



## Risk Management Best Practice

**Line of Business:** Auto

**Subject:** Defensive Driving

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is to help organizations understand defensive driving and how it can apply to a public entity.

### **Recommendations:**

*Conducting a web search under “defensive driving” will result in pages of course options and organizations across the country offering defensive driving courses. Many of these organizations exist to satisfy court ordered training requirements. This document will therefore focus on the training options offered through the National Safety Council (NSC), given their primary focus on preventing accidents and brand recognition.*

**Definition:** Defensive driving is defined by the NSC (adopted by ANSI/ASSE Z15.1) as “driving to save lives, time and money, in spite of the actions of others”.

**Principle:** Defensive driving is a concept that was developed by the NSC in 1964 to help prevent collisions by teaching drivers techniques that help anticipate hazardous situations, adverse conditions and mistakes by other drivers. Defensive driving is not designed to teach the mechanics of driving or the rules of the road.

**Training:** The NSC offers a variety of training options which include traditional classroom, online and self-study choices. In addition, specialized courses are available for truck, van, fire apparatus and ambulance drivers. The NSC will also allow any organization to become an authorized training agency. Depending on the course and the delivery option, courses are completed in a range from 2-8 hours.

The NSC does not offer a law enforcement specific course, but there are other organizations offering law enforcement defensive driving courses. However, the Department of Homeland Security does offer a course known as the *Law Enforcement Driver Instructor Training Program (LEDITP)*, see link provided under the Resources and References section.

**Benefits\*:** The primary benefit to any organization training their drivers in defensive driving is simply to prevent accidents and the subsequent claims. However, if defensive driving techniques are practiced, organizations may also realize savings in fuel costs through less speeding and rapid acceleration. Defensive driving can have a positive impact on vehicle maintenance costs (e.g. reduced brake and tire wear from

unnecessary hard braking).

\*Training staff in Defensive Driving does not guarantee a reduction in loss costs.

### **Resources and References:**

#### **National Safety Council Defensive Driving**

[http://www.nsc.org/products\\_training/Products/MotorVehicleSafety/Pages/DefensiveDriving.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/products_training/Products/MotorVehicleSafety/Pages/DefensiveDriving.aspx)

#### **National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course Grid**

[http://www.nsc.org/products\\_training/Training/driverimprovementtrng/Documents/DDC\\_Course\\_GRID.pdf](http://www.nsc.org/products_training/Training/driverimprovementtrng/Documents/DDC_Course_GRID.pdf)

#### **National Safety Council Specialty Vehicle Training -Ambulance, Fire Apparatus & Vans**

[http://www.nsc.org/products\\_training/Products/MotorVehicleSafety/Pages/SpecialtyVehicleTraining.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/products_training/Products/MotorVehicleSafety/Pages/SpecialtyVehicleTraining.aspx)

#### **Law Enforcement Driver Instructor Training Program (LEDITP)**

<http://www.fletc.gov/training/programs/driver-and-marine-division/driver-training-branch/law-enforcement-driver-instruction-training-program-LEDITP/>

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