

Montana Teen Driver Education and Training

Module 5.2

Emergencies

What should you do?



Emergencies - Objectives

- Understand that emergency situations occasionally arise while driving.
- Understand that each emergency situation can be dealt with effectively.
- Know what procedures to use in specific emergency situations.
- How to avoid potential emergency situations.



Vehicle Malfunction:

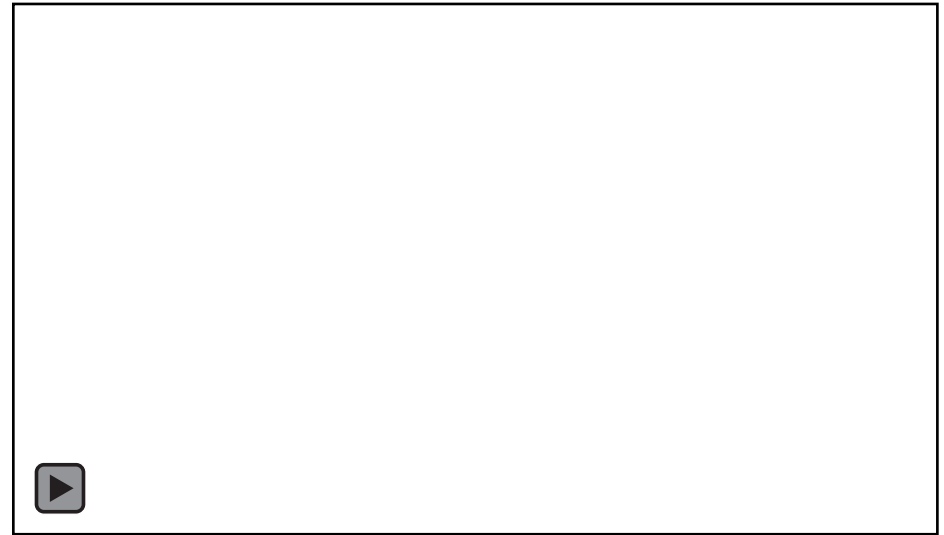
It happens

- Well maintained vehicles sometimes malfunction.
- Reduce danger, repair costs, and inconvenience by:
 - Maintaining your vehicle;
 - Understanding the warning signs of a vehicle malfunction;
 - Knowing how to take corrective action.
- Make sure you are always buckled up.
- Keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.

Tire Blowout



- Don't brake.
- Look to your target area.
- Steer toward your target.
- Slow down gradually.
- Pull to the side of the road.
- Turn on hazard lights.



PLAY VIDEO (1:21)

Maintain good tire pressure and make sure there is adequate tread on your tires.



Engine Stalls



- Keep eyes on target area.
- Maintain firm grip on wheel.
- Open palm shift to neutral.
- Twist key to restart motor.
- When motor restarts, shift back to drive and proceed.
- Pull to side of road if car doesn't restart.
- Turn on hazard lights.



PLAY VIDEO (:09)

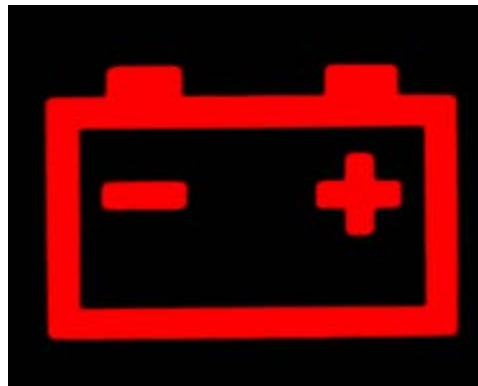


Electrical Problems

Battery - Alternator – Starter - Fuses – Spark plugs

Electricity is needed for the ignition, vehicle lights, power steering, power windows, and all the accessories

If the alternator does not generate enough electricity to run the vehicle, the battery will eventually be drained and stop.



