

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C428: Drivers' Blind Spots

**Introduction:** The inability to see vehicles or pedestrians on the roadway is a very serious hazard while driving. Most of what you do as a defensive driver is in response to what you see while driving. You will have more time to act if you see hazards before they become emergencies. Following are guidelines to avoid problems caused by blind spots while driving:

**Blind spots may be:**

- Areas on the left and right sides of your vehicle that are not visible in your mirror.
- Loads blocking views through windows
- The area directly in front of a conventional cab tractor.
- A large area directly behind the trailer, the bed of a dump truck, or the box of a cargo van.

**If you cannot see another driver in their mirror, then that driver cannot see you.**

**Other Considerations:**

- Scanning for hazards while driving is an important skill to develop. If you scan your mirrors, both sides and rearview, at frequent intervals, you will be aware when someone pulls into your blind spot.
- Stay alert to a driver who is in your blind spot, to keep track of whether they remain there; adjust your driving accordingly.
- Do not rely on your mirrors alone to see other vehicles. Turn your head quickly to see if the way is clear.
- Keep your mirrors clean and properly adjusted to see the maximum area possible
- If your vehicle does not have a right side mirror, the blind spot on your right will be significantly larger.
- If you cannot see another driver in their mirror, then that driver cannot see you.
- Avoid driving in other vehicles blind spots. Speed up or drop back to clear the blind area. Never stay in a blind spot for an extended time.
- Blind spots may also occur at intersections where vehicles are parked too close, or buildings, shrubs, etc. block your view of the roadway. In situations like these, inch your vehicle forward until you have a clear view. Then proceed when you are sure the way is clear.
- Vehicles may be partly hidden at blind intersections or alleys. If you can only see the front or rear end of a vehicle, but not the driver, then the driver cannot see you. Be alert for the driver to pull, or back, out in front of your vehicle.
- Parked vehicles may be a hazard when people start to get out. If you are in their blind spot and the driver only checks his/her mirror rather than turn their head to check, they may suddenly get out in front of your vehicle.
- A parked vehicle whose driver only checks their mirror instead of turning their head to look, may suddenly pull out in front of your vehicle.
- Pedestrians may suddenly appear out of the blind area between parked vehicles, or children from the blind area of an unloading school bus. Always stay alert for these hazards while driving.

**Conclusion:** Staying alert to changing traffic conditions all around your vehicle is the key to avoiding problems with blind spots. Check all of your mirrors every few seconds while driving to keep current on your driving environment. Adjust your driving to your environment to avoid having to suddenly react to an unexpected situation.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*