



Road safety guide



Your blood belongs to the nation, do not waste it in vain on the road

Introduction

More than 500 people dead, thousands of wounded and handicapped are the annual victims of traffic accidents in Lebanon with damages estimated to around 2 billion L.P.

Limiting the scale of this disaster is based solely on two simple rules: Scientific principles and moral values. Lacking any of these factors will turn driving from pleasure and safety into tragedies and sorrows.

Who didn't hear of the famous saying: «Driving is a combination of art and morals» and the question is «are we applying this saying while driving or are we just repeating it?».

Safety first and the safety of the roads depends on many factors mainly the attitude of the driver himself as well as his education, expertise, patience and commitment.

Anyone who is complying with the rules of safety and respecting and observing traffic law shall reach his destination safely. Thus let us endeavor to commit ourselves to the safe standards and preserve our safety in addition to the safety of others.

These factors have pushed the Army Command toward endorsing an annual plan aimed at limiting traffic accidents to spread awareness among the troops and displaying the negative impacts of these accidents over military and civilian vehicles.

In order to accomplish this objective, the military institution will be making this book available to the troops hoping that they stick to the moral values as well as the valid laws and regulations while driving vehicles for the sake of preserving their safety and public safety.

Your blood is the property of your country, do not waste it on the roads

Precious tears... and the cause a traffic accident



Statistical table of traffic accidents in Lebanon during 2013

	Number of traffic accidents	Injuries	Casualties
In Lebanon	2487	3128	513
In the Army	484	470	14

Driving is an art, good taste and commitment

**The causes are numerous
and the result never changes... a traffic accident**



Main causes of traffic accidents

- **The human factor:**

- **The driver:**

- Incompetence
 - Exhaustion
 - Incompliance with traffic law rules and regulations
 - Sudden illness
 - Physical incapacity

- **The vehicle factor:**

- Unserviceability of the vehicle
 - Lack of maintenance
 - Mechanical defect

- **The road factor**

- Planning defects and engineering defects
 - Insufficient warning traffic signs
 - Works, digging and pits...

- **Pedestrians**

- Disobedience of the traffic laws
 - Ignorance
 - Patients without assistance
 - Infants and old of age

- **Climate factors**

- Smog
 - Ice or snow
 - Heavy rains

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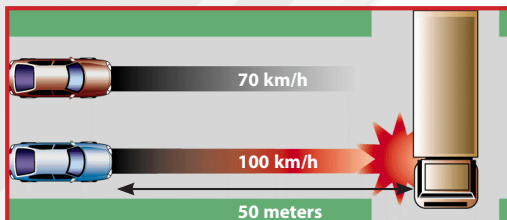
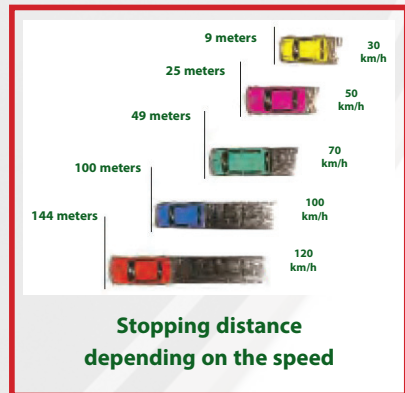
Do not accelerate, death will be waiting



Excessive speeding or inadequate speed due to the road or climate conditions

The more a vehicle accelerates, the more we might encounter the following outcomes:

- Decrease of the brain response speed that enables it to resort to the adequate reaction vis-à-vis any urgency.
- The vehicle shows an inability to stop at the proper time and distance.
- The Chassis and the safety systems fail to protect the passengers from injuries resulting of the crash.



