

Distractions, blind curves,
work zones, foul weather, breakdowns —
driving is never simple

Adventures in Driving gives you

the tools you need to be prepared.

Drive safely. Survive the ride!

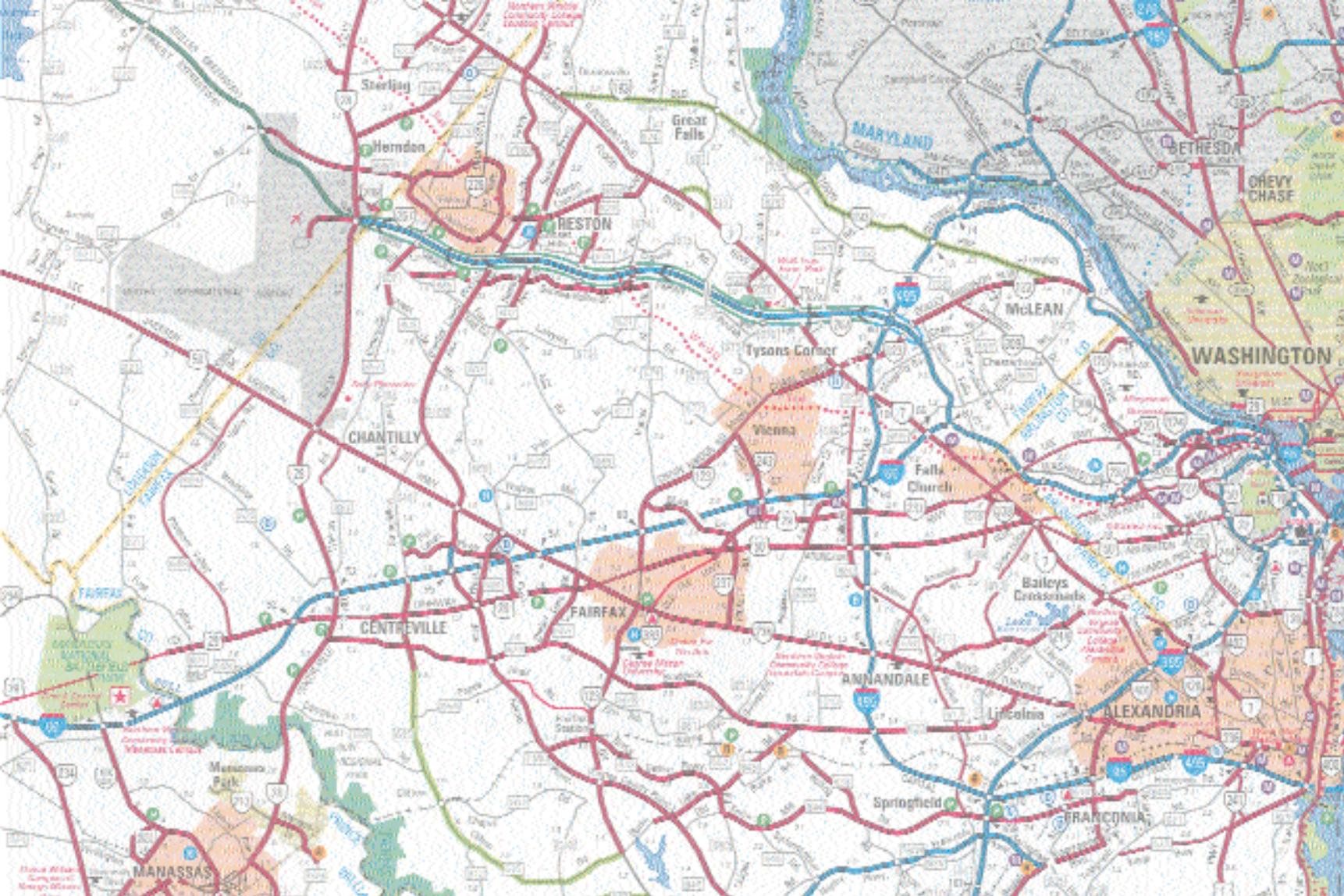


ADVENTURES IN DRIVING

Survive the Ride!

Virginia Department
of Transportation







Adventures in Driving: Survive the Ride!

 Virginia Department of Transportation

 Springfield Interchange Improvement Project

Driving is a privilege, not a right.

**Adventures in Driving:
Survive the Ride!** © 2002

Virginia Department of
Transportation

Created and developed by
VDOT's Northern Virginia
District Office of Public Affairs
and the Springfield Interchange
Project Information Center.
Underwritten by a national
highway safety project grant
administered through the
Virginia Department of
Motor Vehicles.

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24-hour customer service line:
703-383-VDOT [8368]

Statewide road conditions:
800-367-ROAD [7623]

Springfield Interchange information:
www.springfieldinterchange.com

Publication created by:
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29-11 39th Avenue
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101
718-361-9466
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In November of 2001, 16-year-old Michael Titunik lost his life in a car crash in Fairfax County. This publication is dedicated to his memory and to the memory of all teenagers who have died on Virginia's roads.

The information provided in **Adventures in Driving: Survive the Ride!** is intended as an introduction to safe driving. Drivers are encouraged to study their owner's manuals, refer to additional sources of safe driving information and learn and obey the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The appearance of commercial products in this publication does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

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Congratulations!

You're almost there...almost ready to feel the freedom that goes with getting behind the wheel. For years you've been a passenger... soon you will be the driver.

Driving is a fact of life. Whether bicycling, walking or driving, you come in contact with roads. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) builds and maintains the roads that are the foundation of the Commonwealth's economic and social life and recreational activities.

