



## The Speed Limit is NOT a Suggestion

JAN 2021

**LENGTH** 2–5 minutes

**TO PREPARE** Read the background information.

### BACKGROUND

Stat sources:  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration, World  
Health Organization

- Discussing the topic of speeding with employees may help bring to light some of the reasons they speed, and some of the reasons why it's not worth the risk. Speeding increases the likelihood of being in a crash and increases the severity of injuries sustained in the crash.
- On average, 10,000 people in the US lose their lives every year due to speed-related crashes.
- Vehicle occupants involved in a crash with an impact speed of 50 mph are 20 times more likely to die than they would be had the vehicle been traveling at 20 mph.
- In this Safety Huddle, employees will discuss who is vulnerable when drivers speed, why people speed, and why speeding does not really get you to your destination safely nor on time.

### DISCUSSION

- Limit the number of donuts you eat in order to prevent an expanding waistline. Limit your kid's screen time so they get their homework done. These are suggestions that make sense, right? When it comes to speed, the posted speed limit is NOT a suggestion—it's a law.
- What are some reasons you can think of that cause people to want to speed?
  - Answers may include: busy schedule, afraid of being late, won't get caught, posted speed limit is too low, it's fun, I won't get a ticket for five over.



**On a 30-mile trip taking place on a highway where the posted Speed Limit is 65 mph, how much faster will you arrive at your destination if you drive 75 mph? (No calculators, please! 😊)**

- About 30 minutes
- About 15 minutes
- About 8 minutes (Correct Answer)



# TRAFFIC SAFETY Huddle



**How can you keep yourself and passengers safer when encountering someone who is speeding?**

- Buckle up. Don't start the vehicle until everyone is using their seatbelt.
- Move out of the way of the speeding vehicle and let them pass.
- Avoid eye contact with the "speeder." Do not engage.



**On a 5-mile trip through an urban area with a 40-mph speed limit—assuming all intersections are clear and the lights stay green—if you are driving 50 mph you will arrive *90 seconds sooner* than if you obeyed the posted Speed Limit. Who will be at risk during this 5-mile trip?**

- Driver and passengers
- Pedestrians and bicyclists
- First responders and work zone crews



**When should I drive under the speed limit?**

- When road or weather conditions make driving more challenging
- While passing a school that has just let out, a busy playground, neighborhood street event
- When driving near an emergency vehicle
- Road construction

## OPTIONAL HANDOUT

### Collisions Tip Sheet

If time allows, discuss this speeding and collisions tip sheet, or share with employees as a follow-up.

[https://txdrivingconcern.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Be\\_Responsible\\_on\\_the\\_Road\\_Tip\\_Sheet.pdf](https://txdrivingconcern.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Be_Responsible_on_the_Road_Tip_Sheet.pdf)

## SUMMARY

- Helping employees understand that safe driving practices spill over into safe riding practices helps you keep them safe, both on-the-job and off.
- Understanding the risk involved when someone speeds and why there is very little advantage to speeding to get somewhere on time helps drivers re-think their decisions and make safer choices.
- Driving is risky, but you can help keep your employees safe while driving by reminding them to buckle up, do not speed, and drive to conditions.