

Inattention and Car Crashes

# Demonstrate how easily the steering wheel can be moved in the driver bends down to pick up something off the floorboard

Supplies: Pencil; golf ball; golf tee; tennis ball; tape; sheet of paper; cell phone; bottle of soda or water; newspaper or map.

Instructions:

* Tape the golf tee to the eraser end of the pencil.
* Make a small dot in the center of the sheet of paper.
* Place the paper on a student’s desktop.
* Ask the student to use their left hand to hold the pencil perpendicular to the paper with the pencil point on the dot.
* Place the golf ball on the tee that is taped to the pencil and instruct the student to keep the ball on the tee.
* Place the tennis ball on the floor touching the front of the student’s right shoe.
* Direct the student to pick up the tennis ball. Point out the movement of the pencil and the golf ball.
* Re-set the pencil and golf ball and place the tennis ball further away from the student’s shoe.
* Again, direct the student to pick up the tennis ball.
* Roll the ball from left to right under the chair and have the student stop the ball.
* Repeat this demonstration with several students.
* Explain:
* The movement of the pencil, along with the golf ball falling off the tee, represents unintentional movement of the steering wheel. Point out that at 60mph, each inch of the pencil movement would represent one lane change per second. If the pencil moves three inches, the vehicle is three lanes over in one second!

# Analyze crash statistics to reinforce good driving habits.

Supplies: Population statistics from a town or city; facts and figures on highway safety; calculator.

Instructions:

**Facts and Figures sheet (DR Teacher Edition , 10th Ed. p. 12)**

**Responsible Driving pp 8-9**

1/9 = accidents

1/83 = disability or death

Based on the numbers provided in the book

Death rates:

13 fatalities per 100,000 for males aged 16-19

6 fatalities per 100,000 for females aged 16-19

Calculator Instructions:

Have the students calculate the number of students statistically that will be in a collision or killed

DRIVE RIGHT EXAMPLE:

13 (males) X \_\_\_\_n\_\_\_\_\_

100,000 250,000 (Population of city)

n= the number of male students that may not survive the year

RESPONSIBLE DRIVING EXAMPLE

x = n = 3.3 if you will be in a collision this year