

THE BLINDFOLD EFFECT

(Please read this Leader's Guide thoroughly before conducting your training. The Participant's Manual is also contained in this booklet.)

PURPOSE OF THIS LEADER'S GUIDE

This leader's guide is designed to help you:

- ⇒ Prepare your presentation so the audience will get the most out of it.
- ⇒ Take advantage of the interactive format of the video.
- ⇒ Introduce the video and answer questions following the video.
- ⇒ Stimulate discussion during the pause points or following the video.

Before showing this video to an audience:

- ☞ Take the time to watch the video and become familiar with its contents.
- ☞ Then review both sections of this booklet: the leader's guide, including the participant manual that begins where makes up the second section.

The Participant Manual may be reproduced, allowing each viewer to use the manual and take it with them after viewing the video.

INTRODUCTION

Whether driving is a major part of our job, or simply part of our day-to-day routine, nearly all of us can benefit from the safety message of *The Blindfold Effect*.

The Blindfold Effect is more than a "how-to" video. It's also a motivational video designed to affect the viewer's attitude about driving safety issues. Point out that an interview with an actual crash victim is included in the video. Its purpose is to heighten the viewer's awareness about *anticipating* potential hazards, *adjusting* to conditions and *avoiding dangerous assumptions* about their safety.

This important message applies to almost any driving situation.

THEME OF THE PROGRAM

The theme of this program focuses on using the following *Tactical Driving Techniques to improve our driving safety skills and prevent collisions*:

- ✓ ***Anticipate*** hazards
- ✓ ***Adjust*** to conditions
- ✓ ***Assume Nothing*** when driving

For the purposes of this video, "tactical" means specific actions and techniques to help prevent traffic collisions and protect us while driving.

Of course, there are other driving skills and techniques, in addition to Anticipate, Adjust and Assume Nothing. These three techniques were selected because they apply to most driving situations, are practical to use and easy to remember.

SCOPE OF THE VIDEO

Anticipate, Adjust and Assume Nothing are three techniques that can help prevent collisions in a wide variety of driving situations. This video focuses on three situations.

Three Key Driving Situations

- Intersections
- Backing
- Following Too Closely

The Blindfold Effect *focuses on these three situations because over half of all collisions occur at intersections, while backing, or when following too closely.*

Everyone within your organization who drives, whether its for work or personal reasons, can benefit from the safety message in this program.

THE INTERACTIVE FORMAT

The Blindfold Effect is designed to encourage participation by asking viewers to identify and discuss the hazards depicted in the video. The hazards, whether mental mistakes, incorrect procedures, or dangerous conditions, are the type each of us can encounter during our day-to-day driving.

Most viewers will not identify *every* mistake, hazard or unsafe condition shown. Some are more obvious than others and appear rather briefly. Out on the highway, the same is true. *The Blindfold Effect* is designed to increase our awareness of mental mistakes and highway hazards, whether they are obvious or subtle.

Using This Format

The Blindfold Effect can be used in a group or viewed individually:

- ① Using their Participant Manual, each viewer can write down the hazards from the video.
- ② The viewers can form small groups and record the hazards as teams.
- ③ As a group, the viewers can discuss the hazards, rather than writing them down.

INTRODUCING THE PROGRAM TO THE PARTICIPANTS

Here are some statements to consider for your introduction:

*“We are going to view a short, 15 minute driving safety video which will show us some specific **driving skills and techniques** to help protect us from traffic crashes.”*

*“The video includes three realistic driving scenarios relating to intersections, backing and following too closely. At the end of each scenario are **pause points** where we’ll stop the tape so you can write down (and/or discuss) any mistakes, unsafe actions or hazards you saw that could have contributed to the mishap.”*

*“**Watch** for situations in the video that are similar to one’s you’ve experienced or heard about so we can talk about them after the video.”*

*“Also **listen** carefully to the interview. Does it remind you of any collisions or near misses that you, or anyone you know have experienced?”*

Describe the driving safety theme of the video:

- ✓ Anticipate potential hazards
- ✓ Adjust to conditions that could threaten your safety
- ✓ Assume Nothing

Before viewing the video, ask the audience to describe their primary driving safety concerns, “pet peeves” and driving behaviors they consider the most dangerous. Explain that *The Blindfold Effect* contains a variety of driving hazards and mistakes that they will be asked to identify.

Remind the viewers that the video deals with a number of common driving hazards. As a group, you may want to discuss *other hazards* that are not addressed in the video and explore how *Anticipate, Adjust* and *Assume Nothing* can be used to protect against them.

Describe the purpose of the video:

- ☞ Make us more alert and watchful for mistakes and hazards that could lead to traffic mishaps.
- ☞ Provide specific, easy-to-remember techniques we can use to help prevent traffic mishaps.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Driving Scenario #1: *Following Too Closely*

Debbie is driving a passenger vehicle in heavy traffic. She's late for a meeting and growing impatient. She sees a side street that she thinks will be a short-cut. She and the car in front of her turn onto the side street. Debbie is tailgating the car ahead of her. Further down the road, a group of guys are playing football near the road. Debbie's cellular phone begins to ring. She turns and reaches for the phone in the back seat.

Meanwhile, one of the football players misses a pass and the football lands in front of the car ahead of Debbie. The startled driver slams on the brakes. Debbie can't react fast enough and crashes into the stopped car.

Pause Point #1: The video can be paused at this point so viewers can write down or discuss hazards from the previous scenes.

Driving Scenario #2: *Backing*

Larry is driving a contractor's van, looking for a place to park. He's in a hurry and not having much luck. He sees a spot and parks next to a minivan.

Larry gets some food and hurries out, nearly bumping into a man (Phil) carrying a bag of groceries. Larry quickly jumps into his van.

Meanwhile, Phil is looking in his bag of groceries as he approaches Larry's van. Larry starts the engine while wolfing down his sandwich. He quickly glances in his rear window, but it's blocked by boxes in the van.

Larry puts the van in reverse and starts to back just as a car approaches in the wrong direction. Larry stops and yells "Wrong way buddy!" Phil is approaching Larry's van from the opposite direction, unaware of his surroundings. Larry starts backing and hits Phil, knocking him to the ground.

Pause Point #2: The video can be paused at this point so viewers can write down or discuss hazards from the previous scenes.

Driving Scenario #3: *Intersections*

Chuck pulls up behind a van that has stopped for a red light at an intersection. After a moment or so the truck turns on its left turn signal.

Chuck can see that there is a lot of traffic lined up across the intersection that will prevent the truck in front of him from turning for some time. "I'll be here all day!" he says.

Frustrated, Chuck looks behind him and in his mirrors. He sees that he can pull into the right lane and get around the truck.

As he's pulling into the right lane, the light turns green. He accelerates into the intersection without looking left or right.

At the same time, a large truck on his left is barreling through the intersection, running the red light and it smashes into Chuck on the driver's side.

Pause Point #3: The video can be paused at this point so viewers can write down or discuss hazards from the previous scenes.

Please refer to the Participant Manual for additional program information:

- ✓ *Identification of mistakes and hazards in each of the three driving scenarios*
- ✓ *Additional tactics that protect us in these situations*
- ✓ *Discussion questions to ask after presenting the program*

LEADER'S NOTES

THE BLINDFOLD EFFECT

PARTICIPANT MANUAL

Name _____

Date _____

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THEME OF THE BLINDFOLD EFFECT

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DISCUSSION AFTER VIEWING THE BLINDFOLD EFFECT

After watching *The Blindfold Effect*, reinforce the experience by discussing the safety messages in the program. Here are some discussion questions.

- Have you ever noticed yourself or another person driving “*as if they were blindfolded?*” Describe the situation.

- Have you ever been thinking about something so intently while driving that you missed a turn, drove through a stop sign or realized you couldn't remember where you've been driving for the last few moments?
- Have you ever seen or heard of collisions like those in the video?
- Can you recall any collisions where someone didn't anticipate, didn't adjust or made a dangerous assumption?
- What could have prevented the collisions?
- Can you think of ways in which *anticipating*, *adjusting* and *assuming nothing* can protect you from the unsafe actions of other drivers?
- How can these same tactics help protect us from dangerous conditions such as icy roads, fog, heavy rain or severe cold?

RELATED SAFETY ISSUES TO DISCUSS

- *Alcohol and drug use, including over the counter and prescription medications*
- *Distractions*
- *Fatigue*
- *Competitive/aggressive drivers*
- *Seat belt use*
- *Dangerous or unpredictable weather conditions*
- *Vehicle Maintenance Issues*

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION SECTION

During each Pause Point, use the following pages to write down the hazards, mistakes or unsafe conditions that you spotted.

PAUSE POINT #1: *Following Too Closely*

List Hazards Here:

PAUSE POINT #2: *Backing*
List Hazards Here:

PAUSE POINT #3: *Intersections*
List Hazards Here:

HAZARDS IDENTIFIED AND THE RIGHT WAY DEMONSTRATED

DRIVING SCENARIO #1 - *FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY*

☞ **Hazards:** Debbie became impatient and was following the car in front of her too closely.

☞ **Right Way:** *Be patient and Adjust.*

Debbie leaves enough space in front of her.

☞ **Hazard:** Football players near the road in the distance.

☞ **Right Way:** *Anticipate and look well ahead for hazards.*

Debbie sees football players ahead

☞ **Hazards:** Debbie turned to reach for the phone in the back seat. She took her eyes off the traffic and *assumed* the vehicle in front of her would keep going. A football unexpectedly bounces in front of the car ahead of Debbie.

☞ **Right Way:** *Don't Assume traffic will keep moving safely.*

Debbie paying attention while driving.

☞ **Right Way:** *Don't let distractions interfere with your driving.*

Debbie pulls over to answer the phone.

CLOSER LOOK AT TECHNIQUES THAT CAN PREVENT REAR END COLLISIONS

⇒ **Two Second Following Rule** is Demonstrated:

The minimum space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you is the distance you travel in two seconds.

⇒ You're following a vehicle at a safe distance, when suddenly someone pulls into the space in front of you.

The safe response: Back off until you have at least two seconds of space in front of you.

⇒ You're driving at a safe speed when a vehicle starts tailgating you.

The safe response: Find the nearest place where you can safely pull over to let them by.

DRIVING SCENARIO #2 – *BACKING*

☞ **Hazard:** Larry was in a hurry and didn't look behind his van or look for pedestrians.

☞ **Right Way:** Use patience, look carefully and anticipate.

Larry looks behind his van before getting in and notices Phil in the background.

☞ **Hazard:** Boxes were blocking Larry's rear windows.

☞ **Right Way:** Adjust your load so your view is clear.

Boxes aren't blocking the rear windows. Larry checks his mirrors and windows before he backs.

☞ **Hazards:** (1) Larry is eating. (2) Next he's distracted by a vehicle traveling the wrong way. (3) He assumed his path was clear and backs without looking carefully.

☞ **Right Way:** Avoid distractions.

Larry's not eating. He looks carefully in his mirrors and rear window. He sees Phil in his rear view mirror and doesn't back up. Larry sounds his horn and backs carefully.

Never Assume Your Path is Clear unless you can see it.

☞ **Hazard:** Larry and Phil were both unaware of their surroundings. Next are shots of Phil and Larry blindfolded.

☞ **Right Way:** Pay attention to your surroundings.

Phil is watching his surroundings. Larry looks carefully and sees Phil in mirror.

ADDITIONAL TIPS THAT CAN PREVENT BACKING MISHAPS

⇒ *Park where you don't have to back out, even if the space is further away. If you eliminate the need to back, you dramatically reduce the chance of a backing collision.*

⇒ *As an added safety precaution, more and more organizations are equipping their delivery vehicles with audible back-up warnings.*

Driving Scenario #3 - Intersections

⚠ **Hazards:** Chuck didn't anticipate the hazards. He assumed it was safe to cross. And he didn't adjust his driving to compensate for his obstructed view.

👉 **Right Way:** When your view is blocked by another vehicle at an intersection, pull forward until you're even with the vehicle. Look to the right and left until you have a clear view in both directions. Even when you have the right of way, **anticipate** that a vehicle might be coming through the intersection.

ADDITIONAL TACTIS TO PROTECT US AT INTERSECTIONS

✓ **First, anticipate.** Look for intersections as far ahead as possible.

✓ **Next,** be prepared to make adjustments, such as slowing down, stopping or taking evasive action. If your view is obstructed, slowly pull forward until you have a clear view.

When weather, road or lighting conditions are bad, slow down and give yourself extra time as you approach intersections.

✓ **Don't assume** that you have the right of way, or that other drivers or pedestrians will do the right thing. And look carefully for vehicles or pedestrians approaching the intersection