Driving Best Practices

- Prepare Your Vehicle
  - Check Fluid Levels
    - Inspect engine oil level and quality.
    - Verify coolant and brake fluid levels.
  - Test Lights and Signals
    - Ensure headlights are functioning.
    - Check turn signals and brake lights.
- Adjust Your Seating Position
  - Set Seat Height and Distance
    - Adjust seat for comfortable reach to pedals.
    - Ensure proper height for clear road view.
  - Position Mirrors Correctly
    - Adjust side mirrors to minimize blind spots.
    - Set rearview mirror for optimal rear visibility.
- Fasten Your Seatbelt
  - Ensure Proper Fit
    - Position belt across your chest and hips.
    - Check for any twists or slack in the belt.
  - Encourage Passenger Safety
    - Verify all passengers are buckled up.
    - Explain the importance of seatbelt use.
- Follow Speed Limits
  - Observe Posted Signs
    - Watch for speed limit signs on all roads.
    - Adhere to limits in school zones and residential areas.
  - Adjust for Conditions
    - Reduce speed in bad weather or poor visibility.
    - Slow down in construction zones.
- Use Turn Signals
  - Signal Before Turning
    - Activate signal at least 100 feet before a turn.
    - Ensure signal duration is sufficient for others to notice.
  - Indicate Lane Changes
    - Signal early when changing lanes.
    - Check mirrors and blind spots before moving.
- Maintain Safe Following Distance
  - Apply the Three-Second Rule
    - Keep a three-second gap between your vehicle and the one ahead.
    - Increase distance in adverse conditions.
  - Monitor Traffic Flow
    - Adjust following distance according to speed and traffic density.
    - Stay aware of sudden stops by other vehicles.
- Stay Focused on the Road
  - Avoid Distractions
    - Keep mobile devices out of reach while driving.
    - Refrain from eating or grooming behind the wheel.
  - Monitor Surroundings
    - Continuously scan mirrors and blind spots.
    - Stay alert for pedestrians, cyclists, and animals.
- Obey Traffic Signals and Signs
  - Stop at Red Lights and Stop Signs
    - Come to a complete stop at red lights.
    - Observe full stops at stop signs, checking all directions.
  - Yield Right of Way
    - Give way to pedestrians at crosswalks.
    - Allow other vehicles to merge smoothly in traffic.
- Practice Defensive Driving
  - Anticipate Others' Actions
    - Predict potential actions of other drivers.
    - Be prepared to react to sudden movements.
  - Keep Escape Routes in Mind
    - Identify safe areas to move to in an emergency.
    - Avoid being boxed in by other vehicles.
- Handle Emergencies Calmly
  - Respond to Vehicle Malfunctions
    - Safely pull over if experiencing a breakdown.
    - Use hazard lights to alert other drivers.
  - Manage Skids and Hydroplaning
    - Steer gently in the direction of the skid.
    - Ease off the accelerator and avoid sudden braking.

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