

Behind The Wheel

Background Notes

As Child Welfare workers, we frequently drive vehicles to conduct state business. Drivers are expected to drive courteously, defensively, and within the law at all times. Driving is one of the most dangerous tasks performed by DHS employees. Not only can a driving incident result in a potentially serious injury or death to the driver, passenger, or other persons, it can subject DHS to property damage claims and a potential liability claim. Yet, most collisions can be prevented by following defensive driving techniques, such as maintaining an adequate distance between you and the car in front, and planning your route of travel in advance.

The public's eyes are on us as we drive state vehicles and citizens frequently contact the Department of Administrative Services to report poor driving behaviors or potential misuse of a state vehicle. DHS must investigate and prepare a report in response to all complaints.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Check with your supervisor to see if there are plans to have a defensive driving course held at or near your site within the near future. If not sign up for an open enrollment course at: <https://ilearn.oregon.gov> through DAS.
- Read the "Safety Driving Standards Policy" at: http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/admin/safety/080_005.pdf and ask your supervisor if you have any questions.
- Know where to find the "Vehicle Rules for State Drivers" (OAR Chapter 125, Division 155) and understand the scope of its contents.
- Find out your office's procedure for reporting a vehicle incident.

Discoveries:

