



# *ROAD* EMERGENCIES

8th Grade Curriculum







# Why Talk About Road Emergencies?

**Emergencies can happen to anyone, anywhere — even if you're not the one driving.**

**Whether you're a passenger or a future driver, knowing what to do can keep you and others safe.**



# *What Counts as a Road Emergency?*



**Not all emergencies look dramatic,  
but they can still be dangerous.**

**Some examples:**

- Flat tire or car breakdown
- Car crash, big or small
- Fire or smoke
- A hazard in the road
- Medical emergency in the car
- Spotting another emergency on the road





# How to Get Help

In an emergency situation, always **CALL 911** first. Dispatchers will ask you questions and get help on the way fast.

- Call a trusted adult **AFTER** you've called 911 in an emergency.

Some drivers have **ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE** services through insurance or other providers. Check with your parent, and if you have roadside assistance, keep the number in your phone and in your car.

- Call roadside assistance for flat tires and other situations that are not emergencies.



# Be ready to say:

WHERE YOU  
ARE OR WHERE  
YOU SAW THE  
EMERGENCY

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
OR WHAT  
YOU SAW

IF ANYONE  
IS HURT

IF ANY  
VEHICLES ARE  
BLOCKING  
TRAFFIC





# *Make Way* **for Emergency Vehicles**

**Seconds count for emergency responders — and your actions help. Arkansas law requires motorists to “move over” for police cars, fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles using a siren or air horn and a red or blue flashing light.**





Don't hesitate to pull over when you hear sirens or see flashing lights in any direction.

---

Pull over to the right edge of the road, or as near to the right as possible.

---

If you are in an intersection, go ahead and drive through it before pulling over.

---

Stay stopped until the vehicle passes.

---

Don't try to "outrun" or follow it!



# What About *Stopped Emergency Vehicles?*

If you see a law enforcement vehicle with lights on stopped on the side of the highway, **IT'S THE LAW** in Arkansas to move over to the furthest lane away from them if possible.

This law protects police officers and individuals involved in the traffic stop from being injured or killed by traffic moving too close to the edge of the highway.







# Seeing a Crash or Road Hazard

If you see a crash or road hazard while driving, you can help protect yourself and others by reacting quickly and smartly.

- Slow down and pay attention.
- Don't stop or stare — rubbernecking causes more crashes.
- Watch for people in or near the road.
- Call 911 if no one else appears to have done so.



# Dealing with Emergencies As They Happen

---

**Sometimes, you are the one dealing with a road emergency.**

**Here are some examples and what to do if they  
happen to you. Don't worry, you've got this!**



# Tire Blowouts

Tire blowouts can be loud and startling. Do your best to keep calm and follow these steps:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow down gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal and use the brakes lightly.
- Do not stop on the road if possible. Pull off the road in a safe place.
- Call a trusted adult or roadside assistance for help.



