Chapter 1

You Are the Driver
Chapter 1 Objectives

- Describe the 3 parts of the highway transportation system (HTS)
- Tell how the HTS is regulated
- Explain how social, physical and mental skills work together in your driving task
- Name four steps in IPDE
- Explain how your attitude will affect your driving
- List some examples of HTS breakdowns
- Describe several major causes of collisions
- Explain how drivers can help protect our environment
- Explain how a graduated driver licensing program can help you drive more safely
- List some of the main concepts stressed in a quality driver education program
The main risk in driving is the possibility of having a conflict that results in a collision.
Highway Transportation System

- When you drive you will become part of a massive system called the Highway Transportation System
- There are 3 main components of the HTS
  - People
    - People who use the HTS by walking, driving, or riding are called the roadway users
  - Vehicles
    - All types of vehicles from motorcycles and cars to trucks busses and farm equipment
  - Roadways
    - From dirt lanes to complex multilane expressways. Common conditions to rain, nighttime, or rough pavement can become major problems. It is up to you to maintain control over your vehicle at all times
Regulation of the HTS

- Drivers who operate their vehicles in a responsible, low-risk manner are the most important part of the HTS.
- To make sure this happens all states grant individuals the privilege of driving on their roads by issuing a driver's license. By passing a licensing exam, you agree to obey traffic laws in exchange for the privilege of driving on their roads.
- Many federal, state, and local agencies help regulate the HTS.
- The federal government has established the National Highway Safety Act with a set of traffic safety guidelines. Federal, state, and local governments in turn enforce these national guidelines.
Vehicle Code

- Laws are passed to make up the vehicle code
- Enforcement agencies assure that laws are obeyed
- Motor vehicle departments set rules to assure that driver and vehicle standards are met
- Courts decide whether drivers charged with violating the laws are guilty or innocent
- Highway traffic engineers plan, build, and maintain the complex system of roadways
The Driving Task

- The driving task includes all of the social, physical, and mental skills required to drive. To perform the driving task with low-risk results, you must develop habits for:
  - Using knowledge and visual skills
  - Obeying traffic laws
  - Judging space and time
  - Anticipating how your car will respond under normal and emergency conditions
Driving Task

- **Social skills**
  - Driving requires you to interact successfully with other people
    - Obey traffic laws
    - Cooperate with other drivers

- **Physical Skills**
  - Actually physically controlling the vehicle in a low-risk manner and develop those skills in good natural habits

- **Mental Skills**
  - Driving is mostly a mental task with decision making
  - Physical skills are minor compared to the necessary decision-making skills
The IPDE Process

- The IPDE process is a process of seeing, thinking, and responding. There are 4 steps to the IPDE process.
4 Steps to IPDE

- **Identify**
  - Important information in the ongoing driving scene

- **Predict**
  - Predicting when and where possible points of conflict will develop

- **Decide**
  - Decide on when, where, and how to communicate, adjust speed, and/or change lane position to avoid conflict

- **Execute**
  - Execute the right action(s) to prevent conflict
Other Systems besides IPDE

- We will be learning the IPDE system however will be enforcing the Smith System throughout this course.
- The other system used is the Zone Control System.
Defensive Driving

- Once you have mastered the IPDE process and the Smith System you will be able to drive in a way that reduces conflicts.
- This ability is called DEFENSIVE DRIVING, lowers the risk of conflict by protecting you and others from dangerous driving situations.
Attitude

- Your attitude toward life and driving affects your willingness to learn and to effectively use safe-driving habits.