To help you adjust to the change from passenger to driver, VDOT created **Adventures in Driving: Survive the Ride!** It provides you with information that all drivers must know and will help you think like a driver.

The freedom that goes with getting your permit and license is defined by the word **responsibility**.

As a driver you are responsible for your safety, the safety of your passengers, pedestrians and the safety of other drivers. Every decision you make as a driver, and you make them every second, has serious consequences. Driving in the real world is not a video game... there is no reset button.

I am sad to say that statistics show three people die every day on Virginia roads. Across the nation we have more than 40,000 fatalities a year.

Statistically, your age group has the highest rate of deaths and crashes throughout the nation. Even drivers over 80 have safer driving records than teens. While automobiles are becoming safer, it is you, the driver, who will always be the deciding factor.

A driver's license is one of the greatest privileges of adulthood. Guard this privilege well because it is a privilege you can lose. Be safe for yourself and your passengers and remember that you share the road. Together, we can help make Virginia a safe place to drive.



THOMAS F. FARLEY

Northern Virginia District Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation

Below: Current, new and future drivers with VDOT's Northern Virginia District Administrator Thomas F. Farley. **Drive Safely!**

Bernard CHRISTINA Emily

Manny Zach BRIAN KC Chris





Hit the Road

Driving demands all of your concentration. If you are angry, preoccupied or tired, you are not ready to get behind the wheel.

FACT "Every two miles, the average driver makes four hundred observations, forty decisions and one mistake." — JOURNALIST MALCOLM GLADWELL





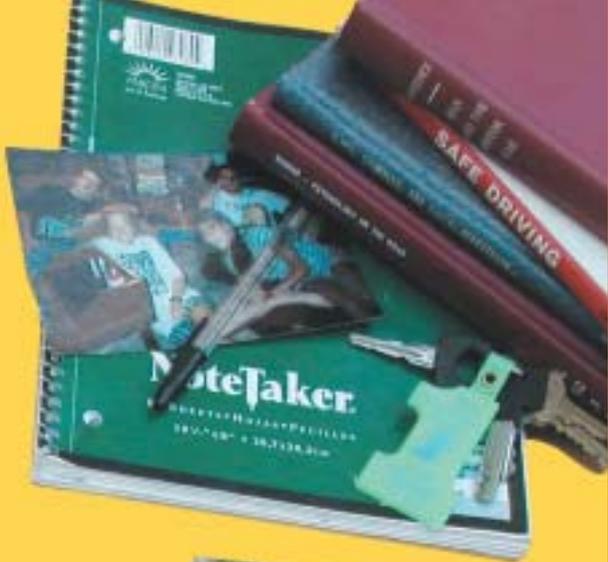
Stressed about finals? Upset after a fight with your parents? Wondering what's up with your girlfriend or boyfriend? Then you have lost your ability to drive safely. Struggling to stay awake or trying to read a map while driving? You and those around you are in danger.

Distracted drivers crash. Sleepy drivers crash. Teenagers are more likely than adults to crash when distracted and tired.

Think About It

Being a good musician or athlete requires dedication, study and practice. Why should driving be any different?

If you play a wrong note, you can begin again. Make a wrong move on the road and you may not have a second chance.



Being alert and focused may save your life.

- **Get enough sleep.** If you're tired, don't drive.
- **Plan activities** so you will not be on the road during Virginia curfew hours of midnight to 4 a.m.
- **Stressed out?** Call a friend. Take a walk. Don't go near the steering wheel until you are calm and able to focus.
- **Know your route** before you put the key in the ignition.
- **Get a state highway map** from VDOT and keep it in the glove compartment.
- **Check the weather.**
- **Find out about traffic and construction** in Virginia at VirginiaDOT.org or 800-367-ROAD [7623].
- **Never get in a car with a driver who isn't ready to drive.**

Care for Your Car

Take care of your car and it will take care of you. Neglect your car and it is a threat to you and those around you.

FACT In 2001, faulty tires resulted in 1,158 crashes in Virginia

Bond with your car. Get to know the way it sounds, smells and feels. Read your owner's manual and keep it in the glove compartment. If something seems wrong, it probably is. Take the car to a qualified mechanic.

Caring for your car today spares you headaches and expense tomorrow. Besides, you have no choice. Every automobile registered in Virginia must pass an annual safety inspection.



Each time you drive, check to be sure that your tires are ready, that your lights and wipers are working and that the mirrors are adjusted. Check all around your car for obstructions.





3



4

What to Do

You expect your car to keep you alive. Give it a chance by keeping it in top condition. Here are a few things you can do to maintain your car. Some you can learn to do yourself.

Driving conditions and mileage determine the maintenance cycle. Always consult your owners manual.

Think About It

A worn or improperly inflated tire is more likely to blow out. At highway speeds, losing control of your car could be deadly.



10

9



7b



7a



8

Weekly

- 1 **WASHER FLUID** Add fluid if necessary.
- 2 **ENGINE OIL** Check the dipstick for oil level.

Monthly

- 3 **ANTIFREEZE** Check as directed in owner's manual.
- 4 **BRAKE FLUID** Check fluid level.
- 5 **POWER STEERING FLUID** Check with dipstick. Replace when necessary.
- 6 **BELTS AND HOSES** Check for wear and cracking.
- 7 **TIRE PRESSURE** Check with gauge when tires are cold or look low. Add or remove air as necessary.
- 8 **TIRE TREAD** Place a penny in the tread. If you see the top of Abe's head, replace the tire.

