

# THE 8 GOLDEN RULES ON ROAD SAFETY

The proverb 'rules are made to be broken' must be eliminated from our thoughts as rules are made for a reason. The choice of abiding or not abiding the rules is a life or death choice which many people fail to realise. Developed countries have the number of road related deaths under control mostly because of their deterrent traffic laws, stringent design, construction and maintenance and very effective driver tracking and assessment programmes.

Statistics show that human factors are the main cause of accidents(67%) followed by human factors and environment contributing to accidents(28%) and technical as well as mechanical errors (5%). Human factors include driver error, lapses in judgement and concentration and deliberate violations of safety practices and regulations.

Road crashes can be easily avoided by following 'Eight Golden Rules On Road Safety' as follows;

1. Plan your journey. For journeys beyond 2 hours a second driver is recommended. If you are tired, sleepy, drunk or in an emotional state, postpone your journey.
2. Always adhere to prescribed speed limits.
3. Give signals and observe all safety rules when changing lanes, by checking side mirrors and rearview mirrors before executing this potentially dangerous traffic maneuver.
4. Always comply with traffic rules at intersections especially stopping on red and amber warning signs and giving priority to pedestrians.

5. Avoid tailgating at all times as it is the main cause of many serious accidents.
6. Observe safety guidelines when overtaking. Never overtake when in doubt
7. Don't jump queue or abuse the usage of emergency lanes as it is not only very rude but also very dangerous.
8. Avoid weaving through traffic as it can jeopardise your safety and that of other road users.

We are faced with gruesome pictures of road accidents in the newspapers on a daily basis. We often think that accidents that we see on the road or in the news papers will never happen to us, but in reality, an average of 17 people die on the roads daily and 26 more are seriously injured, bringing tragedy and trauma to 43 Malaysian families everyday.

Road crashes not only hurt us physically and emotionally but also economically including cost of repairs of vehicles and loss of 'No Claims Discount' and loss of productive man hours at our place of work.

So, this festive season it is important to your loved ones that you reach home safely. Please ride and drive safely to ensure this year's festival is celebrated with joy and not with grief and tragedy.

Practise The 8 Golden Rules on Road Safety.

You can make a difference.

Road Safety Department

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