



23 October 2012

SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY WISHES FROM MATRIX

Holiday season is just around the corner and this usually entails extensive media coverage highlighting holiday road incidents. These incidents will then be used to create the 'official' road death statistics and ultimately compared to previous the years. Sometimes they are higher and sometimes they are lower. The scary thing is that it happens every day on our roads and not just holiday periods. Whichever way it goes this year, you are still 14 times more likely to die on South African roads compared to the USA!

With many South Africans using our roads to get to their holiday destination, below is a quick checklist of some of the dos and don'ts on the road to help you and your loved ones arrive at your destination safely.

- Always do a walk around check- condition/inflation of tyres, valve caps, brake lights, clean windscreen etc.
- Be very aware of vision barriers like blind rises, trucks, walls etc.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Adjust your speed to the changing conditions, environment and traffic pattern. Work with the traffic flow.
- Avoid night driving if possible. The human vision system is suited to daytime.
- Remember, you are only 'human'. Understand human and vehicle limits. You can't change these things!
- Never compromise the 3-second following distance rule, even when you are cut off – just back off!
- All occupants must be belted up and see every oncoming vehicle as 'high-risk'!
- Loose objects in the vehicle can become lethal projectiles in an emergency or crash situation.
- Check your blind-spots before changing lanes, turning and at merge areas. Avoid other vehicles blind spot areas.
- Loaded trucks need huge distances to stop. Remember this when you check your rear view mirrors!
- Beware of speed differentiation of vehicles ahead and vehicles behind you. Also let the tailgater pass.
- Adjust your speed so that you can stop in the distance you can see – day or night!
- Understand your stopping distance and your reaction time. Remember other drivers have the same!
- Look 12 – 15 seconds ahead and if you can't... back off by increasing your following distance.
- At 120km/h, you are covering 33.3m per second... nothing you can do in this distance. Pace it out!

Matrix would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.