

# EVASIVE MANEUVERS

## *Sometimes It Means Stepping on the Gas*

The old saying goes, “Drive with your brakes and not your horn.” but there’s a better one. “React with your steering wheel and not your brakes.” It means you’re better off steering out of a tight situation than jamming on the brakes and going into a panic skid.

Drive defensively and you’ll never cause an accident. Learn the techniques of evasive action and you can avoid the ones that would otherwise be caused by the mistakes of other drivers.

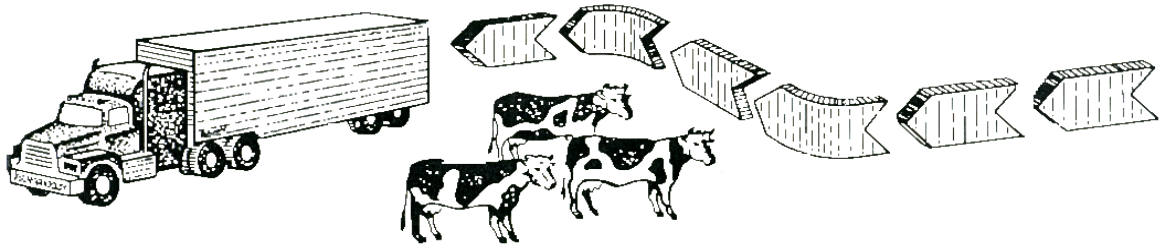
on the far left and right positions on the wheel. That gives you leverage to turn it 180 degrees in either direction while keeping both hands firmly engaged.

Be prepared to swerve sharply and then return the wheel to its normal position as quickly as you swerved. Guide your vehicle back on to the path it was following before the emergency.

Your vehicle is a lot more maneuverable than you think. You may hesitate to leave the

hitting something. Even then, you may have some choices.

Choose something that’s going your direction over one that isn’t moving. Pick a stationary target over one that’s coming at you. Choose a target that will absorb energy, such as a parked car, over one that’s rigid, such as a wall. And, if you do hit an unmoving target, sideswipe it rather than hit it head-on.



### **Maintain an Escape Route**

The key is to keep an escape route open in all situations. Don’t let yourself get boxed in with nowhere to go.

If someone makes a wrong move, you’ll be prepared to go left or right rather than having to stop dead in your tracks. If you’re clear on both sides, you’ll have a choice.

On a two-lane road, your escape route will always be the right, off the roadway. Watch for roadside hazards that will make this difficult. Avoid meeting up with oncoming cars at points where you have no room to maneuver.

### **Swerve If Necessary**

You may have to swerve abruptly to miss something in your path. Drive with your hands

road, fearing you won’t be able to get back on. It’s easier than it looks in many cases and, every if you do get stuck, it’s better than having an accident.

### **When to Speed Up**

Sometimes you can get out of a jam by speeding up. If you find yourself in an intersection and someone is coming toward you from the side, you may have better luck stepping on the accelerator and continuing through rather than slamming on the brakes.

Chances are, if you did brake, the car would hit you anyway and you would run the further risk of being hit from behind at the same time.

### **Making a Hard Choice**

Sometimes you can’t avoid

### **Stab the Brakes**

If you have time to hit the brakes for an instant before swerving, it will make the evasive maneuver easier to execute. And if you lack an escape route, you may have to use the brakes. But instead of jamming them on, use the stab braking technique. Stab the brakes firmly but let go before they lock. Do it repeatedly until you’re slowed down. You won’t lose control and won’t skid.

If you drive defensively, keep an escape route available at all times, and know what to do when danger suddenly jumps into your path, the chances are good that you can maintain an accident-free driving record.