

Tips for Safer Night Driving

Every year, the Green Tree Volunteer Fire Company responds to hundreds of vehicle collisions on both the Parkway and the streets of the community. Many of these incidents occur at night when visibility is low and variables such as speed, improper vehicle lighting and driver distraction come together with tragic consequences. Here is some advice to help keep you and your passengers safer while driving after dark:

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working order, especially your lights and brakes.
- Dirty, pitted, or fogged windshields will definitely reduce your already limited night vision and increase the glare of oncoming headlights. Clean your windshield inside and out (smokers especially). Make sure the windshield washer reservoir is full. Windshield wipers should be clean and free of defects
- Clean your headlights or consider have them professionally restored if they have become cloudy or scratched. Dirty or worn headlights may reduce your night vision dramatically
- After experiencing glare from an oncoming vehicle, gradually let off the gas, look to the right slightly, and resume normal driving after the vehicle passes. The average person needs 10 seconds to recover from glare, and this time increases as people age. The average driver will travel about 1/4 mile with limited vision when traveling at 60 MPH at night after experiencing glare
- Reduce the intensity of your dashboard lights (eliminates glare into the eyes or onto the windshield)
- Slow down! At night, the eyes lose the ability to distinguish color, determine depth perception, and determine contrast. By reducing your speed, you give your brain and body the extra time needed to make proper decisions and maneuvers
- Never operate a vehicle after consuming alcohol or taking medications that may slow your response time or cloud your judgment



As your friends and neighbors, we at the Green Tree VFC care about you and want you to be safe. We always look forward to seeing you...but never at the scene of an accident. Please drive responsibly and make every effort to reduce your risks on the road.