

Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 159: Highway Hazards

**Introduction:** Freeways and interstate highways are designed to handle higher speed traffic safely. You need to be comfortable driving at these speeds and with the special procedures discussed below before attempting highway driving:

**Entering the Freeway**

- *Enter a freeway* smoothly by accelerating on the ramp or lane to match traffic speed, signal your intentions, check the traffic around you, and then merge carefully.
- *Stopping while entering* a freeway is dangerous; if you must stop, signal the vehicle behind you.



**Lane Use**

- *Be sure to* leave enough room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you in case that vehicle stops
- *The right lane* is used for entering and exiting the freeway and for slower traffic. Avoid the right lane during rush hour to leave room for traffic entering and exiting.
- *The left lane* is used for higher speed traffic and passing.
- *Be alert for* other vehicles attempting to merge into your lane, and use proper signal if you are changing lanes.
- *Avoid following* the vehicle in front of you too closely; allow 2 seconds space to allow time to stop if necessary.



**Restrictions - On the freeway you may not:**

- *Make* a U-turn.
- *Change lanes* without signaling.
- *Back up* at any time.
- *Drive onto the freeway* except at an on ramp.
- *Drive across* any dividing section or separation.



- *Stop on* the freeway, except in marked areas, unless it is an emergency.
- *Drive over or park in* any part of a gore area. This is the area between a through road and an entrance or exit ramp.

**Special situations**

- *If you need assistance*, pull over onto the right shoulder as far as possible. Avoid stopping on or near access ramps.
- *To signal for assistance*, turn on your emergency flashers and tie a white cloth to your antenna, or raise the hood of your vehicle. To signal after dark, turn on your inside dome light and/or set out flares or portable warning signals. *Wait for help*; do not walk along the freeway.
- *When driving on the freeway* watch for disabled vehicles, reduce your speed and turn on your flashers; then proceed around the disabled vehicle with caution.
- *If you have a tire blowout* hold the steering wheel firmly, keep your vehicle going straight. Let off the fuel pedal; do not apply brakes. Let the vehicle slow on its own, when almost stopped, pull over to the right as far as possible and apply brakes

**Slow moving vehicles and Trucks**

- *Maintain a safe following distance* that provides an adequate field of vision. Stay out of the other vehicles blind spot to the rear. Avoid following too closely; if you can see the vehicles side view mirror, they can see you.
- *When passing*, only pass in a marked passing zone if the way is clear. Let the driver know you are passing by blinking your headlights, especially at night. Do not drive alongside a truck or equipment for any longer than necessary.



**Night driving**

- *Reduced visibility*, glare from oncoming headlights, and unseen objects on the road all combine to make night driving hazardous.
- *As soon as* light begins to fade turn on your headlights, not your parking lights, to increase your visibility to others.
- *Reduce speed* at night to prevent driving too fast to stop in the distance you can see in your headlights.
- *Switch to low beams* when you meet oncoming traffic. Use low beams when you are following within 200 ft. of another vehicle.

**Conclusion:** Driving on empty rural highways can be just as dangerous as driving in heavy city traffic. Stay alert, watch for warning signs, and slow down when approaching curves or hills that block your view of the roadway ahead.

### Worksite Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:**

*(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)*

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City of San Angelo Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.