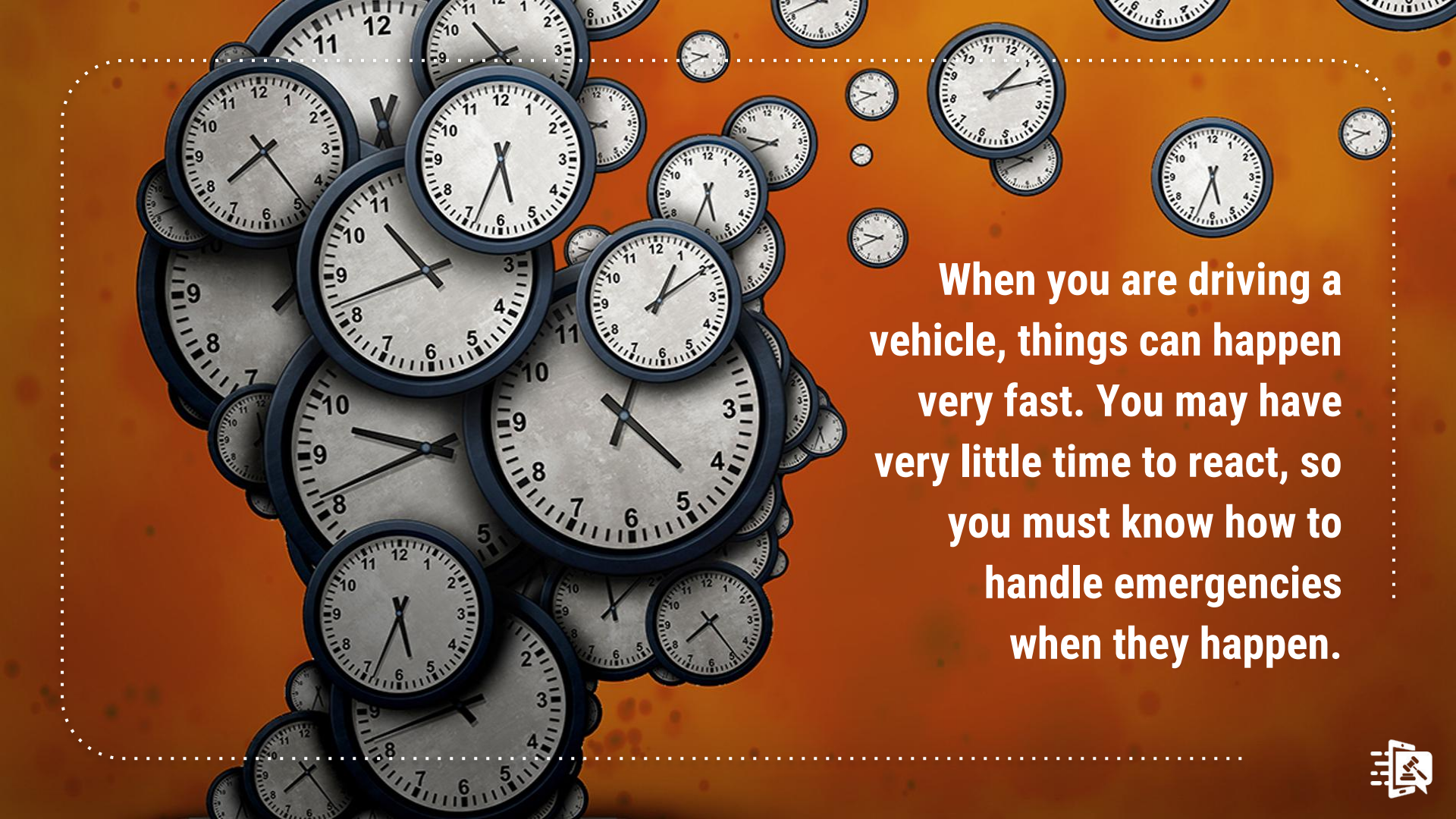




DRIVING HAZARDS


Instructions: Use the arrows or swipe left / right to browse through the slides. (The slideshow will autoplay unless you click the PAUSE button.) When you have completed your review of all slides, click on the X in the upper right corner of the presentation to return to your lesson.





