

TOOLBOX TALKS

Defensive Driving and Making Roads Safer

The biggest cause of road crashes in South Africa is driver error. It is generally accepted that 85-90% of road crashes can be attributed to driver error. This includes not only the honest mistake or error in judgement, but also driver recklessness, driver inattention and many other factors.

It is important that we strive both to reduce these errors on our side and adjust our driving to be more attentive and defend ourselves against the threats from errors by other road users. These skills and techniques required are called defensive driving.

When driving defensively, we are aware and ready for whatever happens. We are cautious, yet ready to take action and not put our fate in the hands of other drivers.

In this section we will provide advice on how defensive driving behaviour can make our roads safer.

What is Defensive Driving?

Definition: Defensive driving is the practice of maintaining an awareness of road and weather conditions, other vehicles, road users and potentially hazardous situations and then taking steps to prevent becoming the cause of or becoming involved in a road crash.

The description of defensive driving also refers to the following:

- Reducing the risk of collision by anticipating dangerous situations, adverse conditions, or the mistakes of others.
- Implementing driving techniques that enable drivers to address identified hazards in a predictable manner.
- Driving with an increased awareness of everything happening around you while driving.
- Driving characterized by prudence, diligence, and reasonable cautiousness with the goal of making the road a safe place not only for a defensive driver but also for other road users.

DISCUSSION

Questions from staff

Comments by staff

Suggestions from staff

TOOLBOX TALK ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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Site/Department:		Facilitator Signature:	
Topic:			

The information in this document had been explained to me and I understand the content

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