



## chapter 1

# YOU ARE THE DRIVER

- 1.1 You Are Part of the System
- 1.2 Your Driving Task
- 1.3 Your Driving Responsibilities
- 1.4 Your Driver's License

### KEY IDEA

What skills, responsibilities, and license requirements will you have to meet before you drive in the highway transportation system?



### YOU'RE THE DRIVER

Before you can get in a car and start learning the skills that will stay with you for a lifetime, you first need to learn all the fundamentals of the driving task. This chapter will help you learn the first steps in becoming a responsible, low-risk driver.

# lesson 1.1

## YOU ARE PART OF THE SYSTEM

### OBJECTIVES

- Describe the three parts of the highway transportation system.
- Explain how the National Highway Safety Act affects drivers.
- Explain how the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act helps keep drivers and passengers safe.

### VOCABULARY

- risk
- highway transportation system
- roadway user

You are about to take a driver education course, apply for your driver's license, and join the millions of others who share our country's roads. The key to becoming a safe and responsible driver is to learn about the **risks** of driving and how to manage them. No matter how good a driver you become, the possibility of injury to people and damage to property or vehicles is always present.

### The Highway Transportation System

The **highway transportation system**, or HTS, has three parts: roadway users, vehicles, and roadways. The purpose of the HTS is to move people and cargo from one place to another in a safe and efficient manner.

Of all transportation systems, the HTS is the most complex. It has the greatest variety of users, including drivers, passengers, and pedestrians, and it has a wide variety of roadways, from simple rural lanes to complex multi-lane roads and expressways.

**Roadway Users** People who use the HTS by walking, driving, or riding are called **roadway users**.

While most individuals consistently drive in a safe and responsible manner, others do not. Even experienced drivers sometimes operate their cars when they are distracted, overly tired, sick, or impaired by medication. To protect yourself and others when these high-risk drivers are on the road, you have to be alert to the risks involved and know how to reduce or control them.

**Vehicles** There are more than 240 million registered passenger vehicles in the United States. The vehicles range from lightweight mopeds to tractor trailers weighing many tons. Each of these vehicles varies in how it handles, in its safety features, and in its ability to protect drivers and passengers in the event of a crash. To be a safe driver, you must learn how to share the roads with vehicles whose size and weight add risk to the driving task.

**Roadways** The HTS involves more than 4 million miles of paved roads. Driving at night on unlit roads, on unpaved road surfaces, and in hazardous

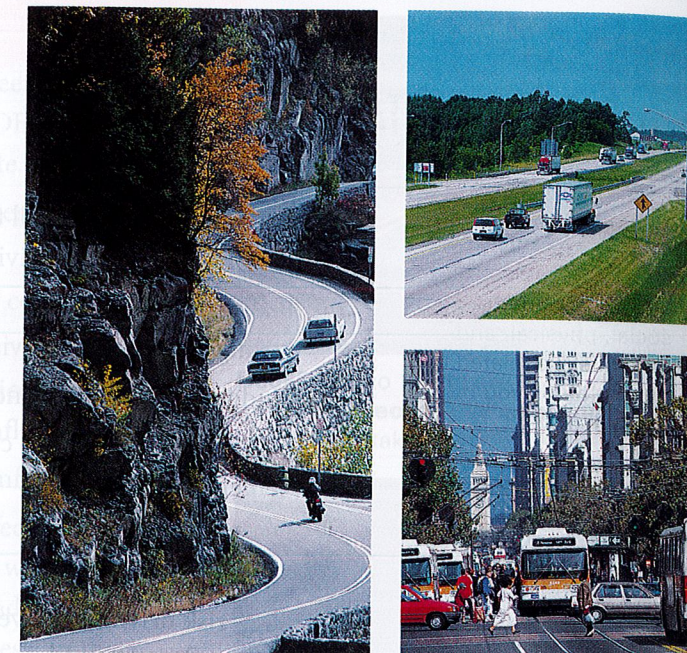
environmental conditions such as rain, snow, and wind have a direct effect on risk for drivers. All skillful drivers are alert to these driving situations and know how to react to each one.

### Regulating the HTS

Federal, state, and local government agencies work together to regulate the HTS. The federal government passed two laws to set standards for vehicle and highway safety: The National Highway Safety Act and The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

By passing the National Highway Safety Act, the federal government created guidelines for motor vehicle safety programs. Included in the guidelines that states must follow are vehicle registration, driver licensing, traffic courts, and highway construction and maintenance.

To keep cars safe, the federal government passed the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, which requires auto makers to install certain safety features into each car. For example, the act requires that safety belts be installed at the factory.



