



Community & Resident Safety

Balfour Beatty
Communities

Defensive Driving

A defensive driver is someone who looks out for the mistakes of other drivers and pedestrians; not merely a person who has had the good fortune to avoid accidents.

Safety-Conscious Drivers:

- Develop good habits and practice them continually
- Are prepared mentally and physically every time they are behind the wheel
- Comply with all traffic laws and are courteous to others
- Remember that speed, whether too slow or too fast, can kill
- Adapt their driving to the current driving conditions
- Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of them—one vehicle length for each 10 mph
- Are aware of their vehicle's limitations
- Remain alert and focus their attention on driving by keeping their minds free of distractions

Defensive Drivers:

- Have foresight that give them the ability to size up traffic situations on the road ahead
- Start slowing down sooner and apply the brakes the instant they see a hazard developing
- Apply the brakes gradually so they don't spin or grind to a stop so quickly that they risk a rear-end collision
- Anticipate the incorrect actions of other drivers in time to take the actions necessary to prevent the accident
- Anticipate driving hazards and know how to protect themselves from roadway dangers
- Anticipate traffic problems that may develop and decide whether these developments could be dangerous

In other words, defensive drivers must learn to maintain and operate their vehicles in a manner that avoids contributing to an accident or being involved in a preventable accident. Remember to drive defensively and practice safety.