



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



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Vehicle Incidents: Give Yourself Space

Year-to-date, we have experienced **75 vehicle-related incidents** across our operations. Approximately **46.7% were determined to be preventable or at-fault, 53.3% were non-fault events**. Several incidents involved rear-end collisions, failures to maintain adequate stopping distance, backing incidents, and contact with stationary objects. A common factor in these events was insufficient time and space to identify hazards and react safely. While not every incident was within our control, every incident serves as an opportunity to learn and improve our defensive driving habits.

Low Light and Limited Visibility

Many of our employees travel before sunrise, after sunset, or on roads where dust, fog, rain, smoke, or glare can quickly reduce visibility. When visibility decreases, your stopping distance effectively increases because it takes longer to identify the hazard and react appropriately.

The Vehicle in Front of You

Most drivers have experienced the feeling of being in a hurry to get to a jobsite, make it home after a long shift, or stay with traffic on a busy roadway. Unfortunately, hazards don't care about our schedules.

A vehicle ahead can stop suddenly for:

- Wildlife, livestock, and pets crossing the roadway, especially on rural roads.
- Pedestrians
- Road debris
- Unexpected turns or lane changes
- Construction activities
- Traffic congestion

Under normal driving conditions maintain at least a **four-second following distance**. When we're following too closely, we take away our own ability to make good decisions. Instead of having options, we're left reacting at the last second. Increase that distance during darkness, rain, fog, heavy traffic, construction zones, or any condition that reduces visibility or traction.

If you can't see clearly, you can't react early. During low-light or reduced visibility conditions:

- Increase following distance.
- Use headlights and vehicle lighting properly.
- Be prepared for unexpected hazards.
- Reduce speed to a level appropriate to conditions.
- Scan farther ahead and monitor your surroundings.
- Avoid distractions such as phones & non-driving activities.

Driver Expectations. Driving is one of the highest-risk activities many of us perform each day. Every employee operating a company vehicle is expected to:

- **Own the Space Around Your Vehicle.** Always maintain a safe following distance and increase it when conditions deteriorate. The space between your vehicle and the one ahead is your reaction time. Protect it.
- **Drive for the Conditions.** The posted speed limit is designed for ideal conditions. Rain, fog, dust, darkness, traffic congestion and lease roads may require significantly lower speeds.
- **Plan Ahead.** Look well beyond the vehicle directly in front of you. Identify potential hazards early and anticipate what could happen next.
- **Eliminate Distractions.** Driving requires your full attention. Put away phones, avoid multitasking, and stay focused on the roadway.
- **Use Stop-Think-Act Principles.** Before backing, changing lanes, passing, or maneuvering around obstacles, take a moment to evaluate the situation and ensure the path is clear.
- **Protect Yourself and Others.** Recognize that your actions affect more than just you. Every decision behind the wheel impacts coworkers, families, contractors, and members of the public.

Final Takeaway

Most vehicle incidents are preventable when drivers maintain awareness, manage risk, and allow themselves enough time and space to react. The most important safety feature in any vehicle is the person behind the wheel.

Slow down. Leave space. Stay focused. Those few seconds could be the difference between a close call and a collision.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment

SAFETY ALERT