**FIGURE 1** As you learn to drive, you will learn how to navigate the complex mix of people, vehicles, and roadway safely and responsibly.

### review it 1.1

1. List the parts and purpose of the HTS.
2. Explain how the HTS is regulated.
3. Describe the purpose of the National Highway Safety Act and how it affects states and local governments.
4. Explain the purpose of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and how it helps keep drivers and passengers safe.

### Critical Thinking

5. **Predict** What do you think might happen if one or more parts of the HTS failed?

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Research** Enforcement agencies play an important role in the HTS. Visit a local police station and find out what percent of officers' time is spent in traffic enforcement. Also ask officers to describe some of the high-risk drivers they encounter. Report your findings to the class.

# Lesson 1.2

## YOUR DRIVING TASK

### OBJECTIVES

Understand how understanding the physical, and mental skills related to driving helps you be a safe driver. Identify mental, social, and physical factors that affect your ability to be a safe driver. Explain the steps in the IPDE process.

### VOCABULARY

IPDE Process  
Zone Control System  
low-risk driving

The driving task includes all the mental, social, and physical skills required to drive. To perform the driving task with low risk, you must develop habits for

- using knowledge and visual skills
- judging speed, time, and space
- anticipating how your car will respond under ordinary and emergency conditions

### Mental Skills

Safe, low-risk driving involves critical judgment and continuous monitoring. Monitoring the roadway to stay alert for any unpredictable actions of drivers or pedestrians is a habit you want to develop in order to protect yourself and your passengers.

### Social Skills

All drivers bring their own problems and skill levels to our driving world. Like all social tasks, driving requires you to interact with other people. A big part of your driving task will be applying social skills to stressful situations to avoid conflicts. For example, if you can't control an angry driver, you will have to remain calm and patient in order to defuse a potentially dangerous situation. As a courteous driver, you need to make an effort to work with other drivers so that you don't lose focus and make driving mistakes.

### Physical Skills

Skills such as smooth use of acceleration and braking and steering controls are examples of physical skills that you need to practice so they become habits. Scanning your rearview mirror every few seconds is another physical skill that you will want to become a habit. You'll need to develop eye-hand coordination so that you'll acquire the habit of using the controls effectively and in a timely manner.



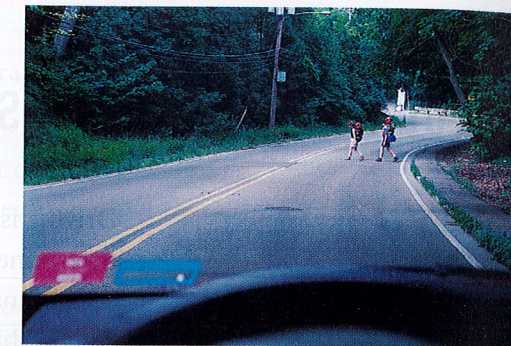
## IPDE Process

The **IPDE Process** is an organized system for seeing, thinking, and responding during the driving task. IPDE is an acronym for identify, predict, decide, and execute.

- Identify important information in the current driving situation.
- Predict when and where possible points of conflict may develop.
- Decide when, where, and how to communicate, adjust speed, and/or change position to avoid conflict.
- Execute the correct action(s) to prevent conflict.

To help you use the IPDE Process more effectively, you will also learn about the **Zone Control System**, which is a method for managing space around your car. Understanding Zone Control will help you apply the IPDE Process. In that way, you can manage all the information you need to make responsible decisions that reduce the risks of driving.

Once you have mastered the IPDE Process, you will be able to practice **low-risk driving**, which means that you will constantly monitor other vehicles and roadway users around you, and you will not assume others will do what you think they should do. Low-risk driving enables you to actively avoid hazardous situations.



**FIGURE 2** Two hikers are in your path of travel. **Execute** What actions should you take?



**FIGURE 3** Predict is the second step in the IPDE Process. **Predict** Could you predict a possible conflict in this picture?

## review it 1.2

1. How do mental, social, and physical habits help you in the driving task?
2. Describe a driving situation where you might need to apply mental skills.
3. Describe a driving situation where you might need to apply social skills.
4. Explain how to use the IPDE Process in the driving task.

### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyze** Why should you practice low-risk driving?
6. **Evaluate** How do you think Zone Control supports the IPDE Process to make you a safe, low-risk driver?

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Evaluate the driving habits of drivers in your family. Gather a list of good driving habits that you and your family should keep up, and a list of habits that need to be improved. Set goals for improving unsafe behaviors.



