Driving without a Plan?
Not Driving Defensively?
Is it worth the Gamble?
Some Noteworthy Numbers

**Traffic Reality**

33,561
Vehicle related fatalities

1,634,000
Vehicle associated injuries

5,615,000
Total vehicle collisions

$870+ Billion ($900 per Person in USA)
Dollars spent on collision related issues

95% of vehicle collisions and fatalities are caused by Human Error
State of Georgia Stats (All Drivers)

1147 Deaths in 2012 in Georgia; 25% were related to Alcohol use.

Texas was #1 with over 3,000 Deaths; followed by: California, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Georgia was #7.
The Numbers So Far, in FY2015, for State of Georgia Agencies:

- Over 900 Auto Liability claims (AL) down about 10%.
- Auto Liability claims cost over $1,200,000; a 25% jump over FY2014.
- Over 1,500 Auto Physical Damage (APD) claims.
- Auto Physical Damage (APD) claims cost over $1,800,000; a 12% jump over FY2014!
- Over 350 fellow employees injured.
- Over $1,500,000 in Workers’ Compensation costs, up 50% from FY2014!
21 Driving Safety Tips

#1. Before beginning a long drive, always get enough sleep and eat something before you go. Highly caffeinated beverages are not necessarily the best way to stay awake while driving.

A typical driver makes 200 decisions per mile, with less than half a second to act to avoid a collision. But you have to be awake to make these decisions.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#2. Make sure everyone in the car buckles his or her seat belt. It’s Georgia Law. Your odds are better using it!

There's No Excuse Not To Buckle Up

- I'm not driving very far.  
  **FACT:** Three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home.

- I'm riding in the back seat.  
  **FACT:** You can still be thrown from a vehicle even if you are riding in the back seat.

- I'm driving at night and the police won't see me.  
  **FACT:** Police departments are increasing night time enforcement. In addition, there are more high-risk drivers on the roads.

- I don't want to be trapped by a seat belt in case my vehicle catches fire or is submerged in water.
  **FACT:** Less than one-half of one percent of all injury crashes involve fire or submersion. You are 25 times more likely to be killed if you are ejected from the vehicle.

Your survivability in an auto crash increases by 60% by wearing a seat belt!
21 Driving Safety Tips

#3. Pull over and take **breaks** every couple of hours, even if you don't feel sleepy. Grab a snack, get some fresh air, and stretch your legs by walking around. If you need to, take a quick nap.

- Keeps you awake.
- Improves body circulation.
- Relieves back pain.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#4. If you can, **share the driving** responsibilities with someone else. This will allow you to keep an eye on each other while driving and also enable you to nap without losing time.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#5. If you're driving alone, turn on the radio/music, and keep your window cracked open. You may also want to refrain from using your cruise control if you're driving alone at night – having to concentrate on maintaining your speed can help you stay awake.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#6. If you do have to pull over, move your vehicle off the road. Never park on the **shoulder** or in the breakdown lane for any reason except an emergency.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#7. **Avoid cell phone use** while driving. No State of Georgia Business is important enough to be using a cell phone while driving.

“Just Drive” video at Georgia DOT
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMr-EFvA52w&list=PLOmONQQOLK5AcHL9uTK7QXVlF1fu23dKL

Other Distractions include:
- Reaching/looking for items in the car
- Things, events outside of the car/rubbernecking
- Adjusting the radio
- Eating
- Grooming
- Children and pets
21 Driving Safety Tips

#8. **Never drink any alcohol** before your trip. While you may not become intoxicated from one beer, you will become sleepy.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#9. Keep an eye on the skies, and if you can, plan a route around inclement weather.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#10. Have your navigator search the Web for traffic update sites and listen to radio traffic alerts.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#11. **GPS** units are not infallible, so have a map or road atlas for backup just in case.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#12. **Rental vehicle**: familiarize yourself with the car and all of its equipment (horn, brakes, hazard lights).
#13. Lock all of your valuables (especially items that are clearly gifts) in the trunk or glove box and stow all luggage and computers in the trunk. *(Out of Sight, Out of Mind).*
#14. **Familiarize** yourself with local traffic laws, which vary from state to state and especially overseas. Is it legal to make a right turn at a red light?
#15. Make sure your vehicle is in prime condition – that tires are properly inflated, all fluids are at their proper levels and you have a full tank of gas.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#16. Know where to get **Roadside Assistance**; have the number ready:
**ARI  1-800-227-2273 (1-800-car-care)**

Or call your local towing company; but have the number available.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#17. Conserve Fuel: Minimize sudden starts and stops; don’t speed up to make that yellow light; remove unnecessary weight; and **slow down**. It takes much less fuel to drive 55 miles an hour than it does to drive 70.

- Are the few seconds or minutes you save worth the gamble?
21 Driving Safety Tips

#18. Don't wait until your gas gauge is sitting on E to refuel. At the quarter of a tank, start looking for a place to fill up.
#19. When traveling with **kids**, stop often; not just for snacks and potty breaks, but also for fun. You'll also want to pack toys, books and music for the car – not to mention your motion sickness remedy. **Munchies?** Stock up on snacks and drinks at grocery stores rather than gas stations or convenience stores – you’ll get a wider and healthier selection, as well as better prices.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#20. **Backing:** At some point during your trip you are going to have to back up. When you do, keep your P.A.L.S. in mind.

**P.A.L.S. (Plan, Area, Look, Slow)**

- **Plan** – adjust your mirrors properly before moving vehicle for maximum visibility. Learn your vehicle’s blind spots. When parking the vehicle, park to eliminate backing when possible (e.g.: pull through); basically, plan how you are going to leave the space when you park. Pick a good spot, clear view and access to leave.
- **Check Area** around your vehicle for people walking, other vehicles backing up behind you and any other obstructions. Check carefully for children and pets.
- **Look** out of your back window. Do not just depend on your mirrors. Do not depend solely on your rear view camera. Use all of your resources.
- **Back up SLOWLY** and continually check the rear and sides. Spotter: Do you have a passenger? Can they guide you when you are backing? Parking lots can be a particular challenge when backing up. Whenever possible, park away from entrances, exits and other cars.
21 Driving Safety Tips

#21. **Miscellaneous:** On longer trips, have napkins, plastic ware and a small cooler handy for meals on the go. You'll also want some spare change for tolls, as well as a first-aid kit, flashlight, pillow and blanket. Keep a set of jumper cables, a spare tire, and extra fluids for the car.
Solutions
If your last driving safety course/refresher was in High School, you’re overdue! Annual Driver Safety training is recommended for State of Georgia Employees.
If you have not taken a Defensive Driving course, please call and we can set up a class for a group at your location. Such as:

- Defensive Driving
- Driving Awareness
- Advanced Defensive Driving
- Driver’s Alert Training programs (On-Line)
- Driver Improvement Course

Don’t take the Gamble, Take the Training!
Questions?

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