

## SUMMER DRIVING



**S**ummertime brings with it many seasonal hazards not associated with other times of the year.

- Construction zones - The summer season is also construction season. Construction zones offer many hazards such as narrow lanes of travel, the presence of construction workers, potentially confusing signage, unusual traffic patterns, and drivers unsafely cutting in front of other drivers at points of constricted traffic. The most hazardous section of a construction zone is the approach and requires that drivers slow down, be courteous to other drivers, drive with an active awareness of the situation and practice diligent visual search techniques.
- School zones - Just because most children are out of school during summer months does not mean there are no children present during summertime in school zones. Many schools offer summer school courses and extracurricular activities such as school sports or school bands that are active during summer months.
- Traffic volume - In many areas, the sheer volume of traffic with which you share the road increases dramatically during summer months as individuals travel to those areas on vacation or while passing through on their way to their vacation destinations.
- Tourist traffic - Many of the drivers sharing the road with you during summer months are likely to be tourists visiting a location, a friend, or family for vacation. These individuals are more prone to make mistakes while driving or drive in a manner you may not normally expect. For example, due to their unfamiliarity with the area, they may drive slower than normal, spend more time making decisions at intersections, cut across traffic to access off ramps, drive the wrong way on one-way streets, or use activate their turn signals but not turn.
- Pedestrian traffic - Summertime means people start to think more about their swimsuit appearance, and it means there are more daylight hours for them to work on their swimsuit appearance. Thus summertime means the increases presence of walkers, joggers, and bicyclists in many areas. Additionally, most children are not in school during summer months, meaning an increase in their presence in areas other than school zones during all times of the day or night.
- Inexperienced drivers - This doesn't just mean novice drivers. While it includes the novice drivers who just obtained their licenses, it also means any driver driving in an environment with which he/she is inexperienced. Many drivers normally spend nearly 100% of their driving time driving in urban areas or secondary roads, never having a need to access interstates or drive at night. But in the summertime, many of these drivers are vacationers finding themselves with a need to travel our country's interstate system and/or travel after dark. Their inexperience with the interstate system and/or night driving may lead them to make mistakes, such as miscalculating the rate another vehicle is approaching them from their rear, underestimating safe following distances at interstate speeds, driving in the blind spots of large vehicles, or erratically braking while trying to decipher interstate signage at interstate speeds.

Remember that practicing good Cooperative Driving Techniques will enable you to safely deal with these hazards and will allow you to yourself enjoy the summer.

July, 2019  
The Shield  
Summer Driving  
Quiz



Driver Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

Driver Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one correct answer for each question.

1. Which of the following are common construction zone hazards?
  - a. Narrow lanes of travel
  - b. The presence of construction workers
  - c. Unusual traffic patters
  - d. All of the above
2. Drivers to not need to obey school zone laws during summer months.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Tourists
  - a. Are more prone to make mistakes while driving
  - b. Are more prone to drive in a manner you may not normally expect.
  - c. Both a & b
  - d. None of the above
4. Summer months can mean an increase in
  - a. Walkers
  - b. Joggers
  - c. Bicyclists
  - d. All of the above
5. The number of inexperienced drivers with whom you are likely to be confronted decreases in summertime.
  - a. True
  - b. False

