

SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Northwest Regional Council

1650 Port Drive

Burlington, WA 98233

(360) 428-1301 Fax: (360) 428-1302

Driver's Responsibility and Safety

Driver Safety Classes for Seniors

Completion of this class may qualify drivers for a discount on auto insurance.

AARP Driver Safety Class - 888-AARP-NOW (227-7669)

These 8-hour classes are held at senior centers and other community locations. The course costs \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Call to find a class near you or go to:

www.aarp.org/findacourse

Getting there Safely - Senior Driving Refresher Course

An 8-hour class divided into two 4-hour sessions. The course costs \$10 and is coordinated through Skagit County Public Works Department. For dates and locations, and to sign up for a class, call (360) 336-9400, ext. 3140.

Tips for Older Drivers

Work hard to anticipate trouble

Keep a three-second-safety cushion between you and the car in front of you. Know where you're going. Avoid driving in high-traffic or high-speed areas during rush hour and bad weather. Always be alert for the unexpected.

Focus on your driving so you have plenty of time to make decisions

Drive with a large "anticipation zone." Look down the road far enough to get a big picture of what's ahead. Turn off your radio or keep it at a very low volume. Don't drive when you are under stress. Ask passengers to help you navigate. Don't daydream or get into involved conversations.

Make sure you can see clearly

Get annual eye checkups. Clean the inside and outside of your windshield, windows, mirrors and headlights. Turn on your lights when driving in the rain or other poor weather conditions, no matter what time of day it is. Always turn lights on when driving at dusk and dawn. Have the aim of your car's headlights checked.

Take extra steps to be a cautious driver

Use your directional signals. Position your car in the proper lane. When necessary, use your horn to show your intentions. Check your mirrors frequently. Glance over your shoulder, and in your mirrors, before changing lanes.

Let your car protect you

Choose a car with an anti-lock braking system and learn how to use it. Use your safety belt each time you use your car. Keep wiper blades clean and in good condition. Learn the location of all displays and controls on your dashboard.

Evaluate your driving periodically

Take a driver refresher course. Ask family and friends if they have any concerns about your driving. Consult your doctor about vision, hearing and other physical changes that may affect your driving.

Reporting an Unsafe Driver

If you feel that someone you know is no longer able to operate a vehicle safely, you can complete a Recommendation for Driver Re-examination form. You can download the form from www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/reportunsafe.html, call Senior Information & Assistance to have the form mailed to you - (360) 428-1301, or pick up a form in person from the Department of Licensing, 1920 S. 3rd Street, Mount Vernon or 1005 Commercial Ave, Anacortes.

You will be asked to list the individual's full name and address; date of birth and driver's license number, if known; and list **specific** concerns or incidents relating to driving safety and responsibility. You will be asked to give your name, address, and relationship to the driver. The Department of Licensing will determine what steps are needed to evaluate the situation.

Send the completed form to:

Driver Services
Department of Licensing
PO Box 9030
Olympia, WA 98507-9030

If you see someone driving in an unsafe manner, call 911.

10 Signs of Hazardous Driving

1. Problems with interpreting traffic signs
2. Inappropriate judgment in traffic
3. Difficulty seeing pedestrians and other vehicles
4. Drifting into other lanes of traffic
5. Failure to change lanes when an obstacle appears
6. Failure to use signals when changing lanes or turning
7. Failure to yield right-of-way
8. Many moving driving violations
9. One or more fender benders or near misses
10. Turning from an improper lane or at an improper time particularly at intersections

<p>For information on Skagit County transportation options, call Senior Information & Assistance: (360) 428-1301</p>

Adapted from AARP, Alzheimer's Association, and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission