

Words To Know

Unit 10

ABS – Anti-lock braking system designed to keep a car’s wheels from locking when the driver brakes hard or abruptly, or applies the brakes on a slick surface.

Accelerator Failure – When the gas pedal does not work properly. Could be caused either by a broken spring or the pedal getting stuck in the down position.

Brake Failure – When the brake pedal does not work properly. Could be complete loss of brakes or only failure of the power brakes.

Collision Reporting – Duties to perform when a driver is involved in a crash.

Countersteer – To turn the steering wheel back in the opposite direction in order to maintain or regain directional control of the vehicle

Engine Failure – Could happen when the engine quits running completely or becomes flooded or overheats.

ESP – Electronic stability program, a system that helps prevent loss of traction and aids a driver in maintaining directional control.

Evasive Action – A quick change in speed or direction to avoid a collision.

Front-wheel Skid – Termed “understeer,” a type of skid where the vehicle moves straight ahead in spite of steering input.

Glare – Difficulty seeing in the presence of bright light such as direct or reflected sunlight or artificial light such as car headlights at night.

Hydroplaning – When a vehicle’s tires lose contact with the road and ride on top of a film of water.

Off-road Recovery – Returning to the road from the shoulder.

Power Steering Failure – When the vehicle loses power steering. The vehicle can still be steered, but it will require much more effort on the driver’s part.

Rear-wheel Skid – Termed “oversteer,” a type of skid where the vehicle moves sideways without any additional steering input.

Sight Distance Rule – The driver has to be able to stop in the distance s/he can see.

Skidding – Loss of traction by the front, rear, or all tires, generally resulting in a deviation from the desired path of travel.

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Tire Blowout – A rapid deflation of air from the tire. If a front tire blows out, the vehicle will pull sharply in the direction of the blowout. If a rear tire blows out, the vehicle will wobble and shake and pull some in the direction of the blowout.

Traction – The grip between the tires and the road surface that allows a vehicle to start, stop and/or change direction.