Every 3 Months

- 9 **BATTERY** Have it checked with each oil change.
- 10 **AIR FILTER** Replace if dirty.
- ENGINE OIL** Have oil changed every 3 months or 3,000 miles.
- CHASSIS LUBRICATION** Do when engine oil is changed.

Every 6 Months

- 11 **WIPER BLADES** Replace wipers that are worn, cracked or that streak the windshield.
- TIRE ROTATION** Have mechanic rotate tires every 6 months.
- WHEEL ALIGNMENT** If vehicle doesn't steer correctly or feels uneven on the road, bring it to a qualified mechanic immediately.



Follow the Signs

Road signs and traffic lights are there to guide you. Driving safely means understanding and obeying them.

FACT Drivers who ignore signs kill people. In 2000, U.S. drivers who ran red lights injured 89,000 people and caused 1,036 deaths.

Pavement Markings

A double center line means passing is prohibited. Broken lines indicate that passing is allowed. You may only pass when the broken line is in **your** lane.



The shape, color and location of signs convey essential information.

Sign Color

RED: Stop

WHITE AND BLACK: Regulatory sign, such as Speed Limit

YELLOW: Warning sign, such as School Zone or Railroad Crossing

ORANGE/BLACK: Work zone sign, such as Detour

GREEN: Destination sign, such as Exit

BLUE: Service sign, such as Rest Area

BROWN: Information sign, such as tourist markers

3 **VIEW**

Curb Markings

WHITE: Stop only long enough to drop off or pick up passengers.

YELLOW: Stop only long enough to load or unload.

RED: Do not stop, stand or park.

BLUE: Reserved for the disabled.

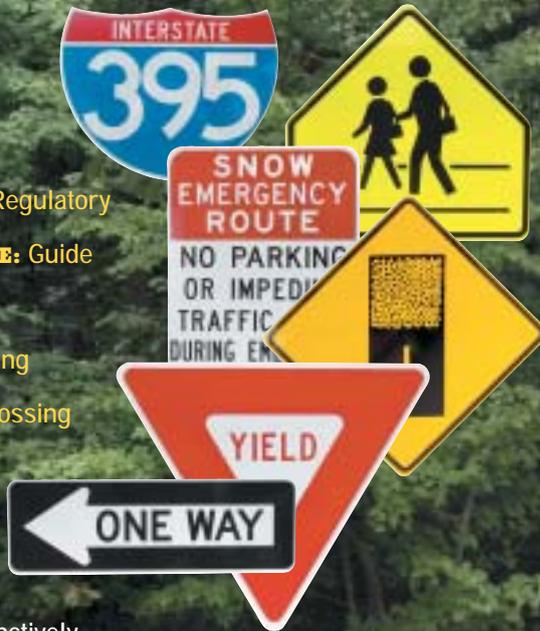


Sign Shape

- **OCTAGON:** Stop
- ▲ **TRIANGLE:** Yield
- **VERTICAL RECTANGLE:** Regulatory
- ▭ **HORIZONTAL RECTANGLE:** Guide
- ◆ **DIAMOND:** Warning
- ▲ **PENTAGON:** School Crossing
- **CIRCLE OR X:** Railroad Crossing
- **SQUARE:** Guide

Think About It

You will learn to react instinctively to sign language. Have you ever driven on roads that lack signs and lines? It's disorienting.



Know What They Mean

- Familiarize yourself with sign colors and shapes.
- Obey signs and pavement markings.
- Park with care . . . pay attention to curb markings and signs.
- Know lane markings that allow passing.
- Red means stop.



Drive Attentively



Traffic is a fact of life in Virginia.

There are 7 million people and a whopping 6.5 million cars. With that many drivers on the road, you need to be in control of yourself and your vehicle at all times.

FACTS In Virginia there is a car crash every 4 minutes. In 2001, there were more than 144,000 crashes.

Three people are killed in Virginia traffic every day. Of the 935 people killed in 2001, 100 were pedestrians.

Each day 220 people are hurt in crashes. In 2001, 80,000 people were injured on Virginia roads.



Tailgating is a leading cause of crashes in congested areas.

No matter where you drive, you will need to deal with drivers and pedestrians who are unaware, careless and who break the law. Remain calm and courteous—even when aggressive drivers threaten your life. Be especially patient with older drivers and with people who, like you, lack driving experience.

Why? If you become frustrated and act irresponsibly, you might crash and die. Or you might crash and live. If your brain is injured, expect to have problems thinking, talking, hearing, tasting, smelling, seeing and walking. Don't expect to drive again.

Think About It

Are you competitive? Do you need to be first in line? On the road, these attitudes are deadly. Before you choose to speed, or not to speed—think about who and what is important to you.



