

Winter 2007 Road Rules

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code that may inform readers on the requirements of these sections and the penalties for violating these sections.

Winter weather can make road conditions especially hazardous. Safe spacing between vehicles and driving speeds may be affected by road conditions.

Section 3310 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code states: "The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway."

According to Section 3361, "No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing, nor at a speed greater than will permit the driver to bring his vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. Consistent with the foregoing, every person shall drive at a safe and appropriate speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad grade crossing, when approaching and going around curves, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway and when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions."

These two sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code work together in an attempt to solve many collisions. The basic premise is that each driver must give enough clear distance between his or her vehicle and the vehicle in front to assure safe stopping. The second section involves driving a vehicle at a speed which may be unsafe for the conditions. Both of these sections indicate that the vehicle, traffic conditions and highway conditions may affect the ability to safely drive. A simple rule of thumb for following a vehicle ahead is to allow four seconds between your car and the front vehicle. Remember, even though there may be a posted speed for a roadway, if the highway conditions, or your vehicle condition are poor, then that speed limit may not be correct for that given day.