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Short separating distance

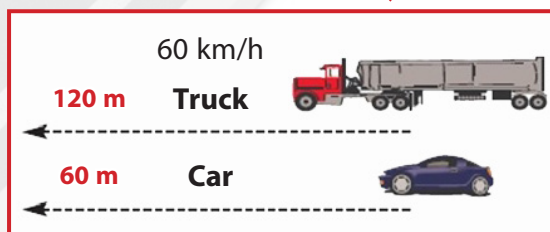
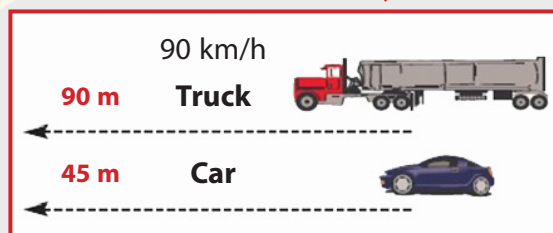
= Fast death or a long period of agony

Failing to keep a safe distance

The safe distance is the one separating a vehicle from other vehicles in front of it when traveling. Simple general rules are set to determine the approximate safe distance:



Type of the vehicle	In ordinary cases	In special conditions (rain – snow – smog...)
Heavy vehicles (Truck, bus, van)	On meter for every km/h	2 meters for every km/h
Light vehicles	Half a meter for every km/h	One meter for every km/h



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Fasten your seatbelt... dispose of any danger

Protect your head with the helmet

Driving without fastening the seatbelt and putting on the safety helmet

Studies show the following results:

- Fastening the seatbelt can increase the probability of surviving an accident by 50% and this percentage increases to 60% thanks to the airbags.
- 70% of accidents leading to death are the result of abstaining from putting the seatbelt at a distance that doesn't exceed 40 kilometers from the residence of the driver at a speed that doesn't surpass 65 km/h.
- Crashing at a speed of 20 km/h can also lead to death.
- Bumping into the dashboard suddenly at a speed of 50 km/h resembles a fall from the third story.
- Wearing a helmet is the safest and most efficient means to limit head injuries and all casualties resulting from motorcycle accidents since they limit the dangers that the drivers suffer from by 70% and decrease the potentiality of death by around 40%.

Putting the seatbelt and wearing the helmet are easy tasks



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Do not end your life with a click

Using the phone while driving

Using cellular phones while driving either to talk or to send text messages confuses the driver and slows down his response.



At a speed of 100 km/h we cross more than 28 meters in only one second. This distance and speed are sufficient for a child to appear or to dive in a pit or any other obstacle that may cause a horrific accident. A car accident in these conditions resembles a fall from a 13 story building.



Avoid answering a call while driving since you can always call back when the car is parked.

Hang over when you know that the caller is driving and call him back later.

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Driving while you are tired and sleepy... park the car and take a nap

Sleepiness and exhaustion while driving

Sleepiness and exhaustion while driving are both grave dangers that cause miseries. In case the driver feels sleepy he should park his vehicle at the nearest resting house or urban area or gas station to take a nap since it is well known that periodic breaks are essential while driving.



Driving is an art, good taste and commitment

Maintain your vehicle since your life is in its hands

Abstaining from making periodic maintenance and checkup

Providing maintenance to the vehicle is essential to ensure safe driving: Wheels, breaks, seatbelts, airbags, lights, blinkers, wind-shield wipers, oils, the engine and other parts of the vehicle turn into an imminent danger when these parts break down.



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Mistakes that are almost equal to sins



The effects of narcotics and alcohol



Placing a child in the lap of the driver



Neglecting maintenance and checkups

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Abide by the laws... and avoid dangers



Failing to abide
by the rules of intersections
and overtaking other vehicles



Failing to abide by the laws



Crossing the road without taking
the necessary security precautions



Failing to keep a safe distance
between vehicles

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Common mistakes... leading to death



Sleepiness and drowsiness while driving



Using the cellular phone while driving



Abstaining from wearing the helmet and putting the seatbelt



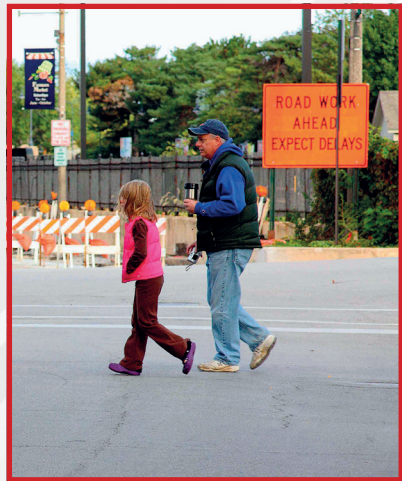
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Those who walk with confident steps, walk like a king!