Loss of Steering



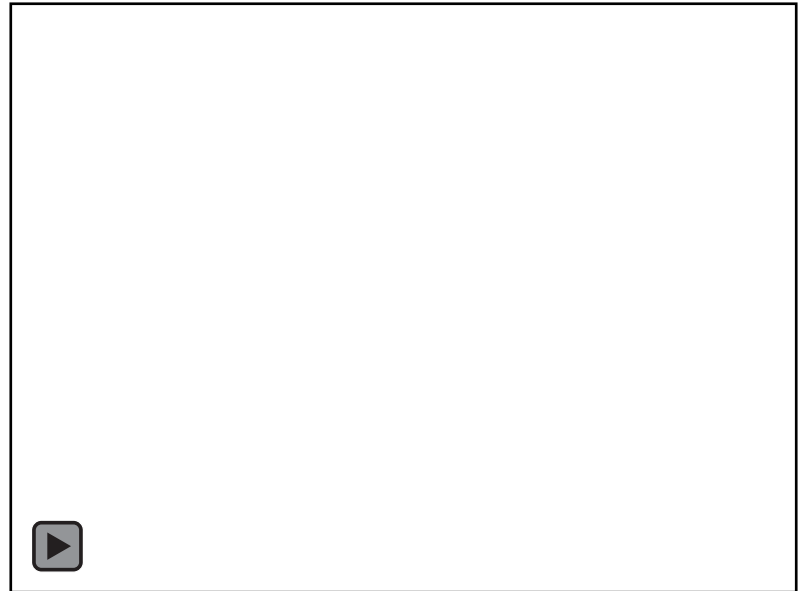
Suddenly and without warning something in the steering mechanism has broken or jammed.

- Loss of power steering can make it difficult to turn or it feels “loose” and “sloppy.”
- Stop as quickly as possible.
- Use your flashers, flashing headlights, or blow your horn to warn others.

Brakes Fail



- Aim to the target area.
- Control steering.
- Rapidly pump the brakes.
- Downshift.
- Use parking brake, keep the release lever open.
- Use soft crash area if necessary.



PLAY VIDEO (:46)

A brake failure can be a complete loss of brakes or only power brake failure.

Engine Overheats

Excess heat can destroy an engine

- Monitor your vehicle's temperature, radiator hoses and coolant level.
- STOP THE VEHICLE when the warning light comes on or the gauge shows a hot temperature.

Cool the engine:

- Let the engine idle.
- Turn on the heater and blower to high to help pull heat from the engine.
- Turn the ignition off and open the hood.
- Add coolant



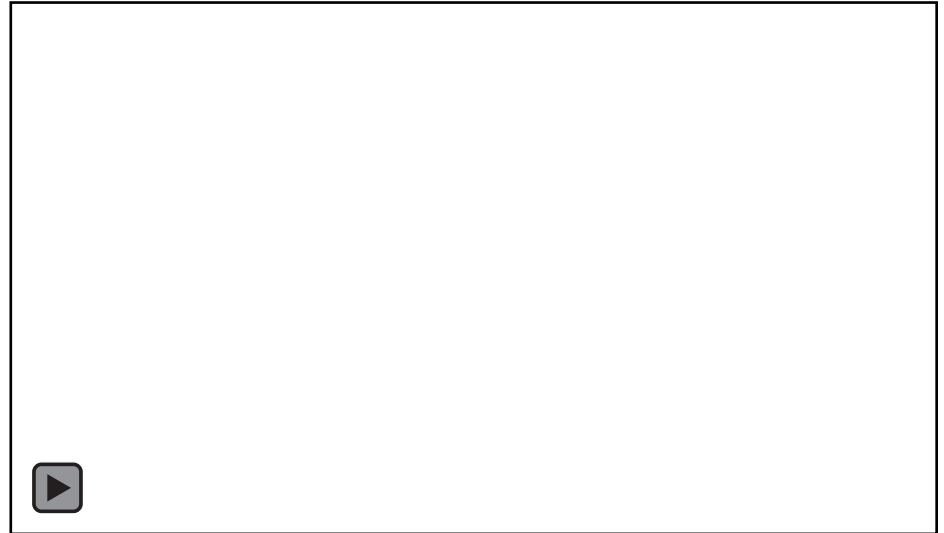
TEMPERATURE GAUGE



Engine Fire



- Steer out of traffic, away from buildings, people, and other cars.
- Have all occupants leave the car immediately and move away.
- Do not open the hood.



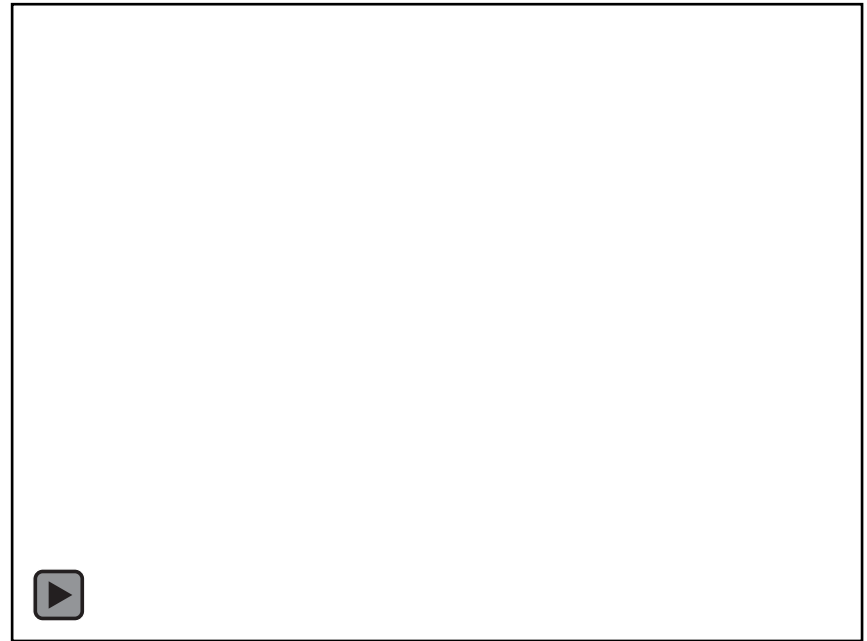
PLAY VIDEO (:54)

Turn off the ignition if your engine catches fire. This will stop the fuel pump. Then get out quickly.

Stuck Accelerator



- Aim to the target area.
- Shift to neutral – open palm method.
- Search for an escape path.
- Steer smoothly.
- Brake gently.
- Pull off the roadway.
- Turn off the ignition.



PLAY VIDEO (2:59)

Gas pedals can stick when a spring breaks, it catches on carpet or is held in the down position.

Malfunctioning head and tail lights

- Montana law requires motor vehicles to have two functioning head lights.
- At least one functioning tail light must be visible from a distance of 500 feet.
- When head lights go out, try using high beam lights until you are able to replace the headlight bulb.
- If your tail lights go out, you should replace the bulb and cover broken fixtures with red tape until repaired
- Drivers risk being cited for driving without required lights.



Submerged in Water



- Act quickly, if possible, open door and exit.
- Smash the window.
- Keep your safety belt on.
- Let car fill with water and pressure equalize.
- Exit the vehicle.



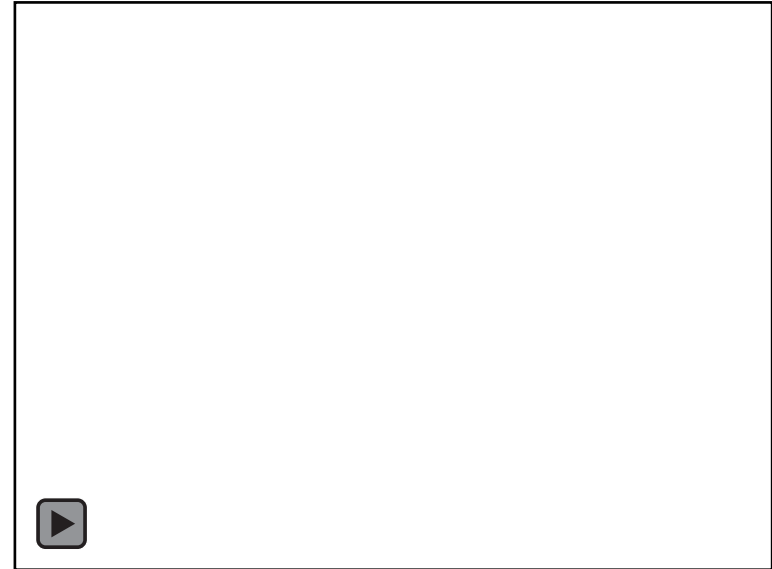
PLAY VIDEO (:35)

Refer to the Emergency Kit for items that can help you escape a submerged vehicle.

