

DEFENSIVE DRIVING HANDOUT

In the United States, vehicle accidents result in:



- A death every 12 minutes
- A disabling injury every 14 seconds
- Over 46,000 deaths per year
- \$3,760,000 in cost per fatality
- \$188,000 in cost per incapacitating injury
- \$22,900 in cost per evident (non-incapacitating) injury
- Leading cause of death to government employees
- Leading cause of death to county employees in NM



BASICS: Start your trip with the right mindset; plan to drive defensively. Respect the vehicle you are controlling and understand the harm you could inflict on others, as well as, to yourself.

- Maintain an adequate space cushion on all four sides of your vehicle.
- The two-second rule has changed, allowing for speed, and traffic and weather conditions.



- Speeding: Common cause of fatalities. If you leave late, plan to arrive late.



- Intersections: Are particularly dangerous situations and a leading cause of county accidents. Ensure intersections are clear before entering.

- Cellular phones: Your attention is either on driving or it's on the conversation, it cannot be on both. If you must talk on a cellular phone, use a hands free system or better yet, pull off to the side of the road.

