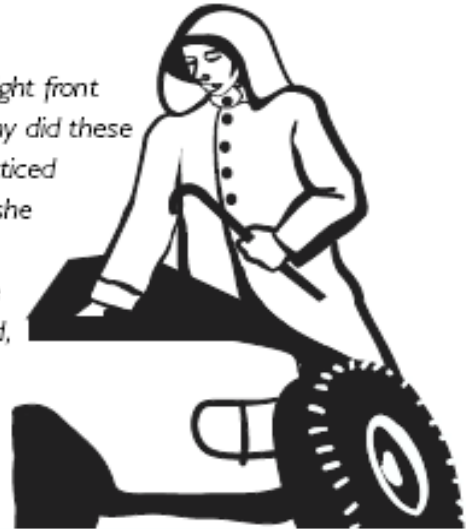


Could This Collision Have Been Prevented?

Without Warning

Sally was on her way home from her evening class when her right front wheel gave unmistakable signs of being flat. Sally groaned. Why did these things have to happen at night? It was a good thing she'd practiced changing a flat in her driveway. The shoulder was narrow, but she found a level spot and pulled over. She quickly removed jack, wheel blocks, spare tire and lug wrench from the trunk. As she paused to pull the hood of her jacket farther over her forehead, she heard a screech of brakes, followed by the thunderous crash of metal on metal. Her car was shoved sideways and forward, narrowly missing knocking her down.

The driver of the RV that had smashed into her car managed to steer off the road ahead of her. He turned on his flashing lights, jumped out and ran to her. "Are you hurt?" he asked. While she shook her head dazedly, a passenger emerged from the RV with two reflective triangles, and quickly placed them at the edge of the road, one right behind Sally's car, and one 300 feet further behind. "I'm so sorry," said the driver. "I didn't see you until it was too late."



1. What should Sally have done differently? _____

2. What defensive driving skills did Sally show? _____

3. What emergency equipment do you carry in your vehicle? _____

Answers:

1. Sally should have alerted traffic to her presence by using warning devices such as reflective triangles or flares. At the very least she should have used her flashing lights.
2. Sally demonstrated knowledge and foresight when she chose to learn how to fix a flat before she actually needed to do so.
3. Recommended emergency equipment for summer weather includes a spare tire, jack, wheel blocks, lug wrench, flashlight, warning devices, a tool kit, extra oil, coins for the phone, owner's manual, first aid kit and jumper cables.