How to Stay Alive

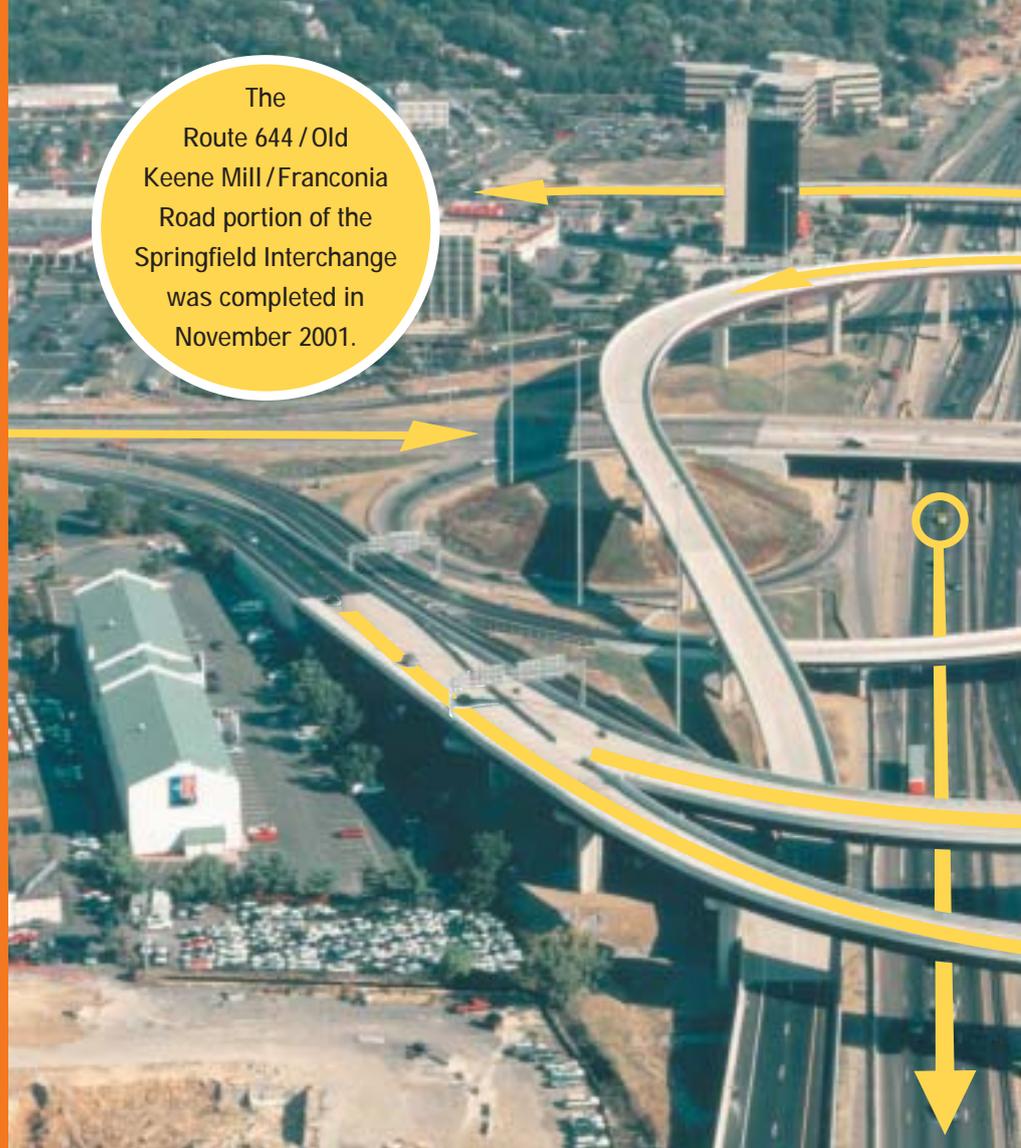
- **Signal when merging** and changing lanes.
- **Passing on the right is dangerous.** Pass only on the left.
- **When passing, always signal.** Look in your mirrors and over your shoulder before passing. When you can see the front of the other vehicle in your rear-view mirror, check over your shoulder and your mirrors again before returning to your lane.
- **Yield the right of way** to law enforcement and emergency vehicles by moving 1 lane over. This is required by law.
- **Avoid cutting off other drivers.** Leave enough space to stop without crashing into the car ahead of you. One car length for every 10 mph is the rule.
- **Don't make obscene gestures** or curse at other drivers. Don't even look at a driver whose actions hint at anger or worse.
- **Be courteous and move right** if you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass.
- **Never drive or park** on a highway shoulder unless your vehicle is broken down. It's illegal and you might block rescue vehicles.

Go with

The Springfield Interchange, at I-95 and the Capital Beltway, is one of the most complicated road networks in the U.S. Each day, 400,000 vehicles merge, exit and just pass through. Making it to the other side of the "Mixing Bowl" requires your full attention and lots of patience.

VDOT is making the Springfield Interchange safer and easier to navigate with a reconstruction project that will be completed in 2007. Engineers and construction workers are building the new interchange while traffic moves through it.

FACT The rebuilt interchange will include 50 new bridges and roadways as wide as 24 lanes.



The
Route 644 / Old
Keene Mill / Franconia
Road portion of the
Springfield Interchange
was completed in
November 2001.



the Flow

Think About It

An interchange is an intersection where one road passes over another. About 70 years ago, engineers invented interchanges so that vehicles on one highway could cross or enter another highway without having to stop traffic.

Interchange Tactics

- **Stay focused. Be patient. Allow time for delays.**
- **Don't tailgate. Leave space between you and the vehicle ahead of you.**
- **Merge carefully when leaving or entering highways.**
- **Watch for confused drivers. This includes cars traveling the wrong way through the interchange!**
- **Avoid driving in interchanges that are new to you during rush hour.**
- **Be ready to respond immediately to construction workers and equipment. Learn how to navigate safely through work zones. See Chapter 7.**
- **Check Springfield Interchange construction schedules at www.springfieldinterchange.com.**

Stay Focused

When you're in the driver's seat, concentrate only on driving. Even at slow speeds, your car moves so fast that just one moment of inattention can become your last. Is it worth the risk?

FACT At 60 mph, in the 2 seconds it takes to change the radio station, adjust the air conditioning, or dial your cell phone, you travel 176 feet. That's half the length of a football field.

- Each year, inattentive drivers cause 1,500,000 car crashes in the U.S. That's more than 4,000 every day. Passengers are so distracting that Virginia law restricts how many people can ride with you.

- Don't leave stuff on the floor or under the front seat. Items can slide under the gas pedal and brake.
- In a crash, loose objects become deadly missiles.



Think About It

Let's say you're driving—when a child runs in front of you or a dump truck pulls out unexpectedly. At 25 mph, your vehicle needs 85 feet to stop. At 60 mph, you need 344 feet. How far is that? A typical high school basketball court is 74 feet long.

Concentrate!

- **Keep your eyes on the road at all times.**
- **Think twice before eating while driving.**
- **Be careful adjusting controls.**
- **Don't talk on the phone while driving.**
- **Make sure all passengers are buckled.**
- **Keep the music down.**



Give 'em a Brake

Extra attention is required when you drive on roadways and bridges that are undergoing construction or maintenance. Work zones are unavoidable—you will encounter at least 1 every 90 miles in Virginia.

VDOT builds and maintains roadways in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. When you see orange and black warning signs, be prepared for irregular road surfaces, lane shifts and human beings at work—whether or not you can see them.

Gravel, dirt, mud, sudden changes in pavement and slope, potholes, narrow lanes, debris, harsh lighting, loud noises, big machines and conditions that change from day-to-day—all this and more will challenge and distract you in work zones.

FACT Drivers are 7 times more likely than construction workers to die in work zones. A 3,500-pound car is no match for a 25,000-pound dump truck. Work zone lawbreakers pay double fines.



Think About It

How would you like it if thousands of vehicles sped by your desk each day?





Watch Out !

- **Follow the signs.**
- **Pay attention! Expect the unexpected.**
- **Don't wait until the last minute to merge.**
- **Slow down. Be patient.**
- **Be ready for sudden stops.**
- **Leave extra distance between your car and the vehicle in front of you.**

Get a Grip

Ice, rain, fog and snow challenge even experienced drivers.

You may feel protected from the elements when you are in your car, but you're not. Rain and fog make it hard to see. They can distort your perception of speed and distance. Wet and icy roads are slippery and cause cars to skid.

FACT Half a million Americans are injured and 5,000 are killed each year while driving in foul weather.

Slippery and

Icy Roads On a wet road, drive at least 5 to 10 mph slower than posted speed limits. Posted limits indicate speeds for ideal conditions. Drive, steer, and brake slowly and cautiously.

Snow and Cold

On packed snow, cut your speed in half. On ice, slow to a crawl. If you need to pull over, move as far off the road as possible. Do not leave the car unless you can see help nearby. If your car won't move, only use heat for 10 minutes of every hour. Open a window and periodically make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow in order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fog Turn on your headlights. Do not turn on your high beams. If you pull over, turn off your headlights in order to prevent drivers from following your lights and crashing into you. Turn on your flashers.

In an emergency, call 911 or #77.

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Don't drive in bad weather if you don't have to.

If you must, **knowing how to react will save your life.** When your car starts to skid, it's too late to find out what you're supposed to do.

Check your owner's manual to be sure you **know the type of brakes and steering you have** and learn to use them. Each type of weather condition requires a specific braking and steering strategy.

Heat Keep extra coolant and bottled drinking water in the car. If the temperature gauge on the dashboard is high, your car is probably overheating. Pull over and let the car cool. Call for assistance.

Lightning A car is a safe place to be in a lightning storm, because its metal frame will conduct lightning's charge to the ground. If you are in an open vehicle, such as a convertible or jeep, get out and find low ground away from trees and high structures.

Tornado If it is near or appears to be approaching you, get out of the car. If there is no safe shelter nearby, lie flat with your arms over your head in a ditch or other depression in the ground.

Heavy Rain and Flood Turn on windshield wipers and headlights. Drive slowly. If you can't see well, pull as far off the road as possible, turn on your flashers and wait for the storm to pass. Never drive through water that seems more than a few inches deep. If flood waters surround you or your car stalls, get out of the car and move to higher ground if possible.

Keep It Together

If you care for your vehicle, it will rarely break down without warning. Stuff happens, though. Being prepared for an emergency might save your life—or at least keep you calm and comfortable while waiting for help. Your safety and the safety of others should be your first priorities.

Never stop in traffic. If something goes wrong, pull over to the side or off the road. At that point, be cautious: standing or walking on or near the roadway is extremely dangerous. If your car stalls on a highway with fast-moving traffic, don't try to run across the highway.

Help If there is an emergency, call 911 or #77. The orange trucks of the VDOT Safety Service Patrol cruise Interstates 66, 95, 395, 495 and the Dulles Toll Road 24 hours a day. You can call for help at 703-383-VDOT [8368].



Keep the following items in your glove compartment:

- Owner's manual
- Insurance card
- Pen and paper
- Cell phone—even if de-activated, all charged phones will dial 911 and #77
- Vehicle registration
- Emergency phone numbers
- Flashlight and extra batteries

Keep the following items in your trunk:



Flat Tire

If you think your tire is losing air, slow down, firmly grip the steering wheel, and drive as far to the side of the road as possible. Your safety is more important than the damage this may cause to the wheel rim. Consult your owner's manual before changing the tire. On Northern Virginia interstates or the Dulles Toll Road, call VDOT's Safety Service for assistance at 703-383-VDOT.

Out of Gas?

It is dumb, dangerous and illegal to run out of gas in Virginia. If you're on Northern Virginia interstates or the Dulles Toll Road, VDOT's Safety Service Patrol will provide you with 1 gallon of fuel—enough to get you to the nearest gas station.

Think About It

Why keep all the items listed here in your car? Well, what if you are stranded on the side of the road for hours in the middle of a heat wave—or a blizzard?

Expect the Unexpected

Driving on country roads is different than driving on urban and suburban roads. Your survival depends on your ability to adapt.

FACT Irregular road conditions, people driving at high speeds and longer emergency response times mean that your chances of dying in a car crash are 40 percent greater on rural roads than highways.

Often, rural roads are narrow, curvy and poorly lit. You never know what's up ahead. You should expect hills, ditches, embankments and blind curves. If you are speeding, a person or animal crossing the road may be a devastating surprise.

Farm vehicles typically travel below 25 mph and often take up more than one lane of the road. Crashes happen when drivers try to pass agricultural vehicles.

Railroad Crossings

A train always has the right of way. Drivers who disregard warning signs or try to "outrun" trains can end up dead. It can take a freight train about a mile to come to a complete stop.

There are 2 types of railway crossings. At active crossings, flashing lights announce the approach of a train. Passive crossings include only warning signs and pavement markings.

Think About It

In terms of weight, a car is to a freight train like a soda can is to a car.

Deer-vehicle collisions kill over 200 people every year in the United States.



A Day in the Country

- **Be alert. Look and listen.**
- **Drive carefully around farm vehicles.**



. Slow down.

- **Be prepared to stop for animals that may cross your path.**
- **Always assume that a railroad track is in use, even if it appears deserted.**

Dying to Drive

Your driving decisions determine whether you and those around you live or die. Make sure you have the tools and information needed to make the right decisions.

Wanna crash? Tailgate. Wanna die? Speed. Need proof? Look at the statistics for 2001.

FACTS In 2001, crashes were the number 1 killer of U.S. teenagers. Virginia parents buried 137 kids aged 16 to 20.

In Virginia, 3 teenagers were injured every day in alcohol-related crashes. Thanks to alcohol, 34 died and 1,110 were injured.

Sixty-two percent of the people who died on Virginia roads were not wearing seat belts. During crashes, unbuckled backseat passengers sometimes slam into and kill drivers and front-seat passengers.

11 



Most traffic crashes are avoidable. Someone is almost always at fault. Drive carelessly, aggressively or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and that person will be you.

It only takes a second for your life to change. Just 1 crash or 2 speeding tickets can double the cost of your insurance. If you cause a serious crash that results in injury or death, you could end up in prison and your family could be held liable for damages.

Drink and drive? Virginia has a zero-tolerance alcohol law for drivers under 21-years-old. At 21, you will be considered intoxicated with a blood alcohol count (BAC) of .02. That's just a sip or two of alcohol. Over-the-counter or prescription medicines can also impair your driving ability.



What happens when you crash?

Here is a description of the final moment of an unbelted driver whose vehicle runs into a stationary object at 55 mph.

1/10 of a second The front bumper and grill of the car collapse. If the car has an airbag, it is already inflated.

2/10 of a second The hood crumples, rises and strikes the windshield as the rear wheels lift from the ground. The fender wraps around the struck object. The driver's legs stiffen and snap.

3/10 of second The steering wheel starts to disintegrate and the steering column aims for the driver's chest.

4/10 of a second The car's front end is wrecked and the rear end is still moving at 35 mph. The driver's body is still traveling at 55 mph. In a head-on crash, an air bag gives the driver a 31% greater chance of surviving (when wearing a seatbelt). Air bags are not designed to protect drivers and passengers in rear, side and rollover crashes.

5/10 of a second If the car was not equipped with an airbag, the driver is impaled on the steering column. Blood rushes into the driver's lungs.

6/10 of a second The driver's feet are ripped out of his shoes. The brake pedal snaps off. The car's frame buckles in the middle. Without an air bag, the driver's head smashes into the windshield. The rear wheels fall back to the ground.

7/10 of a second The passenger door hinges rip loose and the rear doors fly open. The back seat breaks free and strikes the driver, who may already be dead.

Sources: Denville Township, N.J. Police Department and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Do Unto Others

A busy city street scene with pedestrians, cars, and a yellow taxi. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated perspective, showing a mix of people walking on the sidewalk and vehicles on the road. A yellow taxi is the central focus, moving through the intersection. Pedestrians are seen in various states of motion, some with umbrellas, suggesting a rainy or overcast day. The background features urban buildings and traffic lights, creating a sense of a bustling city environment.

Driving is a privilege, not a right. Sharing the road means respecting the lives of those around you.

FACT In the U.S., drivers injure a pedestrian every 6 minutes and kill at least 1 every 2 hours. Each year, 5,000 pedestrians die—that's the equivalent of a Boeing 737 crashing every 2 weeks. Each of these fatalities was once somebody's mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter.



Think About It

Everyone knows that a pedestrian struck by a car will be injured or killed.

Pedestrians have the right of way.

You do not own the road because you're in the driver's seat. You do not own the road because the vehicle you are driving is big and heavy.

You and your vehicle share the road with cyclists and motorcyclists. Each has rights to the road, just as you do.

Sharing the Road

- **Never forget the lives of pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and animals are in your hands.**
- **Be especially careful around senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities.**
- **Keep extra distance between your car and bicycles/motorcycles when following or passing.**
- **Check your blind spots while driving.**
- **Do not drive or park in bike lanes.**
- **Do not block street corners.**
- **Watch for cyclists and pedestrians at night.**
- **Look around you before opening car doors.**

Questions

VIRGINIA DRIVING FACTS

1. If I am 17 years old or younger, I will be breaking the law if I drive between:

- A.** 6 p.m. and midnight.
- B.** 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- C.** Midnight and 4 a.m.

