

Module # 6

Rural Roads & Expressways

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Module # 6

Rural & Expressway

Lesson # 1

1.) Rural Driving

Time: 60 minutes

Expectations:

Develop awareness of rural driving hazards

Appreciate that need to adopt safe driving practices

Information Materials, Resources:

ntsa international Today's Drivers Manual

- chapter 15

PowerPoint(s):

- Country roads
- Slow moving vehicles explained
- Volunteer Fire Fighters (V F F)

Worksheet(s):

None

Teaching Strategies:

- 1.) Ask the students to identify driving hazards that one might encounter when driving on country roads.
- 2.) Use the PowerPoint slide, "Driving Hazards" to review those identified and to introduce those missed.
- 3.) Discuss safe driving practices relevant to rural driving situations.

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Lesson # 01

2.) Slow Moving Vehicle Sign



Ontario's law on the use of slow moving vehicle signs was amended, effective September 1, 2003, to clarify and more appropriately identify the types of vehicles and trailers/ implements that are required to display the "Slow Moving Vehicle" sign.

What is a slow moving vehicle sign?

A slow moving vehicle (**SMV**) sign is a reflective orange triangle with a red border that warns other road users that the vehicle displaying the sign is traveling at 40 km/h (25 mph) or less.

When must the sign be displayed?

Farm tractors and self-propelled implements must display a sign on the rear. If one of these machines is towing one or more implement(s) of husbandry, the sign or an additional sign, must be displayed on the rear of the combination.

Any vehicle including, but not limited to, construction equipment, street sweepers, tow motors, fork lifts, etc., that are not capable of attaining and sustaining a speed greater than 40 km/h must also display a sign. If one of these machines is towing a trailer (s), implement(s) of husbandry or device(s), the sign or an additional sign, must be displayed on the rear of the combination.

When towing an implement(s) of husbandry (e.g., wagon, tillage equipment, a header wagon, etc.) with a truck, a sign should be placed on the rear of the combination and the combination travel at or under 40 km/h.

2.) Slow Moving Vehicle Sign (continued)

An off-road vehicle operated on a highway by a farmer for agricultural purposes requires a slow moving vehicle sign on the rear of the vehicle. In addition, any farm implement, trailer or device towed by an off-road vehicle must also display a slow moving vehicle sign.

When is a sign not required on a slow moving vehicle?

When directly crossing a road by an SMV.

Where should the sign be mounted?

The sign must be placed on the rear of the vehicle so that it is between .6 meters (2 ft.) and 2 meters (6 ft.) above the roadway.

Are some slow moving vehicles exempt?

Yes, bicycles, mopeds and disabled vehicles being towed do not have to display the sign. Horse-drawn vehicles driven by people whose religious beliefs do not permit them to use the sign are also exempt; however, the back of the carriage must be outlined with reflective tape that is visible from at least 150 meters (approximately 500 ft.).

When is a sign prohibited on a vehicle?

Only slow moving vehicles or vehicles towed by slow moving vehicles are permitted to display a slow moving vehicle sign. A SMV sign is prohibited from being displayed on a vehicle traveling in excess of 40 km/h.

(Note: A farm tractor, combine, etc., on a float or trailer is considered a load, and it is recommended any visible **SMV** signage be covered or removed.)

Are SMV signs prohibited on fixed objects?

The SMV sign is for vehicles only. The use of a SMV sign on a fixed object, such as a roadside mailbox or as a driveway marker, is

2.) Slow Moving Vehicle Sign (continued)

prohibited if it can be seen from the road. Signs attached to mailboxes or posts must be removed. Property owners or tenants displaying SMV signs on fixed objects may be subject to a fine. Municipalities can still post caution signs to warn motorists that slow moving vehicles often travel on their roads.

What should you do if you see a slow moving vehicle?

Farm vehicles are allowed on the traveled portion of a highway. The orange and red triangle is a signal to all drivers to slow down and be cautious. When you see it, reduce your speed and stay well back. Only pass when it is safe to do so. It can be hazardous to suddenly come upon a slow moving vehicle on the road. If it is a horse-drawn carriage, the horse may be startled when a motor vehicle approaches and passes.

Some farm vehicles are long and wide and may turn at places that are not well marked, such as field entrances.

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Lesson # 1

3.) Green Lights - What Do They Mean?

All drivers in Ontario are familiar with the emergency red flashing lights and sirens on police cars, ambulances and fire trucks, and know that they are required by law to pull to the right and stop when they see or hear them coming. But not everyone is aware of the Volunteer Firefighter's **Green Flashing Light**.

In a large city, emergency vehicles are manned by full-time personnel, who use the **red lights** and sirens to get through traffic to the scene of an emergency in a hurry. Seconds count in a fire or rescue situation, and time lost from traffic congestion can make a difference. For those in rural and smaller urban areas, they receive their fire protection from volunteers, who often respond to emergencies in their own private vehicles. These vehicles are not equipped with red lights or sirens that make them stand out from any other vehicle on the road.

When the call for help comes in, these personnel may be at their regular job, at the beach with the family or sleeping in the middle of the night. They drop what they are doing and immediately respond to the fire hall to drive the fire trucks to the emergency scene. Once the trucks have responded, firefighters and first responders that did not make it to the hall will continue to the emergency in their personal vehicle.