# Lesson 1.3 DRIVING RESPONSIBILITIES

## PRIVILEGES

Driving is a privilege given to an individual who meets certain requirements determined by state law. As with any privilege, driving has responsibilities. As a licensed driver, you will have legal, financial, and environmental responsibilities. Furthermore, you will be expected to assume responsibility for yourself as well as for others while you are behind the wheel.

## VOCABULARY

cost

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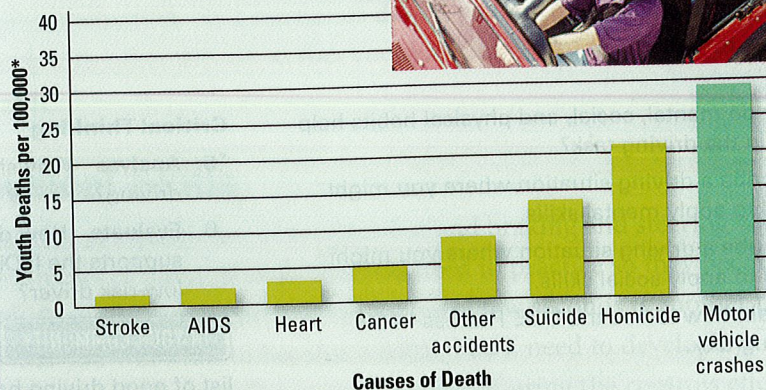
## Legal Responsibilities

**Laws** Your primary responsibility as a driver is to obey all traffic laws. As a law-abiding driver, it is imperative that you avoid drinking and driving.

**Collisions** Sometimes, no matter how good a driver you are, you might not be able to avoid a collision. A **collision**, or crash, happens when a vehicle hits another object, whether the object is moving or not. By law, any driver involved in a collision must stop.



Causes of Death for Ages 15–24



\*provisional annual death rate for ages 15 to 24 (NCHS data)

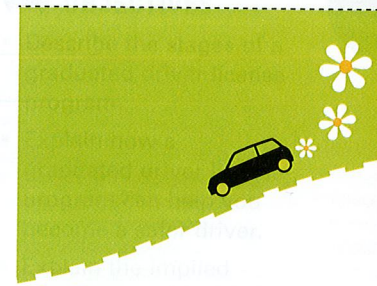
more people in the ages of 15-24 died as a result of motor vehicle crashes than any other single cause.

## Financial Responsibilities

**Operating Costs** As a driver, you are responsible for your **operating costs**, which include costs for fuel, oil, and tires.

**Fixed Costs** Your fixed costs include the purchase price of your car, any licensing fees, and your insurance. These are called **fixed costs** because they are not determined by how many miles you drive.

**Crash Costs** Of all the possible causes for a collision, driver error is the most common. Being responsible for a car crash that kills another passenger or driver leaves a person with a terrible feeling for life. In addition, traffic crashes cost our nation billions of dollars each year in property damage, time away from work, and medical fees. If a crash is determined to be your fault, you will be responsible for paying for any injuries sustained by the people involved in the collision or damages to any property. Auto insurance is designed to cover the majority of these costs.



drive green

**Saving Fuel** You can save fuel by doing little things like turning your engine off. United Parcel Service (UPS) drivers are trained never to let their engines idle when at a curb or in a driveway. Even if the driver is out of the truck for a few seconds, the engine is always turned off.

## Environmental Responsibilities

All drivers have a responsibility to help manage the environmental threats created by motor-vehicle use, including air pollution, water pollution, chemical spills, and pollution caused by the disposal of vehicle-related products. To reduce pollution and preserve our environment, responsible drivers can

- buy and maintain fuel-efficient vehicles
- use fuel-efficient driving habits
- use car pools and public transportation
- recycle used materials
- work for strong policies that encourage energy-efficient driving

## Responsibilities to Yourself and Others

Responsible driving involves making rational decisions. As a driver, it is your responsibility to make driving decisions that show respect for yourself as well as for others. Driving recklessly and aggressively, for example, are high-risk behaviors that endanger and show disrespect for other drivers and passengers. By choosing to practice common courtesy and to control



your anger or frustration, you are demonstrating good judgment and self-control.

Driving can be a social event if your friends are in the car with you. Friends might try to pressure you to engage in risky activities that can affect your ability to drive safely. Showing responsibility for yourself means telling your friends that you have too much respect for yourself and others to give in to negative pressure.

## Review it 1.3

Three financial responsibilities that drivers have are maintaining and operating a vehicle, paying for how collisions cost the nation billions of dollars, and paying for the cost of repairs.

As a new driver, how can you protect the environment from vehicle-related pollution? As a driver, how can you show respect for yourself and your passengers?

### Thinking

**Compare and Contrast** How are crash costs different from repair costs?

**6. Evaluate** A young driver decides not to use his cell phone while driving. To whom is he being responsible? Explain your answer.

#### IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

**Unsafe Driver** Suppose you have a friend who you think is an unsafe driver. He drives at high speeds, disobeys traffic laws, and frequently takes his eyes off the road. What would you say to your friend to encourage him to drive more safely? List some of the things you'd say and share your strategies with the class.



## Lesson 1.4 YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

The purpose of a comprehensive driver licensing program is to make sure only safe drivers are allowed on public roadways. Most licensing programs require applicants to take written, physical, and driving exams.

### Graduated Driver Licensing Program (GDL)

To help young drivers adjust to the driving task, many states have a **graduated driver licensing program**. The GDL program requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages. Typically these programs have three stages: learner's permit stage, intermediate license stage, and the full-privilege stage.

**Learner's Permit Stage** Supervised conditions require that

- the learner receives a permit to drive when supervised by an adult, licensed driver
- the permit must be held for a minimum period—usually six months—of violation-free and collision-free driving
- other licensed drivers, such as family members, may be asked to provide a minimum number of hours of practice driving

**Intermediate License Stage** The learner drives under the following restrictions at this stage:

- The learner must have successfully completed the learner's permit stage and an approved driver-education course.
- Supervised driving may be continued to meet the required hours.
- Night driving is restricted.
- Passengers can be limited in age and/or number.
- The intermediate license must be held for at least six months of collision-free and violation-free driving. If the learner is involved in a collision or receives a violation, the intermediate license stage begins again from the time of the violation or collision.
- Penalties for violations are increased. Many times, violators are required to go to traffic school.



#### OBJECTIVES


- Describe the stages of a graduated driver license program.
- Explain how a graduated driver license program can help you become a safer driver.
- Explain the implied consent law.
- List the key concepts in a quality driver-education program.



#### VOCABULARY

- graduated driver licensing program

licensing programs have three stages.

<p><b>Learner's Permit Stage</b> 6–12 months</p> <p>Age 15–16</p> 	<p><b>Intermediate License Stage</b> 6–18 months</p> <p>Age 16–17</p> 	<p><b>Full-privilege License Stage</b></p> <p>Age 16.5–18 and on</p> 
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**Full-Privilege License Stage** To graduate to a full, unrestricted license stage, the learner must

- successfully complete the intermediate license stage with no violations and no collisions
- in some states, complete an advanced driver-education course

There was opposition by states to a graduated driver license program when it was first suggested in the 1970s. However, according to research done recently by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, “graduated licensing programs have had positive effects on the crash experience of young drivers in the United States and other countries, including Canada and New Zealand. In U.S. states that have adopted elements of graduated licensing, the safety benefits are evident. Almost all studies have found crash reductions from about 10 to 30 percent.”

### Driver Education and Your License

Quality driver-education programs give you the opportunity to learn and practice the skills you need to be a safe, skilled, and responsible driver. Driver education can also alert you to some of the problems you might face while driving.

The *Drive Right* driver-education program is your start toward becoming a responsible low-risk driver. The program is based in part on the following key concepts:

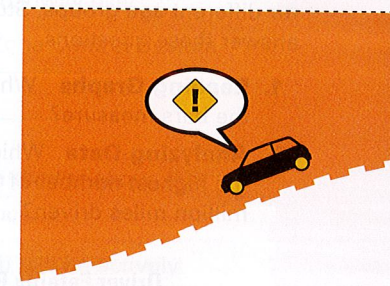
- Driving is primarily a decision-making process. In this program, you will learn how to use the IPDE Process and Zone Control to become a knowledgeable and skillful driver.
- Your driving will be greatly influenced by your maturity, emotions, and attitude toward responsibility.
- An awareness of the limiting factors for yourself and your vehicle will make you a low-risk driver.
- Drugs and alcohol will impair your ability to be a low-risk driver.

Once you pass your driving-education program, you should take at least one year to ease into full-time driving responsibilities. After you have driven under a wide variety of traffic situations and road conditions, such as night driving and hazardous weather, you can begin to think of yourself as an accomplished new driver.

No driving program can teach you everything you will need to know to be a safe driver. As long as you drive, you will need to improve your skills. Remember, the best drivers never stop learning.

**Organ Donor Program** You may indicate your desire to be an organ donor by filling out an organ donation declaration on your driver's license or by signing an organ donor card. The most important step in considering organ donation is discussing your decision with your family.

**Implied Consent Laws** All states have enacted the implied consent law. When you get your driver's license, you agree that if you are stopped for cause and charged with drinking and driving, you consent to having a police officer give you a test for the presence of alcohol. If you refuse to take the test, you will lose your license.