- Road rage shows an extremely negative attitude toward driving
  - The road rage driver is likely to do anything. The best possible defense is to put distance between yourself and the other driver
  - DO NOT CHALLENGE the other driver

- Your attitude will guide you as you manage your relationships with others. There will be times when others will try to get you to do things you normally would not do
Breakdowns in the HTS

- A breakdown in the HTS occurs when any part of the system does not work well
- Traffic tie ups and collisions are 2 examples of HTS breakdowns
A collision occurs when a vehicle conflicts with and hits another object. Collisions are major cause of injury and death.
Collision or Accident

- Collision is a more accurate term than accident.
- Accident implies that something just happens by chance.
- In reality almost every collision is the product of a predictable cause
Causes of Collisions

- Of all the possible cause of collisions, driver error is by far the most common
  - Following another vehicle too closely
  - Driving too fast for conditions
  - Not wearing safety belts
  - Driving after drinking or using drugs
  - Driving while very tired
- Like most complex events, traffic collisions usually have more than one cause
Major Causes of Death

- Lack of experience
- Increased exposure to night time driving in northern states
- Increased risk taking (peer pressure)
- Drinking and driving
Other Responsibilities

- **Financial Responsibility**
  - Responsible for your share of driving related costs
    - Fuel for your vehicle
    - Maintenance of vehicle
    - Insuring your vehicle
    - Financially responsible for any damage to your vehicle and others vehicles

- **Environmental Responsibility**
  - Air pollution
  - Water pollution
  - Chemical spills
  - Land pollution
Licensing Process

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

- **Learners permit stage (9 months)**
  - You will receive a permit to drive when supervised by an adult, licensed driver
  - The permit must be held for a minimum of 9 months

- **Intermediate License Stage (18 years old)**
  - Must have completed drivers education
  - Night driving is restricted
  - Number of vehicle occupants is restricted

- **Full privilege license stage**
Graduated Licensing Program

- To help young drivers adjust to driving, Illinois has adopted a graduated licensing program.
- This requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages.
- Throughout this licensing process, learners are subject to zero-tolerance laws for blood alcohol concentration (BAC).
Driver Education and Your License

Your beginning
- 30 hours of classroom time
- 6 hours of Behind the Wheel
- 6 hours of Observation time

Continuous Process
- As long as you drive you will need to use and improve your skills in a systematic and safe way.
- Good drivers never stop learning
Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is part of the highway transportation system?
   a. Vehicles
   b. Roadways
   c. People
   d. All of these

2. Safe low risk driving is primarily a_____task?
   a. Physical
   b. Mental
   c. Social
   d. None of these

3. If you drive in a low-risk way, you will:
   a. Get the attention you want
   b. Gain others respect
   c. Improve your ability to compete
   d. Be able to maneuver easily

4. Graduated licensing programs
   a. Usually are completed in three licensing stages
   b. Are conducted worldwide
   c. Have resulted in fewer collisions among young drivers
   d. All the above
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   d. **All the above**
5. The four steps of the IPDE process are identify, Predict _____, and execute

6. Drive _____ by protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected situations

7. When applied to driving, the term _____ means the possibility of having a conflict that results in a collision

8. The _____ is made up of people, vehicles, and roadways
5. The four steps of the IPDE process are identify, predict, decide, and execute.

6. Drive defensively by protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected situations.

7. When applied to driving, the term **risk** means the possibility of having a conflict that results in a collision.

8. The **HTS** is made up of people, vehicles, and roadways.
Review Vocabulary

9. Federal and state laws that regulate the HTS
10. Contact between 2 or more objects, as when 2 vehicles hit each other
11. Organized method designed to help drivers develop good seeing habits
12. Method for managing the space around your vehicle
13. Program requiring young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages
14. All the skills, social, physical, and mental required to drive
9. Federal and state laws that regulate the HTS. **vehicle code (d)**

10. Contact between 2 or more objects, as when 2 vehicles hit each other. **collision (f)**

11. Organized method designed to help drivers develop good seeing habits. **Smith System (c)**

12. Method for managing the space around your vehicle. **Zone Control System (a)**

13. Program requiring young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages. **graduated driver program (b)**

14. All the skills, social, physical, and mental required to drive. **driving task (e)**
End of Chapter 1