

Communicating at the Wheel

SMARTdriving Series



Communicating with any person who is in possible conflict with your vehicle -- whether a driver, cyclist or pedestrian -- is essential to making sure that you are seen.

Preoccupied, or momentarily distracted drivers or pedestrians can be totally unaware of your presence. Gently tap on the horn to get their attention. Make sure, by eye contact, that the person sees you.

Getting eye contact as soon as possible will help to eliminate traffic conflicts.

Communicate with drivers behind you. Always use turn signals and brakes to alert others of your intended actions. Remember that the law requires turn signals be used for turns and lane changes.

Objectives for Communicating at the Wheel:

- Alert nonattentive drivers, cyclists and pedestrians with a gentle tap of the horn or flick of the lights to get eye contact.
- Turn on lights when visibility is low in order to be seen.
- Try to obtain eye contact with people when conditions dictate that it should be done.
- Give early signals for turns or lane changes and check to see if they are heeded.
- Don't position yourself in a blind zone of drivers to your left or right.

For additional information, visit <http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/>

