Driving during a rotating blackout can be a challenge. It can challenge your patience and your memory! Sometimes it’s difficult to remember how to deal with the simplest of traffic situations when you’re hot, frustrated and in a hurry.

The tips inside will help you remember what to do if rotating blackouts occur in your community. Keep this brochure handy in your vehicle to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

Part of the “Watt’s” Going On, California? Energy Conservation Program sponsored by:

The League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
Local Government Commission
California Park & Recreation Society

Information for this brochure was gathered from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.
Inoperable Stoplights

- Treat the intersection as a four-way stop.
- If you reach the intersection at the same time as another car, let the car to your RIGHT proceed first.
- Remember: you are sharing the road with others who are feeling much the way you are. Be courteous and help each other out.
- Drive slowly through the intersection and make any necessary turns with care.
- Allow all other cars to clear the intersection before proceeding.

Ensuring Pedestrian Safety

- Pedestrians always have the right of way at corners, whether or not the crosswalks are marked by painted white lines or the crossing signal is inoperable.
- Stop for the safety of anyone crossing the street on foot.
- Be especially careful of any pedestrians using guide dogs or white canes. These pedestrians are partially or totally blind.

Safely Maneuvering Railroad Crossings

- NEVER go around or under any closed railroad gate.
- Stop at least 15 feet from the tracks.
- Never start across the tracks if there isn’t room for your vehicle on the other side.
- The same rules apply for both freight train crossings and light rail crossings.

In Case of an Accident—Information to Gather, Reports to File

- State law says the driver of any motor vehicle “who is in any manner involved in an accident” must report the accident to the DMV within 10 days if anyone was injured or killed, or if more than $500 damage was caused to any party’s property.

Information you will need:
- Date, time and location of accident
- Number of vehicles/pedestrians/cyclists involved
- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of each individual involved
- Nature of each individual’s involvement
- Insurance information for each involved party, i.e. insurance company name and policy number
- Nature of any injuries
- Damage to other property, i.e. telephone poles, fences, animals, etc.