The **Green Light** gives the firefighters no special privileges when responding to an emergency. It is used only as an identifier to the drivers of other vehicles so that they may give up their right-of-way and allow the firefighter to get to the emergency unimpeded. The use of the light is controlled by the Fire Chief, who has the authority to allow or terminate the firefighter's use of the light.

The problem previously existed that regular traffic did not know that an emergency exists and unknowingly held up firefighters hurrying to the call or to the hall to get the fire trucks on the way. To

3.) Green Lights - What Do They Mean? (continued)

help the public identify these firefighters responding in their own vehicles, the Ministry of Transportation amended the Highway Traffic Act to allow volunteer firefighters responding to emergencies to use a light that **flashed green**.

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: 62.(16) A firefighter, within the meaning of subsection 1 (1) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, may carry on or in his or her vehicle a lamp that produces **intermittent flashes of green light** and may operate the light if the motor vehicle is proceeding to a fire or other emergency. 1997, c. 4, s. 81. Likewise, the Act has this to say about others using the **Green Light: 62. (16.1)** No person other than a person described in subsection (16) shall operate a lamp that produces **intermittent flashes of green light**. 1994, c. 35, s. 1.

If you see a vehicle with the telltale **flashing green light** activated, you now know it's a "V.F.F.", on the way to help one of their neighbours. Remember, the home they are rushing to save or life we're going to rescue could be yours, or that of a close friend's. Please let them by!

Module # 6

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Lesson # 1

4.) Expressway Driving

Time: 60 minutes

Expectations:

- 1.) Develop awareness of expressway driving practices
- 2.) Appreciate the need to adopt safe driving practices

Information Materials, Resources:

[ntsa international Today's Drivers Manual](#)
- Chapter 16

PowerPoint(s):

- Expressway
- Traffic Jams

Worksheet(s):

None

Teaching Strategies:

- 1.) Watch & discuss the video about trucks on our roads.
- 2.) Divide students into groups. Have each group discuss one or more of the issues presented in this lesson and instruct them to prepare a presentation of their own so that their peers will be knowledgeable and safe driving on the expressway. They may use the PowerPoint slides if they wish.
- 3.) Have each group present their own set of information.
- 4.) Review and reinforce expressway driving information given by the video about expressway driving.

Module 6 Test - (Page 1)

Print name: _____ **Out of 10** ____

Circle the letter that best answers or completes each of the questions or statements.

1.) While driving in the right lane of a speedway, you notice a sign warning of an entrance ahead and another vehicle is preparing to enter the expressway. You should...

- A.) Accelerate to prevent the other vehicle from entering in front of you.
- B.) Honk to warn the other vehicle and proceed as you have the right-of-way.
- C.) Ignore the other vehicle as you have the right-of-way.
- D.) Change lanes to the left if possible or adjust your speed to help the other vehicle to merge.

2.) To enter an expressway, you should assess the length of the acceleration lane and locate a gap in the traffic on the freeway:

- A.) Before the entrance (access) ramp
- B.) As you enter the entrance (access) ramp.
- C.) Prior to entering the acceleration lane.
- D.) As you enter the acceleration lane.

3.) When entering an expressway, you should speed up to match the speed of the traffic on the expressway:

- A.) Before the entrance (access) ramp.
- B.) On the right lane of the freeway.
- C.) On the acceleration lane.
- D.) On the entrance (access) ramp.

4.) Driving on an expressway, you should...

- A.) Drive in the right or centre lane.
- B.) Avoid driving in a convoy.
- C.) Scan the roadway at least 20 seconds ahead.
- D.) All of these.

5.) Driving on the expressway, in ideal driving conditions. you should maintain a minimum following distance of __

- A.) 2 seconds.
- B.) 3 seconds.
- C.) 4 seconds.
- D.) 6 seconds.

Module 6 Test - (Page 2)

- 6.) When approaching an expressway entrance ramp on your right, you can make it easier for vehicles entering the expressway you are on by:
- A.) Changing lanes to the left to create a gap for the entering traffic.
 - B.) Flashing your headlights to alert the other driver that you are approaching.
 - C.) Maintaining your speed and staying in the right-hand lane.
 - D.) Waiting to see what the other driver does and being prepared to cooperate.
- 7.) When changing lanes on an expressway, you should change one lane at a time and be particularly careful. You must check the blind spot across the entire highway because:
- A.) A vehicle in a far lane may change lanes into the space you wish to occupy.
 - B.) Of the higher speed of traffic.
 - C.) The higher speed diminishes your field of vision.
 - D.) All of these.
- 8.) When exiting an expressway, you should begin to reduce speed:
- A.) Before the deceleration lane.
 - B.) On the deceleration lane.
 - C.) Just prior to the exit ramp.
 - D.) On the exit ramp.
- 9.) At many cloverleaf interchanges, the acceleration lane and the deceleration lane are combined to form one long extra lane. This lane is called:
- A.) An access ramp.
 - B.) A feeder lane.
 - C.) A weave lane.
 - D.) An exit ramp.
- 10.) After exiting an expressway, you may have a false sense of your vehicle's speed called velocitization, due to the extended time at high speed. To counteract this, you should:
- A.) Move onto the shoulder and take a break before exiting the freeway.
 - B.) Check your speedometer frequently for the first 15 minutes after exiting the freeway.
 - C.) Stop on the exit ramp for several minutes to allow you to readjust to the slower speed.
 - D.) All of these.

Module 6 Test

Answers

1.) D

2.) C

3.) C

4.) D

5.) B

6.) A

7.) A

8.) D

9.) C

10.) B