Driver Distractions

* As drivers, we are faced with many distractions on every trip and being aware of these distractions can help you not get sidetracked by them
* Playing with the car stereo, or trying to change the radio station/cd can greatly increase your chance of a collision
* Other people in the car can take away your focus from the road ahead of you. When driving with passengers, keep conversations and noise to a minimum
* Distracted drivers take longer to react to changing road conditions: they fail to see other roads and vehicles, and may miss important signs and lights

I’ve experienced driver distractions firsthand already as I’ve only been driving for a short time. Before I got my permit, I didn’t see the big deal about talking with the person I’m in the car with, or putting the radio on, or pointing out random things I saw. Although, I always noticed that my parents never ate in the car while they were driving. Now, I know how distracting it can be, even though it seemed like such minor things before.

Brake Failure

* The brakes often fail when there’s little time to react
* To slow down as quickly as possible, take your foot off the gas first and then downshift to use engine compression to slow down
* You can also use the emergency brake while holding the release button or gradually apply the parking brake, but be careful not to lock up the back wheels
* Pumping the brake pedal can also build up pressure in the lines, providing at least some braking force, and if there’s time, use you hazard lights to warn other drivers

One time, I was at my cousins’ house when I was younger to spend the night. So the morning after, my uncle and one of my cousins came with to drop me off at home. Everything seemed pretty normal until I noticed that my uncle didn’t stop at a nearby stop sign. So I asked him why, and he simply told me calmly, “Don’t worry about it”. And I didn’t. We were on the expressway and there wasn’t any traffic thankfully, so my uncle pulled over to the shoulder and I noticed that we eventually came to a stop. I didn’t ask any questions when we stopped, and I saw my uncle step out of the car and call one of his friends to come and pick us up. He happened to be a tow truck driver, so we all got a ride from him. When I arrived home, my dad asked my uncle, “What took so long?” and he said that his brakes had failed

Motorcycle Safety