Head-on Evasion



- Keep calm.
- Aim through open escape path to the target area.
- Keep off the pedals.
- Three steering actions.
- Use controlled braking.



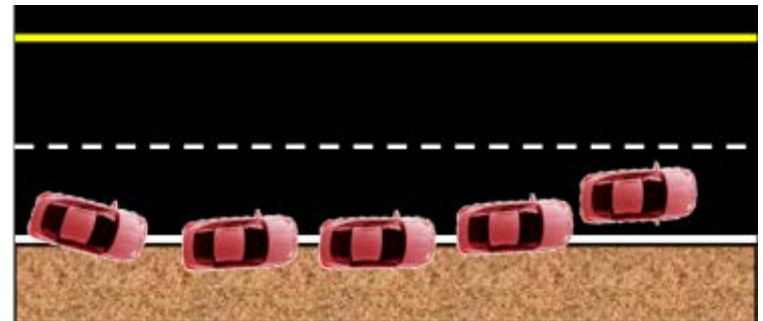
PLAY VIDEO (:20)

Anything that startles you by blocking your path (wildlife, road debris, oncoming vehicle) may be averted if you see it.

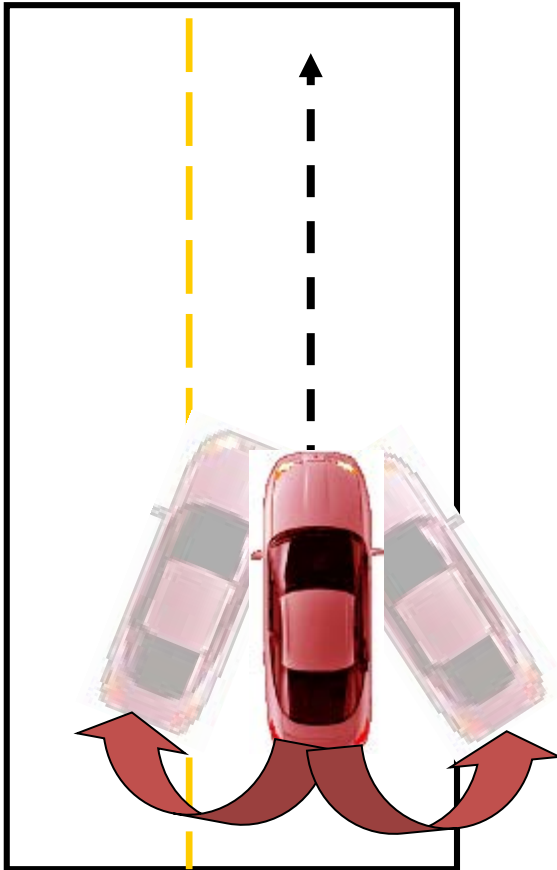
Off-Road Recovery

Don't Panic - STOP and STEER onto road

- Control steering, Don't panic and steer too much. Hands at 9 and 3.
- Slow down – feet off throttle.
- Avoid braking.
- Position for balance.
- Safely stop – apply brakes slowly.
- Check the slope of the shoulder!
- Align edge of road to middle of car.
- Steer onto road – $1/8$ – $1/4$ turn.
- Counter steer back into lane – counter steering is double the first turn to counter balance the weight shift.



Skids and Traction Loss



- Look – Where you want to go.
- Steer – Where you want to go.
- Off pedals – Release the brake or accelerator to maintain rolling traction.
- Never give up - Maintain constant attention to steering until the vehicle is back under control.
- Use trail braking if needed.

If you hear a siren ...



Slow down and change lanes whenever possible. Remember the Move Over Law ...