Obligations of pedestrians

While crossing the road, pedestrians should:

- Commit to pedestrian passages inside cities and abide by traffic lights or directions of traffic police.
- Use sidewalks and if not available, commit to the extreme right.
- Commit to the sidewalk of the road facing traffic direction outside cities.
- Refrain from crossing the road from one side to another before ensuring it is free of vehicles.



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A little care saves a lot of suffering

Children and cars



**They belong in the back,
for their safety is a responsibility entrusted to you.**



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Health is not only with food

Traffic signs

Traffic signs – Good health



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Alcohol and narcotics



Any amount of alcohol may affect a person's ability to drive a vehicle. This is due to the fact that a person's alcohol tolerance depends on many factors including weight and age. Therefore, we cannot determine a minimum standard that can be considered safe to drive a vehicle, thus requiring the person to totally refrain from alcohol before and during driving.

Results of alcohol:

After 2 glasses:
looseness,
increase in talk

After 4 glasses:
unbalance,
unconscious
movement

After 5 glasses:
disrupted think-
ing, difficulty in
movement, slow
reaction

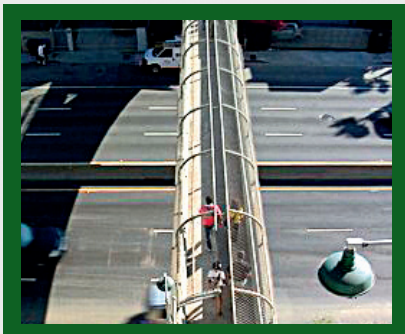
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Learn from the mistakes of others

Right



Wrong



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How to avoid street accidents

Driving a vehicle requires major care and attention. The driver should be:

- Always attentive to control the vehicle and perform all required maneuvers.
- Drive in a moderate speed, taking in consideration: the traffic intensity, the weather, the situation of the road and the type of capacity.
- Be patient and calm and refrain from having wrong and dangerous reactions.
- Leave a safe distance between his vehicle and the one in front of him.
- Refrain from executing any maneuver, drive in reverse or exit a parking or building before ensuring the possibility of that taking place with no risk.
- Refrain from making major speed or direction shifts without warning others.
- Refrain from stopping or trespassing on bridges, in tunnels, on intersections and where forbidden.
- Be constantly aware of the possibility of pedestrians or animals crossing the streets.
- Never drive in the opposite direction.
- Respect traffic lights and abide by the directions of the traffic officer.
- Keep the maintenance of the vehicle and fix any broken parts in order to ensure its preparedness.
- Refrain from driving the vehicle in cases of exhaustion, sickness, sleepiness, alcohol intoxication...
- Refrain from using the cellular phone while driving.
- Use blinkers in the right place at the right time.
- Refrain from using high headlights while meeting a car or while on short distance behind it.



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A signal to the wise driver is enough

Abiding by street signs

Connected line:

it is placed at unexposed turns.

While seeing this line, remember the following:

- Refrain from trespassing in this area as long as the line exists.
- Refrain from parking in this area on both sides.
- The line warns us from unexposed dangerous turns.
- The line warns us from different dangers.



Note:

if the connected line was drawn as only one line, it signals turns, danger or unclear view.

Connected double line: this line is placed in the middle of the street as a middle line to separate the street into 2 directions in exposed locations that can be dangerous.

While seeing this line:

- Refrain from trespassing on both sides.
- Refrain from parking.
- It warns from the existence of turns.



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«don't switch lanes, you would reach the hospital»

A discontinuous line between lanes

- No driving on the lines.
- No switching between lanes before ensuring it is safe to switch.
- Trespass on left lane only.
- Speed less than specified speed for right lane.



Pedestrian lines

This type of lines is placed in locations crowded with vehicles. This passage looks like a ladder.

When seeing these lines, remember the following:

- No parking for all vehicles
- No trespass.
- Stop 5 meters before reaching the pedestrian passage.



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Driver's safety ... belt and car's safety... off

The fire extinguisher

A fire extinguisher in the vehicle is a very important matter even if it wasn't used because the time might come where it might become the safety net and the preventive shield in order to extinguish fire in the car or save a human's life.

How to use a fire extinguisher:

- Park the car at the side of the road.
- Pull the safety pin.
- Choose the right place in a way where the driver's back is facing the wind.
- Lower your body when going towards the fire location.
- Aim the extinguisher towards the flames.
- Sweep the extinguisher from right to left and vice-versa until the flaming surface is extinguished.
- Refrain from aiming the material from the extinguisher into the middle of the fire.
- Cover the whole place until it is extinguished.
- Practical training on the use of the extinguisher.