2. I want to travel to Virginia Beach, but I have no idea how to get there. I can get maps:

- A.** online at www.virginiadot.org.
- B.** at the Springfield Interchange Information Center at Springfield Mall.
- C.** by calling 703-383-VDOT.
- D.** all of the above.

3. In Virginia, there is a traffic crash about every ____ .

- A.** 4 minutes
- B.** 13 minutes
- C.** 2 hours

4. I am late for a date and I am driving through a work zone at the Springfield Interchange. An orange and black sign indicates that the highway is narrowing to one lane and I must move to the left lane, so I:

- A.** stay in my lane as long as possible and merge at the last minute.
- B.** merge into the other lane as soon as I can.
- C.** slam on the brakes and move into the other lane immediately.

5. I slow down in areas with a lot of deer because:

- A.** the average white-tailed male deer weighs 150 pounds.
- B.** deer injure an estimated 29,000 drivers and passengers and kill over 200 annually.
- C.** deer are shy.
- D.** all of the above.

6. There's no one around so I decide to drive really fast on a country lane. I miss a curve and my car flips over. I'm in pain. My friend is strangely quiet. Suddenly, I remember that the chances of dying on a rural road are 40 percent greater because:

- A.** despite the danger, many drivers speed.
- B.** road conditions are irregular.
- C.** emergency response time is longer.
- D.** all of the above.

7. In Virginia, someone my age is most likely to die as a result of:

- A.** a traffic crash.
- B.** a gunshot wound.
- C.** alcohol poisoning.

SIGN LANGUAGE

1. Signs that state the law are:

- A.** green.
- B.** blue.
- C.** white.

2. Round signs always indicate a:

- A.** school zone.
- B.** work zone.
- C.** railroad crossing.

3. Match the sign to the colors and shapes.

- A.** School Zone _____
- B.** Stop _____
- C.** Warning: Pavement Ends _____
- D.** Warning: Work Zone _____
- E.** Tourist Marker _____
- F.** Speed Limit _____
- G.** One Way _____
- H.** Yield _____



FOUL WEATHER

1. In a rainstorm, the roads are most slippery:

- A.** during the first few minutes of the storm.
- B.** after it has been raining for a few hours.
- C.** when it is hot and humid outside.

2. It's August and my car overheats on the highway. I cannot pull over safely for a couple of miles. What should I do?

- A.** Turn on the air conditioning. It will keep me cool and cool the car down as well.
- B.** Keep driving and ignore the temperature gauge's warning—it's not a big deal.
- C.** Turn off the air conditioning and turn on the heat.

3. It's raining heavily and my car hydroplanes—the wheels ride on the water like a water skier and I lose my ability to steer. I remember *not* to slam on the brakes. Why?

- A.** If I slam on the brakes, my vehicle will skid out of control.
- B.** Easing my foot off the gas and allowing the wheels to slow will allow the tires to make contact with the road.
- C.** I should know my braking system and know the correct way to steer **my** vehicle.
- D.** All of the above.

4. The best way to control my car in foul weather is to:

- A.** hold the steering wheel as tightly as possible.
- B.** keep my foot on the brake at all times.
- C.** keep my speed down.

RAILROAD CROSSING

1. (True/False) If you don't see a train, it is usually safe to drive around a closed gate at a railroad crossing.

2. (True/False) If your vehicle stalls on train tracks when a train is approaching, try to push it out of the way.

3. (True/False) It's okay for you to cross the tracks as soon as the last car of the train has cleared the crossing.

4. A freight train traveling at 55 mph can take about _____ to come to a stop.

- A.** 500 feet
- B.** a half mile
- C.** 1 mile

5. You are driving across train tracks when the lights start flashing and the gates come down. You should _____.

- A.** keep going
- B.** abandon your car
- C.** stop
- D.** back up

DRIVING FIGURES

1. Vehicle crashes kill _____ people in the U.S. each year.

- A.** 10,000
- B.** 25,000
- C.** 40,000

2. More than half of all crashes happen within _____ miles from home.

- A.** 5
- B.** 25
- C.** 150

3. Alcohol was a factor in _____ of teen traffic fatalities involving 18-20 year olds who crashed in Virginia in 2001.

- A.** 1/10
- B.** 1/5
- C.** 1/3

4. Sixteen-year-old drivers are _____ times as likely to crash as 18-year-olds.

- A.** 2
- B.** 3
- C.** 5

STREET LEGAL IN VIRGINIA

1. (True/False) **I am at a party. I think I that have a high tolerance for alcohol so it's okay to have a drink or two, even if I am driving.**
2. (True/False) **It is illegal to pass a school bus whose lights are flashing.**
3. (True/False) **It is legal to run out of gas on Virginia highways.**
4. (True/False) **It is illegal to hang furry dice from your dashboard or rear view mirror.**
5. (True/False) **Aggressive driving, which includes intimidating other drivers by following too closely or failure to observe lanes marked for traffic, is illegal.**
6. (True/False) **Your vehicle must be inspected once a year.**

WORK ZONE

1. **Fines for speeding in a work zone are:**
 - A. no different from normal speeding fines.
 - B. double.
 - C. forgiven if I didn't notice the work zone signs.
2. (True/False) **I am 7 times as likely as a construction worker to die in a work zone crash.**
3. **If I travel 45 mph instead of 65 mph through a 2-mile work zone, how much longer will it take me to drive through it?**
 - A. 14 minutes
 - B. 5 minutes
 - C. less than 1 minute

THINK ABOUT IT

1. Most work zone crashes happen on straight and level sections of the highway.

Why do you think that this is so?

