



# SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

## National Safety Council's 4-Hour Defensive Driving Course (DDC-4)

The National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course (DDC-4) trains drivers to avoid collisions and promotes an attitude of mutual understanding, courtesy and cooperation on the road. This course is intended for passenger cars, small pick-up trucks, and non-passenger van operators to learn strategies and techniques to be a defensive driver.

The Defensive Driving (DDC-4) course instruction goals:

- Influence and challenge participants to modify their behind the wheel behaviors and attitudes so they will choose to drive safely, responsibly, and lawfully.
- Provide participants with new, correct, or reinforced knowledge, skills, and techniques to avoid collisions and violations.

### Vehicle Safety Checklist

- Are all lights and signals are working?
- Is the horn working?
- Do all tires have the correct air pressure (see owners manual)?
- Are wipers good with no streaking?
- Is the windshield clean inside and out?
- Is the washer fluid full?
- Are mirrors adjusted correctly?
- Is every one wearing a seat belt?

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly 1.3 million people die in road crashes each year, on average 3,287 deaths a day. An additional 20-50 million are injured or disabled. More than half of all road traffic deaths occur among young adults ages 15-44.



The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16-19-year-olds than among any other age group. In fact, per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash.

Within the category of driver error lays a variety of different types of driving behaviors that lead to car accidents. Driver error is most often the result of "distracted driving", and the most common cause of driver distraction is the use of cell phones. According to the NHTSA, over 3,331 people were killed and over 387,000 injured in motor vehicle accidents connected to distracted driving. That represents 10 percent of all fatal crashes and 17 percent of all accidents that caused injuries.

As many as 56 percent of all car wrecks in the U.S. are caused by aggressive behavior behind the wheel, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Aggressive driving or road rage is more likely to cause severe injuries or fatal accidents.

Most drivers and passengers killed in crashes are unrestrained, seat belts dramatically reduce risk of death and serious injury. Seat belts save thousands of lives each year, and increasing use would save thousands more.

For more information regarding the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course, contact Beacon's Loss Prevention Department at 401-825-2667.



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information. [www.beaconmutual.com](http://www.beaconmutual.com)

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