



SPEEDING

Speeding involves driving any amount over the posted speed limit OR driving too fast for the road or weather conditions.



WHY IS SPEEDING DANGEROUS?

Speeding not only increases crash risk, but it is also directly related to crash severity. Because of the forces involved, a crash at higher speeds is often more serious than a crash at lower speeds.

The safest speed of travel is always a function of the posted speed limit on a given stretch of road and the weather and road conditions at the time.

To protect themselves, drivers of all vehicles, regardless of the presence of the most advanced safety features, should still obey the speed limit, reduce their speed when driving conditions deteriorate, and leave plenty of space between themselves and other motorists.

HOW DOES SPEEDING AFFECT SAFETY FEATURES?

Safety features need time and space to work properly. Excessive speed reduces the amount of time drivers have to react to a dangerous situation. This means that safety features

Your brain is your vehicle's most important safety feature.

that receive cues from driver actions (like swerving motions or hard braking) will have less time and space to work.

Even safety features that scan the roadway for danger – and do not rely directly on driver cues – will provide less protection at excessive speeds, since drivers must still react appropriately to the warnings, and excessive speed shortens the amount of time for drivers to respond to avoid a collision.

Driving too fast for road or weather conditions can also undermine the ability of vehicle safety features to best protect drivers and passengers.

Safety features always work to protect vehicle occupants, but poor road conditions present an extra challenge to many safety features. For example, wet or slippery roads have less available traction, so safety features that help stop a vehicle in an emergency will have less overall traction to work with.

To learn more about human factors like speeding, and how they affect safety feature performance, visit brainonboard.ca.

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