



# Local Driving Hazard Awareness for Yuma AZ

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# Proper vehicle maintenance

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# Farm Equipment





# Flash Floods & Standing Water

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# Debris on Road

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- Sand
- Dirt
- Garbage
- Animal carcasses



# Snowbirds

- Watch out for Canadians especially!







# Motorcycles

Eye Protection:

Face shield or goggles

Helmet: Snell or DOT approved

Long sleeved jacket or heavy shirt

Gloves: full finger

Long Pants: heavy jean type

Heavy Boots: must cover ankles

- MCO 5100.29C
- BRC (level I)
- ARC (level II)
- LEVEL III
- OFFROAD:
- DBS
- ATV
- ROHV



# When You Speed...







# Bright Sun



- **invest in polarized sunglasses**
- **utilize your sun visor**
- **this is one more time when it pays to leave more room between you and the next vehicle.**
- **drive with your headlights on**



# Mexico Drivers

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# Road Construction







# Poor Road Conditions

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# Travel out of Yuma

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- Yuma to San Diego
- Yuma to Phoenix
- Boring and monotonous
- Distances between the two



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- Prepare before getting behind the wheel
  - Ensure all passengers use safety belts
  - Obey speed limits
  - Consider weather conditions





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- Never tailgate
  - Eliminate distractions



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- Keep gas tank at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  full
  - Maintain control
  - Remember defensive driving techniques



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- Observe Speed limits
    - Drive for road conditions
    - Drive for traffic conditions
  - Obey Traffic laws
    - Right turn on red?
  - Use your turn signal





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- Severe Weather
    - Know if flash floods are a potential
    - Listen to weather forecasts
    - NEVER, NEVER drive through running water
    - Water only 1 ft deep can carry your car away



- Sand storms
  - It's not uncommon for dust storms to reduce visibility
- Smoke
  - smoke from burning debris can cause limited visibility





- Road surface
- Congested streets
- RR crossings without lights or gates





# Watch out for

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- Pedestrians
- Animals (Burros, Coyotes, etc.)
- Bad Drivers
- Trucks & farm equipment



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- Slow Down
  - Wear Seat Belts
  - Avoid distractions



# Allowing Yourself Space

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- Increase the distance between your car and others due to increased hazards of the road
  - Debris, work zones, stop light damage, stress levels



# Three Second Rule

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Three Second Rule		Safe Interval Should Be>	3 seconds	6 seconds
Speed	Distance Traveled	For these conditions>	Good	Marginal
25 m.p.h.	37 ft. per second		111 ft.	222 ft.
35 m.p.h.	52 ft. per second		166 ft.	312 ft.
45 m.p.h.	66 ft. per second		198 ft.	396 ft.
55 m.p.h.	81 ft. per second		243 ft.	486 ft.
65 m.p.h.	96 ft. per second		288 ft.	576 ft.
75 m.p.h.	111 ft. per second		333 ft.	666 ft.

Safe follow distance





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- Treat all intersections as 4 - way stops
  - Some traffic lights may not be working
  - Signs may be missing



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- Scan the horizon
  - Keep you eyes moving
  - Scan on and off the road
  - Check your mirrors frequently
  - Be totally aware of what is in front and behind you at all times



# Vehicles May Pass Unexpectedly at Any Time

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# Roadway Work Zones are Frequently Not Marked or Properly Identified with Signs, Cones, Barricades and Trained Flaggers

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# Flaggers in Work Zones are Not Always Visible







# Stay Back 4 Car Lengths Distance from Debris Trucks to Avoid Flying and Falling Debris





# Be Aware of Oversized Vehicles, Mobile Homes, Farm vehicles and Heavy Equipment

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# Road Rage

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Road rage is the informal name for deliberately dangerous and/or violent behavior under the influence of heightened, violent emotion such as anger and frustration, involving an automobile in use.



# Causes of Road Rage

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- Traffic
- Snowbirds



- Rude drivers





# 10 Useful Tips

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1. **Don't** retaliate.
2. **Don't** make eye contact with an angry driver.
3. **Before** you react to anything that is done to you please ask yourself, "Is getting back at that jerk worth my life?"
4. **Be** polite and courteous, even when others are not.
5. **Always** ask yourself: "Could the other driver have possibly made a mistake?"





# 10 Useful Tips

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6. **If** you are harassed by another driver and being followed, do not go home. Go to the nearest police station.
7. **Slow** down and relax!
8. **Never** underestimate other drivers' capacity for mayhem.
9. **Reduce** your driving stress by allowing enough time to get where you are going.
10. **Remember** that you cannot control the drivers around you, but you can control the way they affect your well-being.



# Drivers are Stressed, Be Patient

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# Summary

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- Your safety is your responsibility
- Drive cautiously and carefully
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Watch out for hazards