

## Driving Smarter (Coming in 2009)

*Driving Smarter* was designed to strengthen skills and provide techniques both inside and outside the bus for reducing accidents. It also incorporates customer service ideas to improve the quality of service while increasing safety. The program outlines what an operator can do on the bus, when preparing for work and while behind the wheel to decrease his/her risk of being involved in an accident. The information is presented in a series of modules, providing instructors flexibility when presenting the material. The course can be used as a part of the initial training process or as a retraining tool for veteran operators. It is also effective when working on a specific problem area such as following distance or maintain clearance.

### Audience

*Driving Smarter* is an effective training tool for new and veteran operators. The entire course—or just specific areas—can be selected to teach and reinforce the concepts and techniques of defensive driving.

### Program Topics

Major Topics include:

- Unsafe acts versus unsafe conditions;
- Basic tools of defensive driving;
- Techniques for approaching intersections and making turns;
- Passing and changing lanes;
- Freeway driving;
- Servicing stops;
- Boarding customers with special needs;
- Controlling space around the bus;
- Following distance;
- Defensive actions;
- Special driving conditions including: night driving, fog, and rain; and
- Special situations including: backing, railroads, tunnels, and bridges.

### Program Objectives

*Driving Smarter* will enable operators to:

- Explain appropriate conditions for making lane changes;
- Explain the procedure for using mirrors when changing lanes;
- Discuss how proper bus placement can reduce risk of injury for people boarding or alighting the bus;

- Describe the correct procedure for using turn signals when entering or exiting an expressway;
- Explain how the bus pivots and how to negotiate an obstacle using the pivot point;
- Explain how wheelchairs are secured and understand who is responsible for ensuring that customers in wheelchairs are properly secured;
- Identify visual techniques to identify hazards around the bus;
- Describe how to minimize blind spots;
- Explain the term reaction and braking distance;
- Identify factors that can affect reaction distance;
- Explain the phrase: driving within your visibility;
- Identify when the “1000 and 4” or the “1000 and 5” rule for following distance should be used;
- Describe five actions to take to avoid accidents;
- Analyze a situation and provide the correct order to apply defensive actions;
- Explain how to adjust to situations with low-traction;
- Describe what actions can be taken to deal fog;
- Explain why night driving is more dangerous than driving during the day;
- Understand ways to fight fatigue;
- Identify signs of an intoxicated driver;
- Describe the safest procedure for backing the bus; and
- Describe conditions when operators must stop before railroad tracks.

### Meets Requirements

*Driving Smarter* satisfies requirements for providing defensive driving training. The course satisfied Federal requirements for on-going training