswipes & Detainee Transport

- Check mirrors every 8 seconds; avoid blind spots.
- Yield to merging vehicles.
- Transport detainees in secured vehicles with seat belts.
- Ride-alongs must sign liability waivers and be seated safely.

Traffic Stops

- Initiate stops at a safe following distance (6 seconds).
- Use unpredictable and safe walking approaches.
- Stay alert to oncoming traffic and ensure safe re-entry to traffic.
- Avoid standing between vehicles on shoulder.

Vehicle Pursuits

- Only pursue in marked units with sirens/lights on.
- Avoid pursuits with passengers onboard.
- Maintain safe following distance; limit PIT maneuvers.
- Terminate pursuit when risks to citizens' and officers' lives outweigh immediate need to apprehend. "No more chasing until the wheels fall off."

Parking & Load Safety

- Park tactically and check surroundings before departure.
- Secure long guns and other equipment; avoid overhead hazards.

Technology (telematics, cameras, cell phone signal disruption, continuous MVR monitoring):

Are you culturally program-ready?

- Is initial Defensive Driving, Refresher, or Remedial training and observation a consistent part of you Fleet Program?
- Would you prioritize an initial driver group?
- Will it increase capabilities or inform you of risks you otherwise would not know?
- What would you consistently do with the alerts and data represented?

Fleet Safety Program Standards

- ANSI/ASSP Z15.1-2024
- ISO 39001

First Responders:

- Law Enforcement: State Statutes, POST or commission rules
- NFPA 1900, 1910, 1010, 1400
- NHTSA EVOC – Training Curriculum

Questions??

