

Night Driving

More Accidents Happen At Night

With the recent change to Daylight Savings Time, professional drivers will be driving more after dark. Although the majority of driving takes place during daylight hours, more accidents—and most fatal accidents—occur at night. It takes maximum defensive driving skills to drive safely at night.

Roadway Lighting

Roadway lighting is often very poor. In rural areas there is little or no overhead lighting and in urban locations the lighting may be poor and confusing due to neon signs and other distractions. The most dependable lighting will come from your own vehicle.

Do Not Overdrive Your Headlights

Be prepared to stop within the illumination of your headlights. Make sure your headlamps, as well as other lights and reflectors, are clean and properly adjusted during the pre-trip inspection. Make it routine to check your lights and reflectors each time you stop during a trip. Halogen headlamps are a great lighting improvement but they are also more blinding when oncoming vehicles do not dim their lights. Avoid looking directly into the lights of approaching motor vehicles. Glance to the right side of the road as a vehicle with bright lights approaches.

Condition of Other Drivers

You are most likely to encounter fatigued or impaired drivers late in the evening and during the early morning hours. Be alert for motorists that are driving aggressively or erratically during these times. Maintain a safe distance from these drivers and be prepared to stop. If a vehicle comes into your lane head-on, slow down and move your vehicle as far to the right as you can. Never take evasive action into an oncoming lane of traffic.

Reduce Your Speed

Fatigue, combined with less available light, reduces vision and reaction time. Decrease your speed when driving at night and on unfamiliar roads, and try to maintain a four-second interval between you and the vehicle ahead.