



1 CONDUCT A COMMENTARY DRIVE

Resources provided:

- Commentary Drive Instructions and Checklist

Fleet safety managers use commentary drives routinely to assess new company drivers and then as needed to stay abreast of any changes in driver behavior and to ensure safe-driving skills are being maintained. A commentary drive is a one-on-one driver training process in which another person—usually a supervisor, but sometimes a peer—coaches or evaluates a driver on a few essential defensive driving skills. Depending on your family dynamics, a commentary drive may be a great way to help a family member tune up their driving skills with the promise of turning the tables so they can evaluate you as well. Commentary drives are also an excellent tool for parents of teen drivers. And, allowing older kids to evaluate Mom and Dad is not only a great way for parents to demonstrate their best driving skills, it also gets the conversation started with kids on what types of skills are necessary for safe driving.

This tool was developed with assistance from NETS member company, Shell.

Commentary Drive

A good way to evaluate and work on sharpening your skills is to conduct a commentary drive with a friend, co-worker or family member. In a commentary drive, you sit in the front passenger seat and record observations on the driver's skills. Keep in mind that if you suggest a commentary drive to someone, it's only fair that you allow the tables be turned so they can evaluate you as well!

PROVIDING FEEDBACK
Don't give feedback during the drive unless the situation is immediately dangerous. When the drive is completed, begin by pointing out those things about the driver's skills that impressed you the most. Then you can move on to praise or constructive feedback, site specific examples of things that occurred during the drive.

PRE-DRIVE ROUTINE
It is important to get a safe start.
Is everyone in the vehicle properly restrained in a seat belt?
Does the driver check his/her mirrors and adjust them as needed?

VEHICLE POSITIONING AND CONTROL
The commentator is in an ideal position to observe how the driver states the vehicle in relation to other vehicles on the road.
Does the driver maintain a proper following distance from the vehicle in front?
NETS members recommend a following distance of 3-4 seconds to provide a safe escape cushion in case of an emergency. When the car ahead brakes, identify a marking or ahead such as an intersection or a sign. When the car ahead moves that marking, identify that car and count the seconds. Does the driver adjust following distance as necessary to keep up with driving conditions (for example, if another vehicle cuts in front, if being tailgated or if there is a change in the weather)?
Does the driver keep his/her hands properly positioned on the steering wheel at 9 and 3 o'clock?
When merging into traffic, does the driver ensure that there is adequate space from other vehicles?
Note: When merging, the driver should look for a 4-second gap. However, merging into a 4-second gap means that a 2-second following distance between his/her vehicle and the vehicle ahead, plus merged with traffic, the driver should fall back to the recommended 3-4 second following distance.

2 BACK-TO-BASICS WRAP-UP GAME

Resources provided:

- Back-to-Basics Wrap Up PowerPoint Game

Employees can be divided into teams to compete in the *Back-to-Basics* DSWW wrap-up game as a lunch-and-learn activity or when gathered for meetings, or it can be completed by employees individually. With a category of questions for each day of the DSWW campaign materials, it's a fun way to review what was covered during the campaign.

Buckle Up!	Steer with a Clear Head	Drive Distraction-Free	Parking & Backing Basics	Fine-Tune the Fundamentals
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500

PLAY THE MONSANTO COMPANY INTERACTIVE VEHICLE SAFETY GAME

Resources provided:

- Link to flash file of the Interactive Vehicle Safety Game by Monsanto Company

Before you start driving, you want to make sure you and your passengers will be as safe as possible. This interactive tool produced by Monsanto Company is a fun way to integrate some of the tips and skills covered in this year's DSWW campaign. Got kids? Let them give it a try, too!

trafficsafety.org/dsww2012/vehicle-safety-interactive/vehicle_safety_game.html