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one mistake causes major damage

Deadly mistakes

Examples of deadly mistakes that a driver might make:



Not using a seatbelt for drivers of cars and a helmet for drivers of motorcycles.



Violating traffic rules.



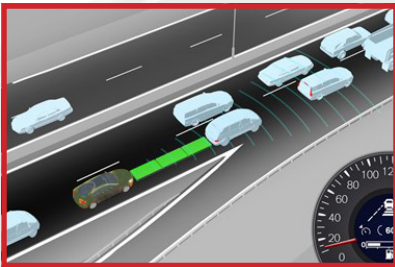
Driving in a speed that exceeds the legally specified speed limits.

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The first mistake, which might be the last



Driving recklessly from the right to the left.



Not leaving a «safe space» behind the vehicle in front of you.



Sudden turn or stop.



Not taking care of the car's maintenance.

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one mistake causes major damage



Leaving children unattended inside the car.



Parents allowing children to drive the car with the pretext of teaching or training them.



Driving the car with a kid on the driver's lap or on a passenger's lap, thus threatening the kid's life as a result of the major pressure forming on impact.



Leaving the keys in the car with the presence of children.

Driving is an art, good taste and commitment

The first mistake, which might be the last



Driving in the opposite direction or going into an opposite lane in order to cut the road short.



Making stunts while driving the motorcycle or driving on the opposite direction.



Rushing with the vehicle out of a sub-route into a main road before coming to a full stop and ensuring that the main road is clear.



Not using the blinker before turning.

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one mistake causes major damage



Driving quickly in reverse without taking the necessary precautions like ensuring there are no children or obstacles.



Extreme emotions and «lack of patience» and exhaustion are all factors that negatively affect the driver's behavior and consequently his reaction and the behavior of all the other drivers towards him.



Leaving children inside a tightly closed car under the burning sun.



Parking a broken vehicle on the highway without taking the required safety measures, mainly placing the reflective triangle in front of the vehicle and behind it in a way to allow other drivers to take safety measures.

Driving is an art, good taste and commitment

The first mistake, which might be the last



The individual lying under the broken vehicle in order to fix it while leaving a part of his body showing on the road, thus jeopardizing the safety of passing vehicles.



Speed during rain and snow and forming of ice and fog.



Driving Under the Influence: Exhaustion, sleepiness, hunger, anger, sever sickness, alcohol and narcotics.



Preoccupation while driving: eating and using the cellular phone.

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Regret is useless



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Mandatory traffic signs



Left turn ahead



Left only



Straight or left turn ahead



Keep right



Keep left or right



Roundabout



Hospital



Pedestrian crossing



Left or right turn ahead



No through road



Handicapped Parking



Parking

Prohibitory signs



Speed limit



No overtaking



No entry



No horns



No overtaking by lorries



No trucks



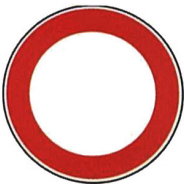
No parking



No stopping



No right turn



No motor vehicle traffic



Stop



Give priority to vehicles
from opposite direction

Warning signs



Curve to right



Double curve



Pedestrian crossing



Road narrows



Yield



School or Children ahead



Traffic lights



Roundabout ahead



Two-way road



Various dangers



Intersection – give way
to vehicles from the right



Dangerous intersection
to the left

Important Numbers


The Army Command	1701
The Lebanese Red Cross	140
Civil Defense	125
The Fire Extinguishing Brigade	175
Internal Security Forces	112

Note: this booklet is available on the Army official website:

www.lebarmy.gov.lb

www.lebanesearmy.gov.lb

Driving is an art, good taste and commitment

The background of the page is a stylized illustration of a grey road with yellow double lines, curving from the top left towards the bottom right. On the right side of the road, there is a red circular signpost with a white center. The sign contains text about the booklet's purpose.

This booklet is
placed by the Army
Headquarters in the
hands of troops with the
aim of educating them
in order to limit traffic
accidents and resulting
damage.

Driving a vehicle is an art, good taste and a commitment