At the scene of a crash ...

What do you do?

- If you are involved, **stop immediately**, regardless of how little damage appears.
- Call 9-1-1 for medical assistance if anyone is injured.
- Do not move an injured person unless there is danger of fire or another collision.
- Ensure all vehicles in the collision have engines turned off.
- Set out reflectors to warn oncoming traffic.





Montana's Good Samaritan Law...

- This law helps protect rescuers who voluntarily help a victim in distress from being successfully sued in court. (i.e., for wrongdoing).
- The law is designed to encourage people to help a stranger who needs assistance by reducing or eliminating the fear that, if they do so, they will suffer possible legal repercussions in the event that they inadvertently make a mistake when helping the victim.

If you're involved in a crash ...

- Exchange names, addresses, telephone numbers, and insurance company contact information.
- Document the characteristics of the crash. Take photos.
- If a vehicle is hit while parked and the owner is not present, the driver of the vehicle is legally obliged to leave a note with contact details on the windshield.



Call the police when ...



- Someone is injured or killed in the crash.
- Property damage appears to be valued at more than \$1,000.





Insurance Reporting Laws

- Montana is a tort state, which means that drivers are financially responsible for the damage and injury they may cause during an auto accident.
- Liability coverage is required in Montana. Insurance companies require the insured to contact the company immediately after a collision – regardless of the amount of damage or if you intend to file a claim.
- The insurance company's contact information and proof of coverage card should always be in the glove compartment or other secure place inside the car.

If you are pulled over...





Always be prepared ...

Essential items for your vehicle emergency kit:

- Flashlight with reliable batteries
- Ice scraper for winter driving
- Pocketknife
- First aid kit
- Small hammer and seat belt cutter
- Spare fuses
- Emergency contacts

Keep in the trunk:

- Battery jumper cables
- Spare tire and sealant
- Blanket
- Fire extinguisher
- Jack and lug wrench
- Flares or reflective day/night devices
- Dried nonperishable food
- An empty gas can (never filled with fuel)
- A plastic jug of water

WINTER DRIVING TIPS FROM THE MT DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/winterdriving.shtml>



Montana Driver Education and Training Standards and Benchmarks

1. Laws and Highway System

- 1.1. know the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's manual;
- 1.2. understand the laws outlined in the Montana Driver's Manual; and
- 1.3. consistently demonstrate knowledge and understanding by responsible adherence to highway transportation system traffic laws and control devices.

2. Responsibility

- 2.1. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a motor vehicle;
- 2.2. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle;
- 2.3. consistently display respect for other users of the highway transportation system; and
- 2.4. develop positive habits and attitudes for responsible driving.

3. Visual Skills

- 3.1. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle;
- 3.2. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle;
- 3.3. demonstrate the use of proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle; and
- 3.4. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills.

4. Vehicle Control

- 4.1. demonstrate smooth, safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle; and
- 4.2. develop positive habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.

5. Communication

- 5.1. consistently communicate driving intentions (i.e., use of lights, vehicle position, and personal signals);
- 5.2. adjust driver behavior based on observation of the highway transportation system and other roadway users;
- 5.3. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle position, and personal signals) based on observation of the highway transportation system and other users; and
- 5.4. develop positive habits and attitudes for effective communication.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1. understand driver risk-management principles;
- 6.2. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies; and
- 6.3. develop positive habits and attitudes for effective driver risk-management.

7. Lifelong Learning

- 7.1. identify and use a range of learning strategies required to acquire or retain knowledge, positive driving habits, and driving skills for lifelong learning;
- 7.2. establish learning goals that are based on an understanding of one's own current and future learning needs; and
- 7.3. demonstrate knowledge and ability to make informed decisions required for positive driving habits, effective performance, and adaptation to change.

8. Driving Experience

- 8.1. acquire at least the minimum number of BTW hours over at least the minimum number of days, as required by law, with a Montana-approved driver education teacher; and
- 8.2. acquire additional behind-the-wheel driving experience with a parent or guardian's assistance in a variety of driving situations (i.e., night, adverse weather, gravel road, etc.).