### safe driving tip

**Be Prepared** Never assume what another driver, pedestrian, or cyclist might do. While you are driving, always anticipate that others might enter your path of travel. Be prepared to stop or steer away to avoid a collision.

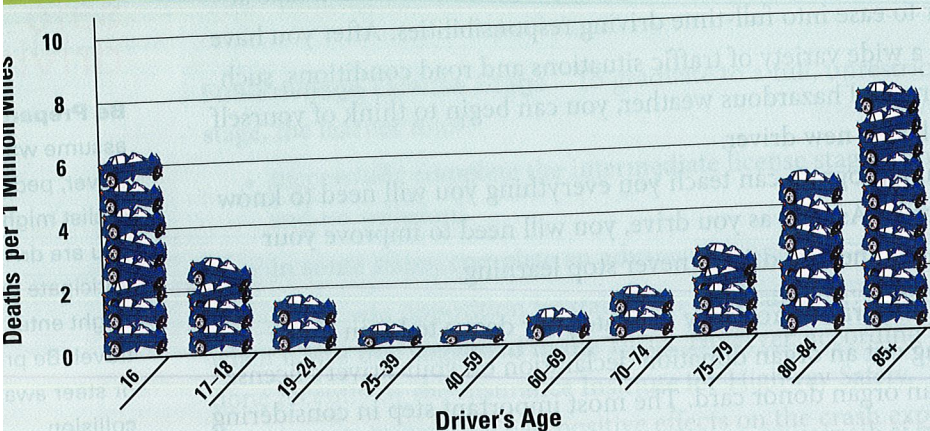
## ing data

**Performance** One way to analyze performance is to measure fatal crashes per mile. The graph shows the fatality rate by age groups. Study the graph before you answer the questions.

**Graphs** Which does the height of the bar measure?

**Key Data** Which two age groups have the highest number of fatal crashes per one million miles driven?

Driver Fatality Rates by Age



## Review it 1.4

1. Explain and describe the three stages of a graduated driver license program.  
 2. How can a graduated driver license program help a new driver become a responsible driver?  
 3. List three key concepts of a quality driver-education program.

### Thinking

1. What do you think is the purpose of a driver's license?

**3. Inferring** Suggest some reasons why 40–59-year-old drivers have fewer fatal crashes.

**4. Relating Cause and Effect** The young drivers on this graph have a high fatality rate per million miles driven. What are some of the biggest risk factors young drivers have that contributed to these fatal crashes?

**5. Execute** If you were to coach new drivers, what skills would you encourage them to master to avoid having a fatal crash?

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Research** Every state has some kind of graduated driver license program. What are the specific GDL requirements in your state? Compare them to the GDL requirements listed in this book. How are they different from your state's requirements? How are they the same?

# CHAPTER 1 REVIEW

## Lesson Summaries

### 1.1 YOU ARE PART OF THE SYSTEM

- The HTS system has three parts: roadway users, vehicles, and roadways.
- The federal government passed the National Highway Safety Act and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act to keep drivers and cars safe.

### 1.2 YOUR DRIVING TASK

- A driver needs to interact successfully with people, learn the physical skills of driving, and use mental skills to make decisions using the IPDE Process.
- The four steps of the IPDE Process are Identify, Predict, Decide, and Execute.

### 1.3 YOUR DRIVING RESPONSIBILITIES

- To keep roads as safe as possible, it is your responsibility to obey all laws passed by the state.
- As a new driver, you will assume legal, financial, and environmental responsibilities.
- Your most important new responsibility will be to protect yourself and others.

### 1.4 YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

- The licensing process, driver education, and driving practice work together to produce safe drivers.
- A graduated driver licensing program requires young drivers to go through a series of stages that provide practice driving time.

## Chapter Vocabulary

- collision
- fixed cost
- graduated driver licensing program
- highway transportation system
- IPDE Process
- low-risk driving
- operating cost
- risk
- roadway user
- Zone Control System

Write the word or phrase from the list above that correctly completes the sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ means that you will be actively monitoring other vehicles and roadway users around you.
2. Many states use a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to allow new drivers to start driving in stages.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ includes roadway users, vehicles, and roadways.
4. The process that includes *identify, predict, decide, and execute* is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The chance of injuring people or causing property damage is called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When a vehicle hits another object, the vehicle is involved in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The system used to manage the space around your car is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

### STUDY TIP

On separate sheets of paper, write each vocabulary word and its definition, leaving space between the words. Cut the words and definitions apart so that each is on a separate strip of paper. Shuffle the pile of vocabulary words and the pile of definitions together. Then with a partner, try to match the vocabulary word with the correct definition.