

Prevention of side swipe accidents

Gas Industries Association (GIA)



Objective

To engage product vehicle drivers and create an awareness related to the risks of sideswipe collisions.

Refresh Smith defensive driving techniques

Moment of Right Decision



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Facts

- Sideswipes accidents are preventable
- Sideswipe accident involving large truck or trailers can be catastrophic – such as sending the smaller vehicle off the road, injuring or even killing other motorist, pedestrians
- Other consequences include,
 - Damage to truck / transport tank / accessories such as valve box, lift gate, crane
 - Spill or release of Cryogenic and Non-cryogenic product and endangering local community.
 - Media attention / Reputation of company



Types of Sideswipe accidents

- Two types of sideswipe accidents commonly seen on the road include the following:
- **Same-direction sideswipes.** When two vehicles are traveling in the same direction and one vehicle moves over into the other vehicle's lane, it can result in a sideswipe. A same-direction sideswipe can also happen when the driver of one vehicle makes an illegal maneuver or turn from an outside lane, overreacts to a road hazard, or attempts to **swerve** around a collision.
- **Opposite direction sideswipes.** When two vehicles are headed in the opposite direction and one or both barely cross over the center line on the road, it can result in a sideswipe. While most accidents involving opposing traffic results in an angular or frontal head-on type of crash, some vehicles headed in the opposite direction collide in a sideswiping manner.



Common Causes of Sideswipe

- Inattention by the driver; they simply don't look before changing lanes
- Distracted driving; the driver is eating, texting, reading or interacting with passengers
- Drunk driving: the driver is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or both
- Object on the road: the driver steers abruptly to avoid an animal or object in the road
- Objects in a blind spot or that the driver can't see; this often happens with large trucks
- Speed too high for condition.
- Backing – Not adopting to backing policy / G.O.A.L.
- Poor visibility, rain, Poor / under construction infrastructure may contribute to sideswipe accidents.



Smith System of Defensive Driving

Smith system of defensive driving continue to provide preventative and precautionary conduct which helps keep others safe while on the roads

- **Aim High in Steering** – View further down the road, not just what is immediately in front of you
- **Stay Alert of Your Surroundings and Look at the Big Picture of the Road** – View the entire roadway, including way ahead of you, behind, and to your sides
- **Keep Your Eyes Constantly Moving** – Keep your eyes moving every two seconds. Look near, look far, check your inside mirror, check your right outside mirror, etc.
- **Leave Yourself an Out** – Always have a lane or area to stop, swerve to, or slow down in if you are presented with an immediate hazard. Strive for a space cushion
- **Make Sure Other Motorists See You** – Most accidents occur when another driver does not see you, so always make sure other motorists see you and know where you are at all times



Sideswipe accident – Exercise

- Facilitator will share the case studies related to sideswipe incidents.
- Participant need to speak and share with facilitator to understand,
 - 1) What specific risk should the driver on wheel be aware against each case study.
 - 2) If there exists sufficient time and space for him to react safely.
 - 3) Any possibility to Identify the right MoD.
- At the end of each case, the facilitator to summarize the learning and document using the attached sheet



Case Study I

Possible same direction sideswipe

Driver Action – Decision to change lane at the last moment /
Overtaking



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Case Study I

1) Identify the risk involved –

- a) Front vehicle may manoeuvre suddenly – lane change, backing
- b) Pedestrian may cross assuming that drivers will drive defensively
- c) PV Brake may not be effective in stopping
- d) Possible rollover

2) Possible Consequences

- a) Injury to driver / co-driver – Hard braking.
- b) Damage to vehicle - 3rd party or Praxair.
- c) Serious or fatal injury of Pedestrians

3) Learnings / Actions

- a) DDT # Adopt Aim high in steering.
- b) Maintain space cushion



Case Study II

Possible opposite direction sideswipe

Driver Action – Follow lane discipline with controlled speed



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Case Study II

1) Identify the risk involved –

- a) Oncoming vehicles emerging from Blind spot (A truck behind the trailer carrying wooden logs)
- b) Head on collision
- c) PV driver may oversteer towards left, may lead to rollover

2) Possible Consequences

- a) Serious Injury to driver / co-driver.
- b) Damage 3rd party or Praxair vehicle.
- c) Rollover

3) Learnings / Actions

- a) DDT # Adopt Aim high in steering.
- b) DDT # Get the Big Picture – Slow down before entering “ no lane discipline zone” and anticipate moves of oncoming drivers.



Case Study III

Possible opposite direction sideswipe

Driver Action – Follow lane discipline with controlled speed



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Case Study III

1) Identify the risk involved

- a) Following vehicle (Car) surprised to find PV intruding its lane
- b) Rear end by 3rd party

2) Possible Consequences

- a) Minor / Serious Injury to 3rd party
- b) Possible rollover of car, if 3rd party driver overcorrects the steering

3) Learnings / Actions

- a) DDT # Leave Yourself an out. You need space to the front, to the rear and on both sides of Your vehicle
- b) Space cushion driving – constant planning and adjustment as you move through changing traffic scene
- c) Always follow Lane discipline



Case Study IV



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Case Study IV

1) Identify the risk involved

- a) Two wheeler, often fall into blind spot zone for PV driver.
- b) Two wheeler – can easily loose steering control – if touched by any 3rd party vehicle (2 / 3 wheeler, truck, bus etc)
- c) Two wheeler tend to squeeze in especially between median and the PV

2) Consequences

- a) Fracture of right leg - bike rider, first aid injury to the pillion rider
- b) Police intervention

3) Learnings / Actions

- a) DDT # Keep Your Eyes moving
- b) Checks to the rear before changing lanes, turning or stopping. Stays clear of erratic drivers
- c) Don't assume that any indicator / hand signal displayed will be adhered by following vehicles. Use indicator after traveling sufficient distance from following vehicle



Case Study V



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Case Study V

1) Identify the risk involved –

- a) Approaching intersection – Adjacent lane vehicles intrude PV operating lane
- b) Smaller vehicle fall into PV's Blind zone

2) Consequences

- a) Damage to the 3rd party car - right side fender
- b) Road rage

3) Learnings / Actions

- a) DDT # Keep Your Eyes moving - Checks to the rear before changing lanes, turning or stopping
- b) Checks in all directions and leaves a space cushion before starting up at intersections
- c) Co-driver to guide PV driver while crossing traffic density



Case Study VI



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Case Study VI

- 1) Identify the risk involved –
 - a) Unexpected route diversion.
 - b) Increase in traffic density.
 - c) Distracted driving
- 2) Consequences
 - a) Damage to PV – minor dent of front bumper.
- 3) Learnings / Actions
 - a) DDT # Keep Your Eyes moving - Checks to the rear before changing lanes, turning or stopping
 - b) Co-driver to guide PV driver while crossing traffic density.
 - c) DDT# Leave Yourself an out - If traffic conditions become too congested, try to keep at least the front and one side open until you can build the full cushion again
 - d) Avoid any distraction especially while making any U turn , at intersection



Conclusion

A Defensive Driver always ensures Space Cushion driving

Space cushion driving unlocks vision barriers and allow you to open a whole new vista of comfortable, at ease, and smooth driving

Good vision buys time and space to help you avoid trouble and adjust to traffic conditions.



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Thank You



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