



Safety Bulletin

#5. Summer Driving



Increased Traffic

- **More hazards on the road:**
 - Tourists & vacationers
 - Caravans, cars & motorcycles
 - Pedestrians, cyclists, children off school
- **More potential for distraction too**
 - Stay focused – do a commentary!



Tourists & Foreign Drivers

- **Be aware of tourists, foreign drivers & foreign vehicles – they could be:**
 - Unfamiliar with traffic signs & conventions
 - Fatigued, stressed or distracted
 - Lost, uncertain of route or just sightseeing
 - Overloaded or poorly secured
- **Don't forget that we are usually tourists too at some time!**



Construction Season

- **Summer months often see increased construction activity:**
 - Slow down on approach to work zones
 - Pay close attention to signs & directions
 - Maintain 4 seconds following distance
 - Leave yourself an 'out'
 - Keep your cool, don't rush and expect delays!

Additional Notes to Support Summer Driving

Increased Traffic

- **Summer/holidays bring increased traffic to our routes and highways:**
 - Tourists and vacationers (locals and foreigners) add to the usual amount of traffic, with weekends being much busier than usual
 - School holidays may mean reduced traffic at 'school run' times, but it also means more children are out and about; playing at the roadside, going swimming or to the park etc
 - Summertime also means more motorbikes and bicycles on the roads
 - Good weather brings out many more pedestrians too, particularly in urban areas, and this brings additional distraction, e.g. from what they're doing, or even what they're wearing.
- **What can you do?**
 - Plan additional time into your journey's, particularly at weekends
 - Aim High and Keep Your Eyes Moving - Be vigilant for those harder-to-see road users – bikers, cyclists & pedestrians
 - Stay focused on the driving task, don't allow yourself to become distracted. Remind yourself of the potential hazards, e.g. through a self-commentary

Tourists & Foreign Drivers

- **Be aware of tourists, foreign drivers & foreign vehicles: they could be suffering from:**
 - Lower understanding of traffic signs & conventions
 - Lost, unfamiliar with local conditions, often looking for the right way, or just sightseeing out of their windows
 - Driver fatigue, stress or distraction - long distance driving, late nights, unfamiliar roads, arguing children etc
 - Driving rental cars that they are not familiar with - possibly right-hand vs left-hand drive
 - Overloaded - leading to poor visibility by the driver and reduced stability / braking efficiency. Loads could be poorly secured, leading to objects falling into the road
- **What can you do?**
 - Look out for foreign or heavily laden vehicles, or erratic driving
 - Be particularly cautious at junctions/intersections/roundabouts
 - Increase your 'Space Cushion' - Give them more room, leave a 'wide berth'
 - Anticipate sudden or unexpected reactions

Construction Season

- **Summertime = Construction Season**
 - Aim High – spot the road works early, adjust speed & position gradually, and maintain 4 seconds following distance. Most accidents in constructions zones occur because of negligent, speeding drivers.
 - Get the Big Picture and Make sure they see you! When slowing, or approaching work zones, check your rear view frequently, and use your brake lights, hazard lights & horn to alert other drivers if needed.
 - Leave yourself an out! When stopped in traffic, leave a safety zone between you and the vehicle in front of you. Also, keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers
 - Pay close attention to signs, road layout and workers giving instruction/direction
 - Keep your cool, don't rush, and expect delays!