When you are driving a vehicle, things can happen very fast. You may have very little time to react, so you must know how to handle emergencies when they happen.



A composite image showing a driver's perspective. The top half shows a hand on a steering wheel with a gold watch. The bottom half shows a hand holding a smartphone with a dial pad on the screen. A dark blue text box is overlaid on the right side.

The worst hazards to safe driving are cell phone usage, weather, alcohol, drowsiness, aggressive behavior, unintended acceleration, eating, and/or drinking while driving. There is no way to eliminate all potential hazards when driving, but you can better prepare yourself to handle the emergency should it present itself.



Before you start your engine, always remember:

- ★ Never drive impaired.
- ★ When approaching your parked vehicle, look in front, under, and behind – looking for objects in your path.
- ★ Adjust your seat cushions and mirrors.
- ★ Verify that all occupants are wearing seat belts.
- ★ Eliminate distractions prior to driving.



Avoiding Collisions

There are four factors that contribute to the majority of collisions in the United States:

EQUIPMENT FAILURE

ROADWAY DESIGN

POOR ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

DRIVER BEHAVIOR

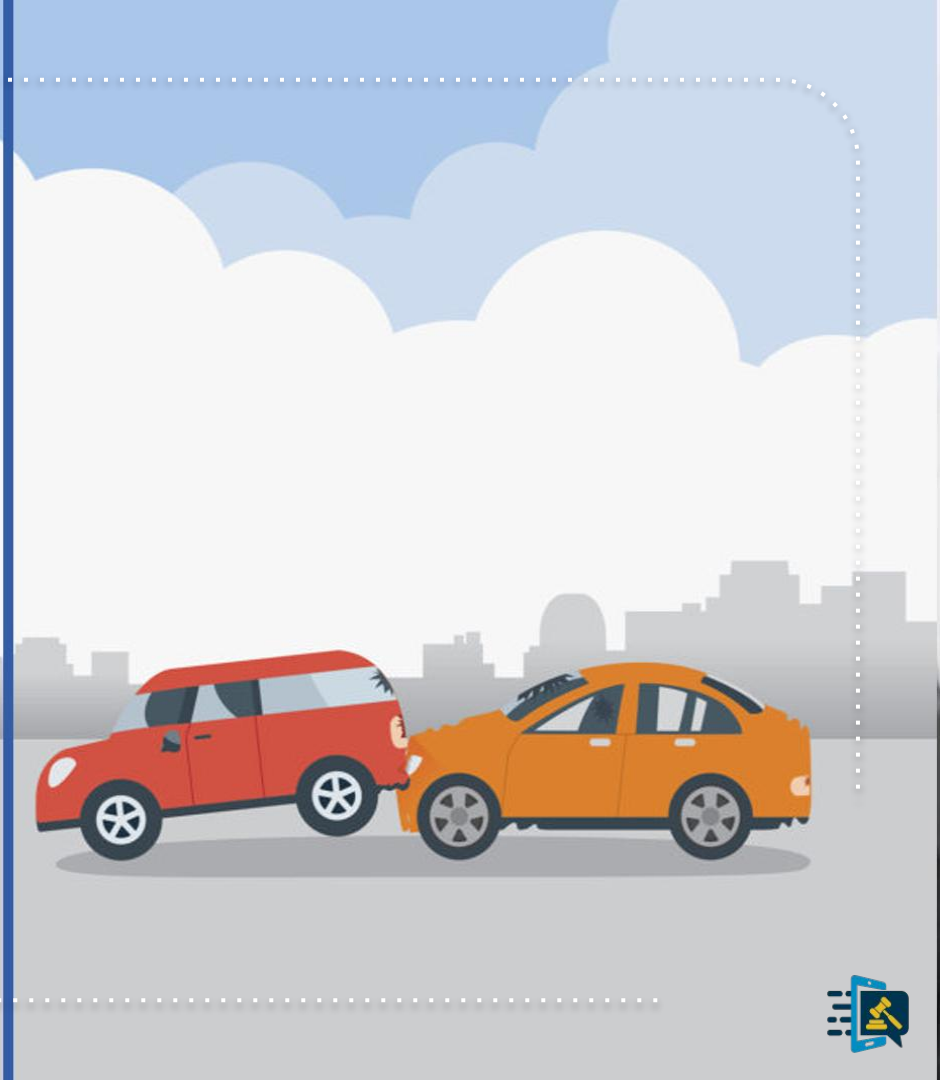


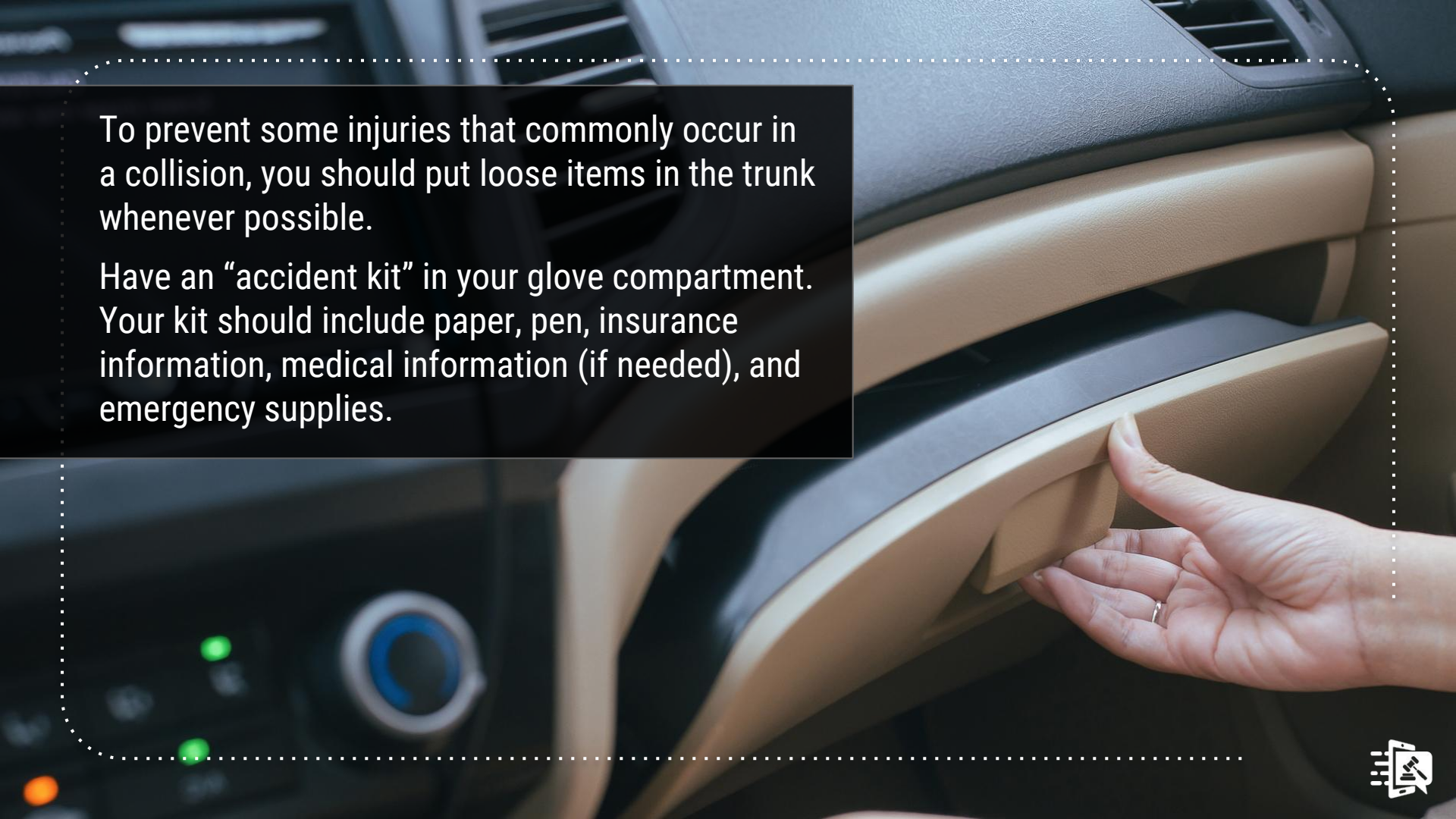
1. **Equipment Failure** (brakes, unsafe tires, steering, and suspension)
2. **Roadway Design** (traffic control devices, roadway surfaces, weather, road hazards, and traffic flow)
3. **Poor Roadway Maintenance** (debris on the highway, potholes, and construction)



