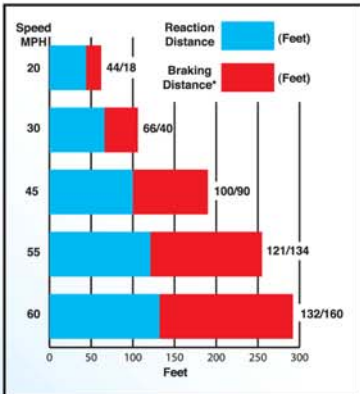


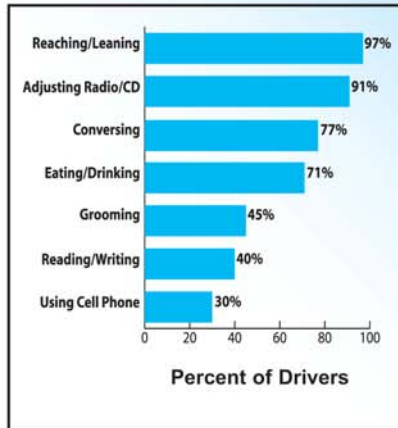
# Drive responsibly.

Knowing your braking point will help assure a safe distance between you and the car ahead. It might also save you from becoming a statistic!

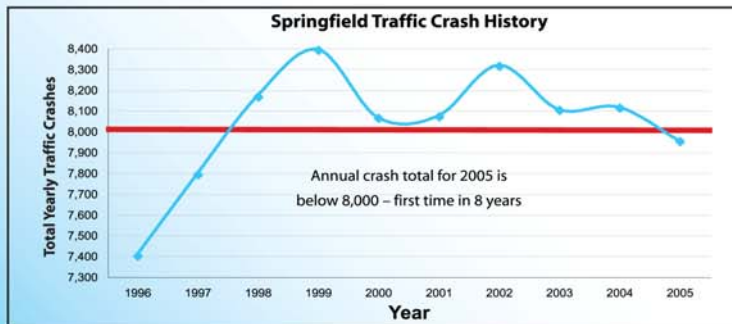
All drivers engage in some kind of distracting activity while they are driving.



Based on dry, level pavement, 1.5 sec. for reaction time  
 Source: Missouri Driver Guide  
 \*Numbers assume ideal conditions with good pavement and dry weather.



Source: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety 2003

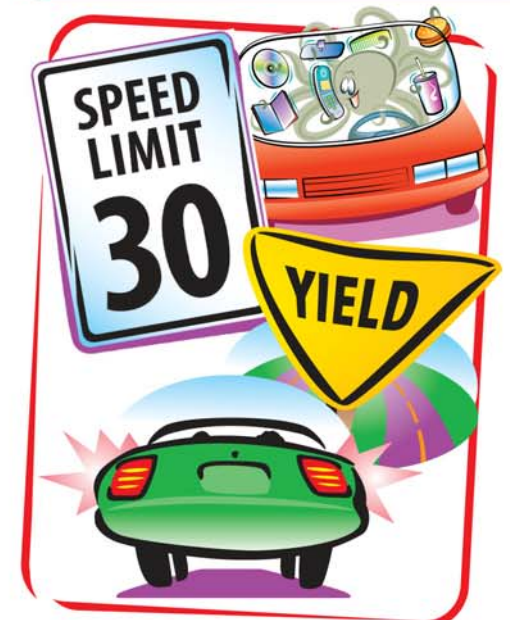


## Traffic Facts

In 2005, failure to yield was a contributing factor in 2,023 crashes on Springfield streets – that's 26% of all reported crashes.

In 2005, there were 1,540 crashes on Springfield streets attributed to a vehicle following too close—that's 19% of all reported crashes.

In 2005, there were 2,722 crashes on Springfield streets with inattention listed as a contributing circumstance – that's 34% of all reported crashes.



City of Springfield  
 Public Works Department  
 Traffic Engineering Division

Busch Municipal Building  
 840 Boonville  
 Springfield, Missouri 65802

(417) 864-1980

email: [traffic@ci.springfield.mo.us](mailto:traffic@ci.springfield.mo.us)  
 Web site: [traffic.springfieldmogov.org](http://traffic.springfieldmogov.org)



CHAPTER  
 Safety Council of the Ozarks  
 Your Safety & Health Leader



Created by

NOBLE ASSOCIATES

©2006 City of Springfield



## Know your braking point.

Instead of following too close, follow this simple rule—allow at least three seconds of space between you and the car ahead. It's called the Three Second Rule, and it just might mean the difference between braking in time and breaking something else.

### The Three Second Rule

Choose an object near the road ahead, like a sign or a telephone pole. As the vehicle ahead of you passes it, count slowly, "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." If you reach the object before you finish counting, you are too close to the vehicle ahead. So slow it down a little and start counting again!

## Drive responsibly



## Let them have their way.

Instead of getting defensive on the road, practice defensive driving. That means yielding the right-of-way, because a significant number of crashes are caused by a failure to do so. Avoiding confrontation—it's way better than the alternative.

### When to yield the right-of-way

1. When approaching an intersection with no traffic control, yield to a vehicle that has already entered the intersection from a different street.
2. When two vehicles enter an intersection from different streets at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left should yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right.
3. The driver of a vehicle about to enter or cross a street from an alley, a private road, or a driveway should yield to all vehicles approaching on the street.
4. The driver of a vehicle should yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.

You must do everything you can to prevent striking a pedestrian or another vehicle, regardless of the circumstance.



## Respect the Limit.

**Think exceeding the speed limit isn't a big deal? Think again -**

- When you exceed the speed limit, the distance it takes your vehicle to come to a complete stop increases, making it harder to avoid an accident.
- Crash severity increases with speed. When your speed increases from 30 to 45 mph, the severity of the crash more than doubles.
- Higher crash speeds reduce the ability of vehicles and restraint systems to protect occupants.

Over 40% of fatal crashes in Missouri are speed related. 363 persons were injured and 9 persons were killed in Springfield last year as a result of crashes with speeding as a contributing circumstance.

The Springfield Police Department issued 11,899 speeding citations in 2005. Fines for speeding within school zones are double the normal rate. Respect the limit – Slow Down!



## Leave the distractions behind.

It only takes a second for a crash to happen. Distractions occur when drivers concentrate on something other than operating their vehicles. Nationally twenty-five percent of all traffic crashes involve some form of driver distraction. Driving safely can be challenging enough even when full attention is given to the road and its potential hazards. Driving while operating a cell phone, adjusting the radio, eating and drinking, or even when drowsy can be distracting and potentially dangerous.

### How to Avoid Being Distracted

- Make adjustments to vehicle controls, including radio/CD player, before beginning to drive or after the car is no longer in motion.
- Pull over to the side of the road before answering a cell phone. The safest time to use a cell phone in a car is when stopped.
- Shiftworkers should recognize they are susceptible to drowsy-driving crashes and develop a daily sleep ritual.
- Sharing the driving responsibilities and limiting driving at night on long trips helps avoid driver fatigue.
- Limiting interaction with passengers helps drivers to focus on their driving.