

Location_____Trainer_____Date_____

DEFENSIVE DRIVING BASICS OLDER DRIVERS

Older drivers are usually courteous, careful, experienced drivers. But they often face physical limitations such as poor mobility, eyesight and hearing, and slower reflexes.

A Slower, Safer Pace

Older drivers are at their best when driving on familiar roads a short distance from home. In less familiar territory, they often wisely compensate for their physical limitations by driving more slowly and cautiously. Yet many older drivers tell of being reduced to tears by people tailgating, honking their horns, or making rude gestures as they pass. When you get behind older people who are driving slowly, remember that they are not doing it to annoy you, but to protect their safety and that of others on the road. Be patient. You will feel better and the older driver will certainly be grateful.

Mistakes To Watch Out For

The most common driving mistakes made by older drivers are related to their physical limitations. They include failure to yield the right-of-way, overly wide turns, and backing up without looking sufficiently.

Use Extra Caution

When driving around an older driver, keep in mind that the driver may have difficulty seeing you because of poor eyesight or inability to turn the head easily.

Stay well away from an older driver's blind spot. Drive as though the older driver cannot see you. Avoid putting an older driver in a position that requires quick reflexes to avoid danger.

Most older people know their limitations and can be counted on to give up driving when it is no longer safe for them.

Your courteous and defensive driving practices will help them remain independent as long as possible. After all, sooner or later, we're all older drivers.