



## **ADDITIONAL DRIVING PRACTICE - Hazard Mapping Exercise**

### **Learning Objective**

This exercise will help you recognize and deal with hazards on the road in order to reduce the risk of a crash. The more factors that contribute to a given situation, the more complex the hazard will be. We want to build up your awareness that hazards can come in many shapes and forms and can present multiple threats.

### **What's the Game Plan?**

Build upon what you learned in the Hazard Mapping exercise in Module 4. Try different locations at different times of day. The teen should plot the route on a map and show the adult the exact route he/she plans to take. Discuss the hazards you expect on the route and note them on the Observer Pre-Drive Worksheet. These could be things like busy intersections, lane reductions, road construction or poor road conditions.

In this exercise, the teen will be the driver and the adult the observer. Bring your Worksheet with you to use during the drive. The observer will write brief descriptions (and/or draw pictures if it helps) of immediate or potentially hazardous situations identified by the driver. You will refer to these notes after the drive to identify strategies for dealing with each situation in a better, safer way to minimize the danger involved.

### **Give Me an Example**

There are lots of examples of a hazardous driving environment or situation:

- Busy intersections
- A stretch of road where traffic merges from several lanes into one lane
- A stretch of road where people drive aggressively
- A place with lots of pedestrians and bike riders
- A hangout where teen drivers may be more involved in looking at each other than looking at the road
- A construction zone
- Blind curves and intersections
- Roads in poor condition
- Situations where visibility is impaired
- Bad weather
- Locations around bars and nightclubs where drivers are more likely to be impaired



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### When You Are Driving

- Rule #1 is **drive safely**. Don't get so wrapped up in what you are doing that you forget to follow the rules of the road.
- As you look for hazards, be sure to use all the visual search skills that were discussed earlier. This means looking ahead, behind and to the sides, using your rearview and side view mirrors.
- Whenever you feel that you are entering a situation that feels a little more hazardous, ask your note taker to document it on the Observer Worksheet for the route you are currently driving.
- Without compromising your safety, tell the note taker exactly what it is about a given situation that makes it feel more hazardous to you.
- Pull over any time (when it is safe!) you want to discuss what you've seen with the note taker.

### When You Are Taking Notes

- The observer should document the driver's comments on the hazards encountered during the drive.
- From time to time, reinforce good visual search behaviors by asking the driver to tell you what he/she is seeing in front, to the sides and behind. Make sure this doesn't distract the driver from dealing with the situation at hand. Try to time these questions so they occur when the driver is feeling relatively calm and unstressed.
- The observer should also note any hazards the driver may not have recognized.

### Strategies to Deal with Hazards

After you return home with your completed Hazard Mapping Worksheet, sit down and discuss the hazards you've encountered on this route. Then identify strategies for dealing with each situation in a better, safer way to minimize the danger involved. These can include such things as: slowing down, moving into another lane, or using a different route altogether. Once the strategies have been determined, go back to the location and drive the route again, utilizing the strategies you came up with. Make sure to complete your drive time matrix.



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### OBSERVER WORKSHEET: PRE-DRIVE

Route you are driving

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Hazards anticipated on this route (These could be things like busy intersections, lane reductions, road construction or poor road conditions.)

### OBSERVER WORKSHEET: IN-CAR NOTES

In the chart below, write the location of the hazard and the driver's description of what makes it hazardous. These could include limited visibility, rough road conditions, speed of traffic, number of converging lanes, confusing road signs, etc.

Location of the Hazard	Contributing Factors



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Discuss the hazards you've encountered on this route. Then identify strategies for dealing with each situation in a better, safer way to minimize the danger involved. These can include such things as: slowing down, moving into another lane, or using a different route altogether. Write out these strategies in the space below.

Location of the Hazard	Strategies to Minimize Danger

Now, make sure to complete your drive time matrix.