



# The Bonner County Safety Record

All the News that is Safe to Print

September 19, 2016  
Edition 15

## Defensive Driving

As defensive drivers, we strive not only to drive safely and within the laws, we understand that we can help other drivers avoid accidents from their own unsafe behaviors, based on defensive driving techniques.

This edition of the Bonner County Safety Record discusses the basic steps and skills you can do to minimize hazards. This information will help you maintain **Space** around your vehicle, **Visibility** for you, the driver, and **Time** to make decisions.

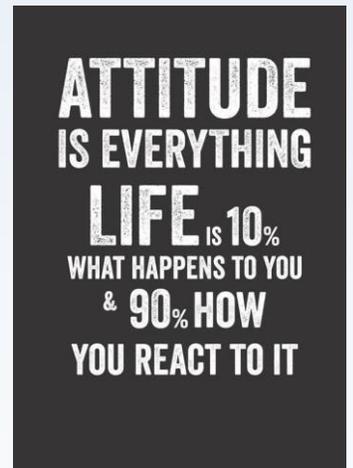
For more information, or to schedule a Defensive Driving Class hosted by HR/ Risk Management at [RiskManagement@bonnercountyid.gov](mailto:RiskManagement@bonnercountyid.gov).

### Attitude

The biggest cause of collisions, and the best tool for preventing collisions, is attitude.

Our attitude influences things we directly control such as our distractions, our health, our fatigue, our impairment and our vehicle condition.

Our attitude also influences how we respond to things we can't directly control, such as: road condition, weather, tailgaters and inexperienced drivers.



### Benefits

By being a defensive driver, you will enjoy the benefits of:

- Having a reduced collision potential
- Using less fuel
- Reducing your maintenance costs
- Lowering your insurance costs
- Reducing your anxiety and stress





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## 5 Easy steps to defensive driving:

**O**ne: Aim high, look far down the road to see hazards before you reach them. You should be looking at least 15 seconds ahead. Most drivers only look 5 seconds ahead, and they are always surprised by hazards and react suddenly to them.

**T**wo: Be aware of the environment around you. Use mirrors to see objects to your sides and to the rear. This awareness will reduce your reaction time to hazards.

**T**hree: Keep moving your eyes. Staring at an object will cause tunnel vision. This is very important both in town (with pedestrians and bicyclists in this 'walking town') and outside of town, with the deer rut starting.

**F**our: Leave a way out. Don't crowd the stop line or a vehicle in front of you at the stop sign light. Leave a car length of space open to give yourself maneuvering space, and for the safety of people in the intersection such as pedestrians, in case you are rear ended.

**F**ive: Be visible, make sure other drivers can see you. Use headlights so that you are seen. Use turn signals so that your intentions are known. Don't tailgate slow vehicles. Staying back at least 5 seconds opens up your field of view.