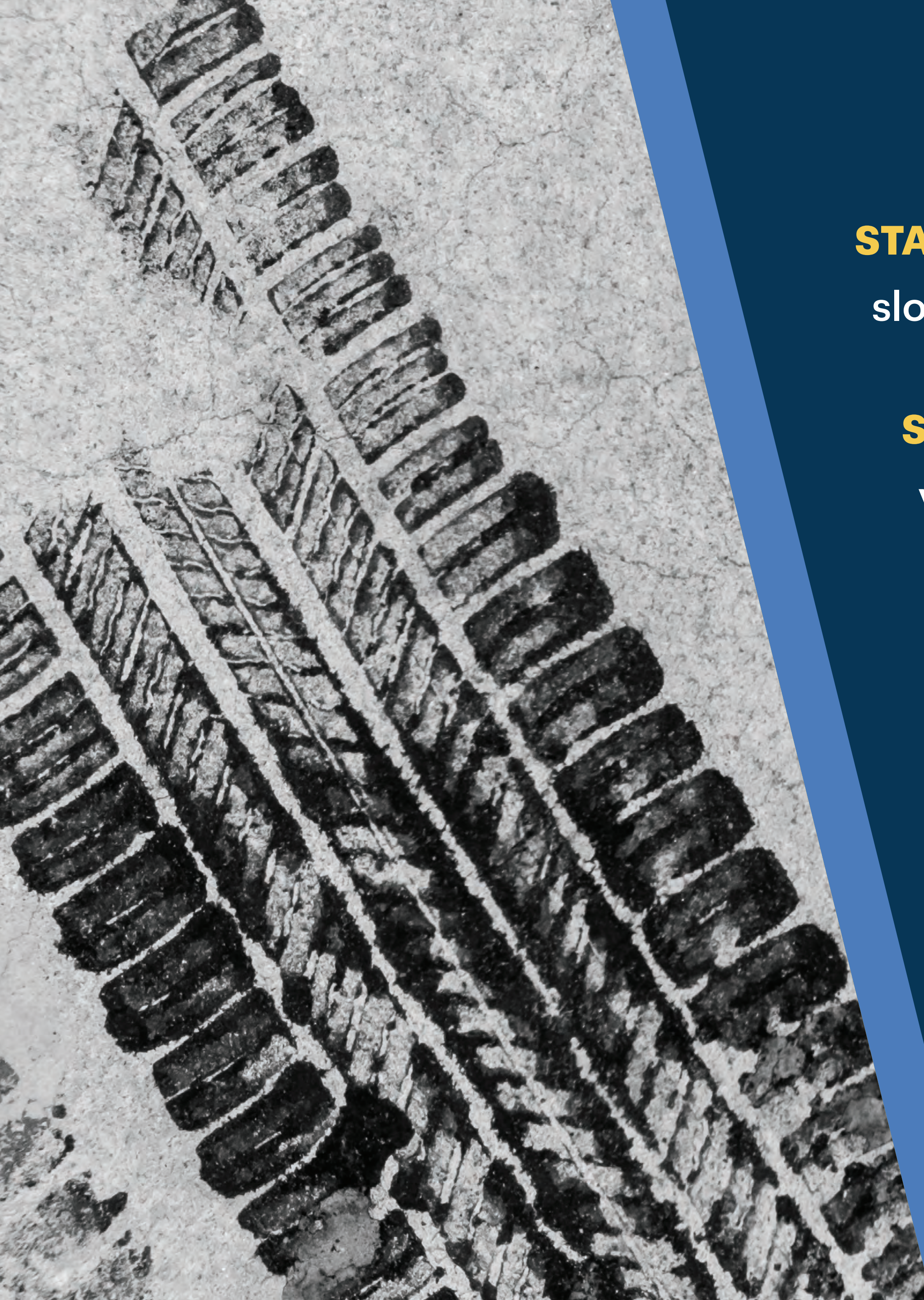


# Skids

Skids are caused when tires can no longer grip the road. Most skids happen when drivers are traveling too fast for the conditions, especially when roads are covered in water, snow or ice.







**STAY OFF THE BRAKE.** Your brakes will not work until the vehicle slows down. Your vehicle could skid more if you hit your brakes.

**STEER.** Turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the vehicle to go. As soon as the vehicle begins to straighten out, turn the steering wheel back the other way. If you don't turn the wheel back the other way, your vehicle may swing around in the other direction and start a new skid.

**CONTINUE TO STEER.** Continue to correct your steering, left and right, until you regain control of the vehicle.

**PULL OVER SAFELY** if you need a moment to calm down after a skid.





# Brake Failure

## If your brakes stop working:

- Pump the brake pedal several times. This will often build up enough brake pressure to allow you to stop.
- If that does not work, use the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle slowly or slowly press the emergency brake pedal so you will not lock the rear wheels and cause a skid. Be ready to release the brake if the vehicle does start to skid.
- If that does not work, start shifting to lower gears and look for a safe place to slow to a stop. Make sure the car is off the roadway.
- Call a trusted adult or roadside assistance for help.



# *Engine Failure*

**If your engine fails, your car will lose power, but you can still get to safety.**

- Keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. Be aware that it may be difficult to turn, but you can turn it.
- Pull off the roadway. The brakes will still work, but you may have to push very hard on the brake pedal.
- Call a trusted adult or roadside assistance for help.







# Fire or Smoke? Act Fast!

**A car fire can spread quickly!  
If you see fire or smoke, take  
action immediately.**

- Pull over and turn off the engine.
- Get everyone out right away.
- Move far away from the vehicle (100+ feet).
- Call 911 and do not go back for anything.



# Avoiding Collisions

When it looks as if a collision may happen, many drivers panic and fail to act. Do your best to stay calm and choose the best option for your situation:

## STOP

Press the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep pressing it. Grip the steering wheel tightly.

## TURN

Move the steering wheel in either direction to get out of the way of the collision. In general, it is better to run off the road than to hit another vehicle head-on.

## SPEED UP

Sometimes, you can escape a collision by speeding ahead. Press the accelerator and grip the steering wheel.





# Traffic Crashes

No matter how well you drive, there may be a time when you are involved in a crash.

If you are involved in a crash, **YOU MUST STOP.**

If you are involved in a crash with a parked vehicle, you must try to **LOCATE THE OWNER.**





**Crashes can be scary,  
but being prepared  
for what to do helps.**

## **HERE ARE SOME STEPS TO FOLLOW:**

1. Stop your vehicle at or near the accident site. Move it off the road, if possible, so it does not block traffic.
2. Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicles.
3. Call 911 for help. Give the dispatcher a precise location of the crash scene and provide any warnings such as gas spills, fire or downed electric lines.
4. If you need to exit the vehicle, do not stand or walk in traffic lanes. You could be struck by another vehicle.



5. If there are electrical wires down, do not go near the wires.
6. Check yourself and others for injuries. Help anyone who cannot move or anyone who is unconscious.
  - Check for breathing, then check for bleeding. If there is bleeding, apply direct pressure to the wound.
  - Do not give the injured anything to drink, even water, until medical personnel is on the scene.
  - To prevent an injured person from going into shock, cover the individual with a blanket or warm clothing such as a coat or jacket.
  - Do not move the injured unless they are trapped inside a burning vehicle or in another immediate form of danger.







**After the crash, there are a few important things to take care of.**

## Keep a Record of Crash Information

- Get the names and addresses of all the people involved in the accident and any witnesses. Make sure to get the names and addresses of anyone who was injured.
- Exchange information with other drivers involved in the crash — name, address, driver's license number, insurance company and policy number, vehicle information such as license plate, make, model and year.
- Record any damage to the vehicles involved in the crash. Take photos if possible.
- Provide information to the police or other emergency officials if requested.



# Emergency Kits = Road Ready

A little preparation can make emergencies way less stressful.

Put together a basic car emergency kit and keep it in your vehicle.

- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Blanket
- Water/snacks
- Phone charger
- Hazard triangle or flares





# *NOW THAT'S* **STREET SMART!**

What is a road  
emergency situation  
you feel more confident  
dealing with now?

8th Grade Curriculum