4. Driver Behavior

Distracted driving, speeding, tailgating, aggressive driving, unsafe lane changing, failure to signal, and failure to give the right of way. (In 95% of motor vehicle accidents there was some factor of driver behavior combined with one of the other three factors that caused the accident to happen. Even with the best defensive driving behavior, unfortunately, there are some occasions that an accident cannot be avoided. In the few seconds that you have before a possible crash, try not to panic. Reacting properly and quickly can help you avoid crashes or at least minimize the damage.)



A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching into a car's interior to open the glove compartment. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with fingers gripping the beige plastic handle. The glove compartment is partially open, revealing a dark interior. The surrounding car interior features beige and black plastic trim. In the background, a circular air vent with a blue ring and some illuminated green and orange buttons are visible. A semi-transparent dark grey box with a white dotted border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing two paragraphs of white text.

To prevent some injuries that commonly occur in a collision, you should put loose items in the trunk whenever possible.

Have an “accident kit” in your glove compartment. Your kit should include paper, pen, insurance information, medical information (if needed), and emergency supplies.





Know your vehicle and its braking system! If you have a manual (disc) brake system, do not brake hard and hold. This locks the wheels and puts the car into a skid.

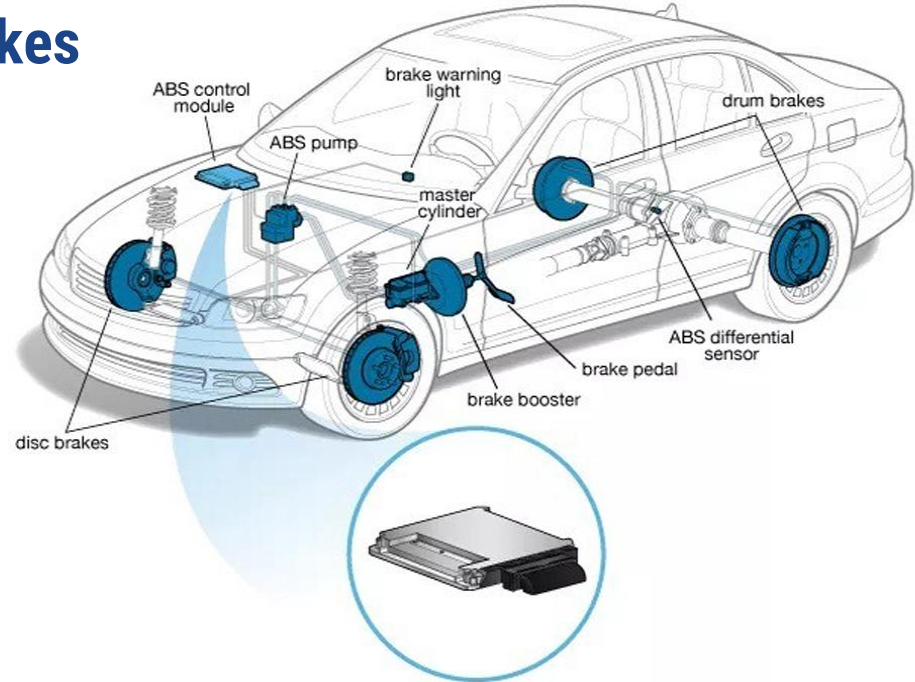


To stop quickly in an emergency, you should:

- ★ Pump the brake.
- ★ Push the brake pedal hard.
- ★ As the car begins to skid, quickly let up on the brake.
- ★ Then quickly push down again. Use this quick pumping action until the car is stopped.

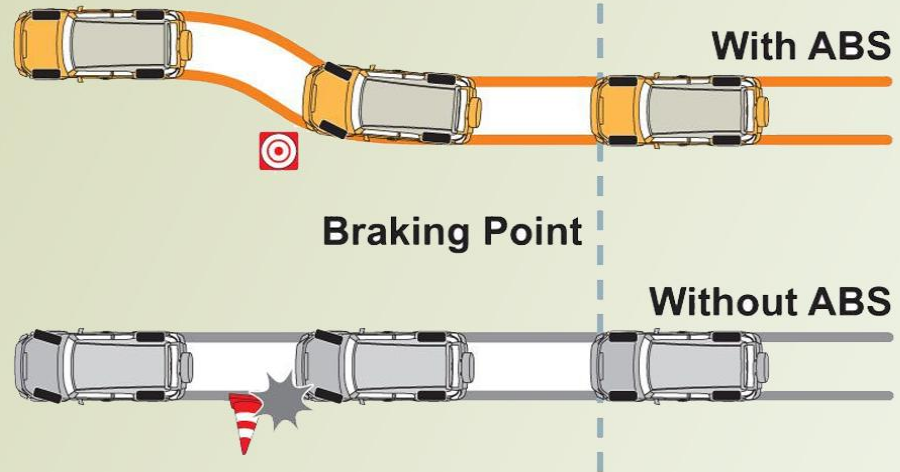


If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), when the brakes are pressed hard, the ABS pumps the brakes up to 30 times/sec. According to NHTSA, the ABS works with your regular braking system by automatically pumping them.



If your vehicle is not equipped with ABS, the driver has to manually pump the brakes to prevent wheel lockup.

In the ABS, this system helps you maintain control and stops the car in a straight line rather than spinning out of control. Focus on where you want the car to go.






ABS does not stop the car faster. It enables you to stop it where you want to by allowing you to concentrate on steering the car to safety.

To determine if your vehicle has ABS, check your owner's manual. You can also determine if you have ABS by checking your instrument panel. When you start your vehicle, the ABS light will illuminate and then dim. If you see an ABS indicator light then you have ABS. If the light stays lit, the ABS is not working correctly.



Turning quickly may be your only chance of avoiding a front end crash. If a crash looks probable, turn away from it even if it means leaving the road. Drive (rather than skid) off the road. Choose to hit something that will give way (such as brush or shrubs) rather than something hard.



A blue car is shown from a high angle, having crashed into a large, dense green bush on the left side of a road. The car is angled towards the bush, with its front end partially obscured. The road is paved and curves to the right. In the background, there is a grassy area with some yellow flowers and a concrete curb. A red-paved area with a white circular marking is visible on the right side of the road.

If you have to hit anything, try to make it a glancing blow. A sideswipe, for example, is better than a head-on crash. Never cross over into the oncoming traffic lane. The other driver may swerve back into his own lane.





Sometimes you may need to **speed up quickly** to avoid a crash. This may be the case when another car is about to hit you from the side or from behind. If your car has a manual shift, shift quickly into a lower gear and push the gas pedal to the floor. In any case, you may have only seconds to decide and act.