2. Teenagers whose parents have 3 or more vehicle crashes on their records are 22 percent more likely to crash at least once, compared with teenagers whose parents have had no crashes.

What have you learned about road safety from watching your parents drive? What have you learned to do—and not to do?

3. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld noted the similarities between dating and driving:

When you start out with someone, you're essentially driving a strange car for the first time and none of the controls are labeled. So the wipers can come on at strange times, sometimes you stall. On top of that we've all met people with bad steering, no brakes, needs a muffler, headlights a little dim, too much in the trunk, not enough under the hood, prone to backfiring, won't turn over, and just plain out of gas. Which is why people ... so often seem to choose basic transportation. It's simple, it's reliable, and it gets you there. That's important on a long trip.— Seinfeld (1993)

How is the way in which you relate to other people reflected in the way you drive? In your relationships with family and friends, what have you learned about yourself that you need to recognize as you begin to drive?

Answers

VIRGINIA STATE OF MIND

1C, 2D, 3A, 4B, 5D, 6D, 7A

SIGN LANGUAGE

1C, 2C, 3: A[2], B[4], C[6], D[8], E[3], F[7], G[5], H[1]

FOUL WEATHER

1A When it starts to rain, the water combines with oil and grease on the road.

2C The heater will draw heat away from the engine.

3D

4C

RAILROAD CROSSING

1 False, **2** False, **3** False, **4C, 5A** Keep going, even if you have to drive through the gate.

DRIVING FIGURES

1C, 2A, 3C, 4C

STREET LEGAL

1 False, **2** True, **3** False, **4** True, **5** True, **6** True

WORK ZONE

1B, 2 True, **3C** So what's the rush?

Want to Know More?

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

www.aaafoundation.org
Fax: 202-638-5943

AAA Mid-Atlantic

www.aaamidatlantic.com

Federal Highway Administration

www.fhwa.dot.gov

Fairfax County Police Department

www.co.fairfax.va.us/ps/police
703-691-2131 (non-emergency)

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)

www.hwysafety.org
703-247-1500

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

www.nhtsa.dot.gov
Auto Safety Hotline: 800-424-9393

National Transportation Safety Board

www.nts.gov
202-314-6000

Operation Lifesaver

www.oli.org
703-739-0308
800-537-6224

Prince William County Police Department

www.co.prince-william.va.us/police
703-792-6650

US Department of Transportation

www.dot.gov
202-366-4000

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

www.dmvnow.com
Toll Free: 866-DMVLINE
(866-368-5463)

Virginia Department of Transportation

www.VirginiaDOT.org
703-383-VDOT
800-367-ROAD
(TTY users, call 800-432-1843)

VDOT's Springfield Interchange Project Information Center

www.springfieldinterchange.com
877-9595-222

Virginia State Police

www.vsp.state.va.us
703-921-5194 (non-emergency)
cell: #77

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

www.wilsonbridge.com

Much of the information in this publication was provided by the institutions listed here.

Acknowledgements

ADVENTURES IN DRIVING:

SURVIVE THE RIDE! would not have been possible without the support of **JERRY'S DODGE** in Springfield, **ALL MAKES AND MODELS** in Lorton and **VDOT'S NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT STAFF**.

Special thanks to Virginia State Trooper Mike Walter and our dedicated driver Ralph Campbell. We would also like to extend thanks to Fairfax County Public Schools Physical Education Instructional Specialist Tony DeGregorio, Lake Braddock Secondary School's Heidi Smith and models Chris and KC, who helped us with the development of this publication. We also thank the other models who appear in the photographs: Bernard, Brian, Christina, Emily, Manny and Zachary.

We are grateful to VDOT's Safety Service Patrol and Jennifer Sieck, Lucy Caldwell of the Virginia State Police, Justin McNaull from AAA Mid-Atlantic and Tiffany Anderson of Chicken&Egg Public Projects.



Important information

Fairfax County Police Department

www.co.fairfax.va.us/ps/police
703-691-2131 (non-emergency)

Prince William County Police Department

www.co.prince-william.va.us/police
703-792-6650

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

www.dmvnow.com
Toll Free: 866-DMVLINE
(866-368-5463)

Virginia Department of Transportation

www.VirginiaDOT.org
703-383-VDOT
800-367-ROAD
(TTY users, call 800-432-1843)

VDOT Springfield Interchange Project Information Center

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877-9595-222

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703-921-5194 (non-emergency)
cell: #77

TEAR OUT RESPONSE CARD FROM BOOK ALONG SEAM (PERFORATED). FOLD CARD ON SCORE LINE, SEAL, AND MAIL. POSTAGE PAID.

DATE ___ / ___ / ___ NAME _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____

1. I have my: Learner's permit Driver's license Neither (I do not drive yet)

2. I am _____ years old.

3. I am: Currently enrolled in a driver education program
 Looking forward to taking driver education in the next few years
 Other (specify) _____

4. I got my copy of **Adventures in Driving: Survive the Ride!** from my:
 Middle School High School Driver Education Class VDOT
 Other (specify) _____

5. I enjoyed **Adventures in Driving: Survive the Ride!**: Yes No

6. My favorite part of the booklet was (list your top two): _____

7. If I could change one part of the booklet, I would: _____

8. If I was improving this booklet for my peers, I would:
(i.e., What would you include? What would you take out? How would you motivate them? How would you get them to learn AND have fun?)

STUDENT REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Provide one of the following: mailing address / email / phone number with area code

- I am interested in: follow-up surveys
 helping VDOT create programs for middle school and elementary school students
 receiving information about VDOT's scholarship/intern program

