



# Defensive Driving Continuing Education 4th Quarter 2022



PARTNERSHIP



# Introduction

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- July 2021 we saw numerous utility industry fatalities in a short span.
- 20% of those fatalities involved motor vehicle incidents
- Don't forget that you are not only a utility worker, you are also a professional driver!



# Objectives

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Understand the importance of protecting yourself, your colleagues and the public, by focusing on driving in a defensive manner.



# Topics in this presentation



- Cell Phones
- Types of accidents
  - Rear-end collisions
  - Merging and Lane Changes
  - Rollovers
  - Backing
  - ATV/UTV





# Cell Phones



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- Driving distracted is now more serious than DWI
    - ✓ The main culprit is cell phones
  - Consider putting your phone in the glove box
  - If you are allowed to use your smartphone for navigation, make sure it is mounted
  - There are apps that will stop calls



# Rear-End Collisions

- The members of the ET&D Partnership agreed that rear-end collisions (we strike the vehicle in front of us) are one of the most avoidable types of accidents
- These are mostly due to:
  - Distraction/Lack of focus
  - Not providing a safe following distance
  - Driving too fast



# Preventing Rear-End Collisions

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- We start all field work with a Job Briefing to set the day up for success by identifying hazards and communicating responsibilities
- Consider doing a Driving Job Briefing **before** each trip just like you would for a Job Briefing



# Preventing Rear-End Collisions

- After you perform your pre-trip inspection, think about your route, the hazards on that route (school & construction zones, playgrounds, etc.) and how to avoid them
- **SLOW DOWN !** Know the speed limit and pay attention to traffic ahead of you.
- Passengers should be helping the driver with navigation and hazard identification.
- Experienced drivers can point out hazards to apprentices before they get on the road even if they are driving alone in separate trucks.



# How to prevent getting rear-ended

- Place conspicuity (Chevron) striping on vehicles
- Approach intersection slowly
- Leave a buffer in front of you in case you need it

