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## **SPEEDING**

Speeding directly affects reaction time and thinking distance to stop (even if you are alert and attentive). The faster your vehicle is traveling, the greater the distance you will travel before you can react to a hazardous situation. The following equation illustrates this principle:

Take the first digit of your speed and add it to your speed to calculate the distance the vehicle will travel before you can react to a dangerous or hazardous situation. For example, at 60 MPH, the vehicle will travel 66 feet before braking begins in response to driver reaction (60 MPH + 6 = 66 feet.) At 70 MPH, the vehicle will travel 77 feet before driver response.

At 60 MPH, a vehicle will travel approximately 200 feet, once braking begins, to come to a stop. As you can see, the faster the vehicle is traveling, the greater the distance the vehicle will travel before the driver can respond and brake for a hazardous occurrence.

Severity of injuries and property damage are proportionate to the speed of the vehicle or vehicles involved in a crash. When vehicles are approaching each other, the speeds of each vehicle are combined, and the effects of a collision between the two vehicles are substantially greater.

Speeding vehicles are dangerous instrumentalities, and other factors increase the dangers associated with speeding:

Speeding becomes more dangerous because of: a) fatigue b) inclement weather (rain, heavy fog) c) heavy traffic d) vehicle condition e) road condition f) pre-occupied and inattentive drivers g) intoxication.

If you leave late, or you are running late for an appointment, expect to arrive late. Do not try to make up time by speeding. Additionally, avoid distraction while driving, such as: talking on cell phone, eating, reading, disciplining children, and planning activities.

Speeding causes you to catch up with and pass slower moving traffic, thus exposing you to more hazardous situations. Drivers who speed find themselves following too close in anticipation of passing slower moving vehicles. Observe the legal speed limit, and, when necessary, reduce your speed for the following reasons: inclement weather, traffic congestion and when being passed or overtaken by another vehicle.

More speeding violations are issued than any other traffic violations. Receiving speeding tickets is expensive, could lead to the loss of your driving privileges and result in higher insurance rates.

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In every crash, there is usually a driver who did nothing wrong. Allow other drivers who are driving recklessly to pull away from your vehicle. Do not allow unsafe drivers to involve you in an accident.

**-- OBSERVE ALL TRAFFIC LAWS AND BE A DEFENSIVE DRIVER --**

### **ALCOHOL**

Alcohol negatively affects a person's ability to respond to driving situations. Alcohol impairs reaction time, perception and judgment. Alcohol, combined with speeding, produces drivers who think they have control of their vehicle at high speeds, and drivers who have diminished or decreased ability to react to hazardous conditions. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is, in itself, a hazardous condition.

Alcohol is a depressant drug which causes drowsiness. Consuming any amount of alcohol impairs a driver. Some people are affected more than others by the same amount of alcohol consumption. Alcohol, combined with prescription medication or other drugs, greatly increased driver impairment.

The theory that coffee or other caffeinated beverages reduce the effect of alcohol is a myth. Consumption of coffee or other caffeinated beverages by an intoxicated person only produces a wide awake drunk. Only the lapse of time can remove alcohol, and its impairing effects, from a person's body through normal bodily processes.

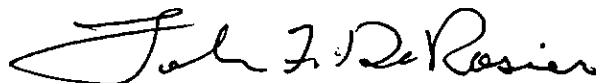
Fines for DWI convictions are extremely costly. A person convicted of DWI may also face jail time. Subsequent convictions for DWI increase the potential fines and jail sentences.

Therefore, if you are going to consume alcohol, **DO NOT DRIVE!!!**

### **SEATBELTS**

Seatbelts do not prevent accidents. However, they do save lives and reduce the severity of injury when a crash occurs. When a vehicle crash occurs, the body becomes a projectile unless restrained by a seatbelt. Many of the serious injuries and fatalities that result from automobile accidents occur as a result of the injured person not wearing a seatbelt. **BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY!!!**

As your District Attorney, I am very concerned about the safety of all our citizens traveling on our streets and highways. Speed, often times, is a contributing factor in vehicle crashes and the resulting loss of life, injury and property damage. Additionally, speeding tickets are expensive and could cause your insurance rates to increase. Therefore, I ask you to please drive defensively and observe the traffic laws. Let us work together to keep our highways safe.



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