

# Defensive Driving in an Unfamiliar Vehicle

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As part of this weeks defensive driving tip I want to start by asking, “do your employees ever get in a vehicle they don’t normally drive?” This is an important question because we already perform many tasks when driving. We manage our speed, we manage our position in our lane, we are attentive to others on the road. Now add in tuning the radio or adjusting the temperature controls. All those tasks are ordinary when we are familiar with the vehicle.

After learning in our last video though, how your mind slows down when multitasking, do you think it is an added hazard to do all that multitasking in an unfamiliar vehicle. It sure is.

Let me share an experience I had on a motorcycle recently. I had not driven a motorcycle in 18 years. I took it slow and easy to get back in the groove of leaning into turns. But as I got further into my drive, I found it difficult to manage my speed, manage my position in my lane and use a blinker. I found it difficult to make minor adjustments to my mirrors. I had to pull over and reorient myself with the bike.

With all the multitasking we are forced to do while driving I thought it would be a good reminder that an unfamiliar vehicle can add insult to injury. What I mean is, multitasking is hard enough now we are adding another hazard with an unfamiliar vehicle, so we need to understand the defense to avoid an accident: Get familiar with how to perform ordinary driving tasks before your drive: honk the horn, adjust the mirrors, use the turn signals, adjust the temperature controls... and a whole list of other things. Don’t find yourself improvising while you drive. There is too much at stake.

RUA Defensive Driver?

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