



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

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

## Topic 203: City Driving Techniques

**Introduction:** Driving in the city requires a driver's full attention; the hectic pace, congestion, and ever changing conditions in the city demand that a driver be alert at all times to traffic situations and hazards. It is important for safety sake to obey traffic laws, abide by the rules of the road, and drive defensively. Following are situations to be especially alert for when driving in the city:

**One-Way Streets:** If you will be traveling on a one-way street for several blocks, it is best to stay in the center lane. The left and right lanes will be used by turning vehicles. Be alert for the one-way street changing to two-way traffic along the way.



**Reversible Lanes:** Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times throughout the day, and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are usually marked by double dashed yellow lines. Before you drive in these lanes, check to see which lanes you can (there should be signs posted on the side of the road or overhead).

**Two-Way Left Turn Lane:** Many two-way streets have a center lane marked as a two-way left-hand turn lane. This lane is bordered on either side by two yellow lines – the inner line is broken, the outer line is solid. This lane is only for the use of vehicles turning left in either direction. This lane provides a safe area to slow before a left turn off of the street, or to speed up after a left turn onto a street. Drivers should follow these rules: ① Signal before entering the lane. ② Move completely into the lane. ③ Be alert for others using the lane. ④ Do not use the lane for passing or for through traffic.



**Sharing the Road with a Bike or Motorcycle:** Cyclists must obey the same traffic laws as drivers of motor vehicles, and they have the right-of-way under the same conditions as motorists. Motorists should be alert for cyclists along the roadway, because they are often difficult to see. Motorists are required to allow a minimum safe distance of 3 feet when passing a bicycle or motorcycle traveling in the same direction. At night you should dim your headlights for cyclists. Drivers should be prepared for a bicyclist swerving. Although cyclists must ride with the flow of traffic and stay to the right side of the road, they can legally move left for several reasons:

- Turning left. Avoiding hazards.
- If the lane in which the bicycle is operating is too narrow for a bicycle and motor vehicle to share side-by-side safely.
- Passing pedestrians or traffic.



School Crossing Ahead

**School Crossings and School Zones:** School crossings and zones are usually posted along with the speed limit.

- Whether posted or not, the speed limit approaching a school crossing or in a school zone is always 15 mph.
- You may never pass another vehicle in a school zone, even on multi-lane streets.

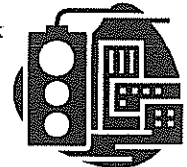
**School Buses:** A school bus displaying alternating flashing lights and/or a mechanical stop sign arm extended is either picking up or dropping off passengers. You must come to a complete stop before reaching the bus. You must remain stopped until the bus moves ahead, or no longer displays the flashing lights and stop sign. You are not required to stop for a school bus on a divided roadway when traveling in the opposite direction. A divided roadway is one in which the road is separated by a physical barrier such as a fence, curbing, or separation of the pavement. Striping does not constitute a physical barrier.



**Emergency Vehicles:** Always be alert for emergency vehicles while driving. Do not play music so loud that you can not hear a siren approaching. You must always yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle using a siren, flashing lights, or other warning device. Drive as soon as safely possible to the right side of the road and stop until the vehicle has passed. Do not pull out and follow the emergency vehicle closer than 200 ft.

**Signal Lights:** Signal lights (red, yellow, green) are posted at intersections to regulate the direction and flow of traffic. These lights apply to pedestrians and cyclists, as well as motorists. You must obey the signal light unless a police officer is directing traffic:

- **Red means stop.** You must come to a complete stop before reaching the intersection, stop line, or crosswalk. In some states, you may make a right turn after coming to a full stop if traffic permits you to do so safely. A flashing red light means the same as a stop sign.
- **The yellow signal light means caution.** A steady yellow light means that the light is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a safe stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely. Speeding up to "beat the light" is illegal and unsafe. A flashing yellow light means slow down and proceed with caution.
- **Green means go.** You may go through an intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the roadway is clear. Check to the left and right for oncoming traffic.
- **An inoperative signal light** must be treated the same as a four-way stop sign.



**Conclusion:** Driving in a city presents many challenges to the driver's skill, knowledge, and sometimes patience. Always be courteous, drive defensively, and wear your seat belt.

### Work Site 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.