



American Safety Council – New Jersey Safe Motorist Course Module 1 Review

TRAFFIC crashes cause numerous problems for the individuals involved and for society at large. Many people die or are injured on our roadways every day. This affects the individuals and their families, friends, employers, and coworkers. This has an economic impact on society as well, including increased insurance rates for everyone.

CRASHES can be reduced through the Three E's: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. *Education* includes Driver Education, Driver Improvement, and Public Safety Announcements. *Engineering* refers to safety equipment on the roadways (like Jersey barriers and crash barrels) and inside the vehicles themselves (such as air bags and seat belts). *Enforcement* indicates traffic law enforcement but even includes traffic routing assistance activities.

ALCOHOL and drugs hinder clear thinking. It should not be surprising, then, that the use of these substances while driving increases the risk of getting into a traffic crash. They also increase the odds of a crash being more severe. Alcohol and drugs should not be used while driving. Law enforcement uses a person's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) to determine if the person is driving with more than the legal amount of alcohol in their system. A person's BAC can be measured through the use of a breath test, a urine test, or a blood test.

OTHER hazardous risks include but are not limited to speeding, aggressive driving, and road rage. Speeding can be going over the speed limit, going too fast for the conditions, or racing. Speeding while using alcohol or drugs only compounds the problem further. The following are examples of aggressive driving behaviors: following too closely, speeding, inappropriate use of the horn, unsafe lane changing, endangering other people or property, improper passing, failure to obey traffic lights and signs, and failure to yield the right of way. Aggressive driving can lead to road rage. Road rage refers to physical assaults that result from a traffic dispute.

