

ACCIDENT?

Is there such a thing as an accident? If you think about this subject, I do not think very many accidents are really accidents at all. An accident is defined as 1. An unexpected happening, or 2. An unfortunate occurrence, or 3. Chance. I look at it this way; if two people are traveling on the same highway, then it is not chance. If one or both are doing something wrong, such as... talking on a phone, speeding, tail gating, or otherwise just not paying attention then an accident is not really an accident, is it? One could also say this could not be an unexpected happening, right... with either doing something wrong. An unfortunate occurrence is the only possibility. Does a blow out fall into any of these? I believe only a very few times does this happen. A blowout due to tire neglect is not an accident, a blowout due to a road hazard is. If the “unexpected motorist” is paying attention and not lolly gagging then they may have avoided the unexpected.

I believe that we all have the responsibility to do the right thing. If this is so why do we do the irresponsible thing? If we all follow the rules set up for us then things would be so much easier for everyone. I hear that the world would be very boring if everyone did the responsible thing... and So What! That is something people say to excuse what they are doing wrong.

What about rights? I believe we all have the right to expect others to do the right thing. There is a fine line between what I believe is right and what some others believe is right. But, the basic idea of right is fundamental. Is driving a right? NO, it is a privilege and therefore can be revoked. It is not revoked enough. Sometime when the privilege is revoked people drive anyway. They should go to jail. I know, what about supporting the family? Well if the person was worried about supporting the family then they would not have done something to lose their driving privilege. Ok, ok, I know get off the soapbox.

So what about accidents? If you drive impaired in any way then anything you do “wrong” does not qualify the CRASH as anything other than a crash. Impaired can be drug or alcohol induced. It can be anger induced. It can be induced by cell phones, make-up, combs, or anything else that takes your focus away from performing your driving the correct way.

Consider this. If everyone drove in a responsible way then there would be fewer accidents. Accidents can only come through responsible driving. The next time you get angry with someone for making a mistake that interrupts your driving, and one you have made yourself before, remember that if you make a mistake from that anger then you have failed to be responsible. I say if you drive when you are angry, or impaired in any way, then you are a crash waiting to happen. The person that you kill or injure may be a member of your family.

Remember that the only way to arrive is alive.

Dan Smith, FL1-V, Jacksonville Beach, Florida