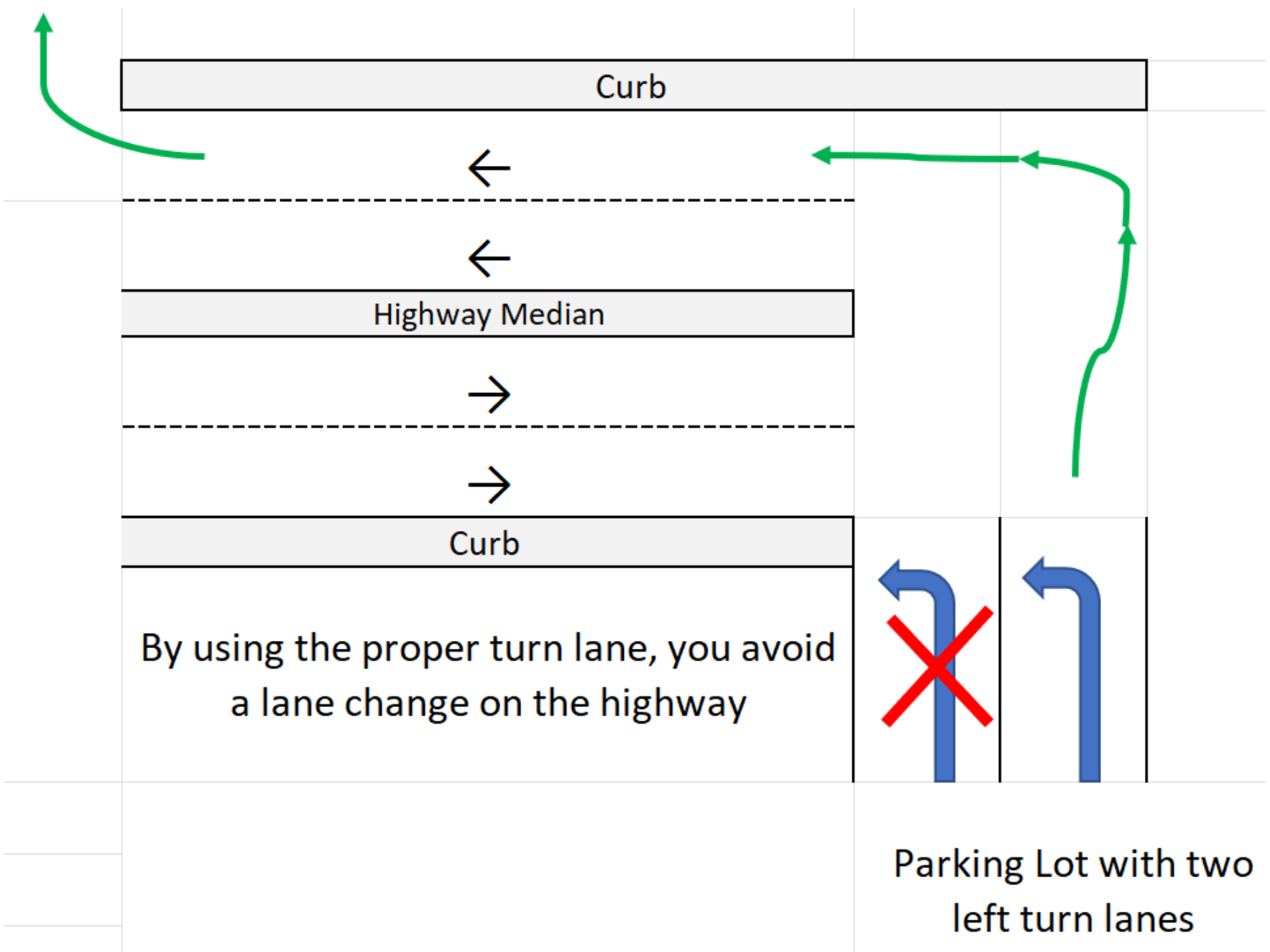




# Preventing Collisions when merging or changing lanes

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- The best way to prevent these types of collisions is to carefully plan your route.
  - Example: If you are making a left turn out of a parking lot that has two left turn lanes and once on the highway, you eventually must turn right, use the proper turn lane from the start. This avoids making a lane change before your next right turn. (See Diagram next page)



Curb



Highway Median



Curb

By using the proper turn lane, you avoid a lane change on the highway



Parking Lot with two left turn lanes



# Preventing Collisions when merging or changing lanes

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- In the example on the previous slide, you are mitigating the hazard by planning ahead.
- This can be done in many ways.
  - Change lanes early when there is no traffic.
  - Have a pickup follow you and provide a space for you to make the lane change.
  - Take an alternate route that does not require a lane change in heavy traffic.



# Preventing Collisions when merging or changing lanes

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- If you must change lanes or if the lane you are in merges with another:
  - Notice this early by looking ahead
  - Plan your merge by looking at traffic around you
  - Utilize the passenger for assistance in spotting traffic
  - Use your turn signals in a timely manner to warn other motorists of your intent

# Preventing Rollovers





# Preventing Rollovers

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- Maintain appropriate speed
- Utility trucks are very top-heavy and therefore cannot be driven like a sports car
- Pay attention to inclines and turns and the signs that warn you about them
- Read manufacturer's warnings regarding rollover protection
- **WEAR YOUR SEATBELT!!**



# Safe Backing

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- Avoid parking that forces you to back up
  - Once again you are engineering the hazard out
- Use a spotter
- Go slow
- If alone, look around before you get in the cab
- Once you start backing, if you are unsure, place the truck in park, turn it off, **Get Out And Look**





Pull into a space you can pull out from.

If pulling a pole or trailer, use an empty area where you can pull in and out

Shipping Partner

# ATV/UTV

- Only drive them if you are properly trained
- Read manufacturer's warnings regarding rollover prevention
- Wear a helmet
- Don't overload it





# ATV/UTV

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- Watch changing terrain and look for unexpected obstacles
- Get off and walk when you can not see the terrain. You NEVER know what may be hidden in tall grass
- WEAR YOUR SEATBELT!!



## Look at it this way

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- Imagine what the call to your leadership would be like informing them that you just rear-ended a public vehicle, and a small child was now on the way to the hospital.
- Or...imagine your supervisor making a call to your family letting them know you rolled a vehicle over and you are now in serious condition



# Look at it this way

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- Think about how those scenarios would affect:
  - Your life
  - Your weekend plans
  - Your family
  - Your colleagues
  - Your company



# Review

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- Most common types of incidents are:
  - Rear-end collisions
  - Merging and Lane Changes
  - Rollovers
  - Backing





# Review (cont'd)

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- Slow Down, especially if conditions are not good
- You can control the hazard which leads to safer outcomes by planning ahead
- Passengers should assist the driver in hazard identification



# Quiz

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# Question 1

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- What is common between rear-ending and rollover accidents
  - A. Someone else is to blame
  - B. Nothing
  - C. Speed is too fast for conditions
  - D. They are not avoidable



## Question 2

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- True or False Pre-trip planning is a waste of time
  - TRUE
  - FALSE



## Question 3

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- By focusing on driving in a defensive manner you.
  - A. Are protecting yourself, your colleagues and the public
  - B. Are always going to be late
  - C. Only when driving a company vehicle
  - D. It is better to drive aggressively



## Question 4

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- Which is **NOT** a best practice when changing lanes with a larger vehicle in heavy traffic?
  - A. Change lanes early when there is no traffic.
  - B. Have a pickup follow you and provide a space for you to make the lane change.
  - C. Take an alternate route that does not require a lane change in heavy traffic.
  - D. Turn on your turn signals and merge they will get out of your way.



## Question 5

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- What should you do when driving off road in high grass?
  - A. Keep going your ATV/UTV is made for this stuff
  - B. Get off and walk when you can not see the terrain. You NEVER know what may be hidden in tall grass
  - C. Get the map out
  - D. Ask a rabbit about the conditions ahead