



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Transportation

DRIVING AT  
**NIGHT**  
CAN BE DEADLY



The faster you drive, the more time and distance you need to stop, and the less time you have to react. At night, when you can only see as far as your headlights allow, the situation is worse.

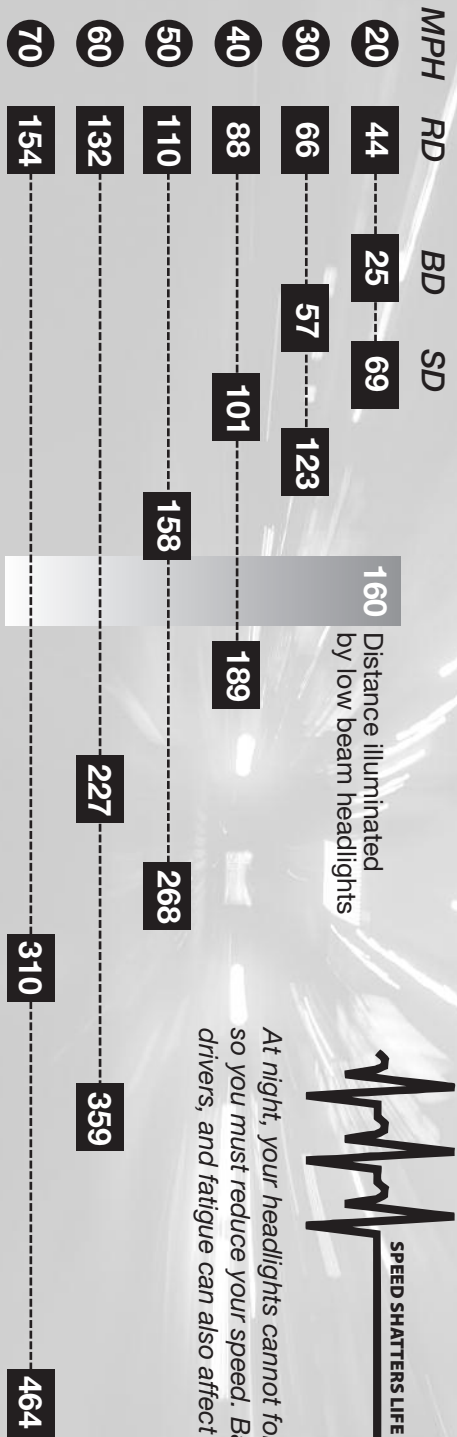
Your low beam headlights will allow you to see an object on the road about 160 feet ahead of your vehicle. Most drivers need about 1.5 seconds to react. You might be able to swerve and miss an object or person on the road, but you might not. If you are driving too fast, the consequences could be deadly! Take a look at the chart on back.



Illinois Department  
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Division of Traffic Safety

**MPH** - speed in miles per hour.  
**Reaction Distance (RD)** - how far you will continue to travel before you hit the brakes.  
**Braking Distance (BD)** - how far you will travel as you are braking.  
**Stopping Distance (SD)** - total distance you have travelled with everything considered.

**Reaction Distance + Braking Distance = Stopping Distance (in feet)**



SPEED SHATTERS LIFE

At night, your headlights cannot follow the curves, hills, and dips in the road, so you must reduce your speed. Bad weather, unexpected actions by other drivers, and fatigue can also affect your driving and what you can see.

**Notes:**  
Reaction time = 1.5 sec  
At 60 mph, vehicle travels 88 ft/sec  
Deceleration = 17.02 ft/sec<sup>2</sup>  
Stopping distance reaction = VoTr  
Stopping distance braking = Vo<sup>2</sup>/2d