LFS 2009 Ford Ranger (2WD, Automatic) – Quick Guide

This guide provides an overview of the operational requirements for the 2009 Ford Ranger, 2 wheel drive (2WD) automatic. Remember, when operating this vehicle, **you are representing the university**:

- **Drive safely, responsibly, and courteously** at all times.
- **Follow all traffic laws**, avoid aggressive driving, and prioritize the safety of passengers, pedestrians, and other road users.
- Treat the vehicle with care and ensure it is used in a manner that reflects professionalism and respect for university standards.

1. Before You Go

- **Seat Positioning:** Use the manual lever on the front of the driver's seat to slide back for maximum legroom.
- **Three-Passenger Limit:** While three can fit in this vehicle, the middle seat is quite small and is not comfortable or safe for longer journeys. The middle seat has a lap belt only.
- **Manual Controls:** Windows, doors, climate controls, and lights are all manually controlled. Familiarize yourself with these controls and make mirror adjustments before you go.
- **Visibility:** There is no backup camera or parking sensors.
- **Parking Brake:** To prevent strain on the vehicle's transmission, always engage the foot-operated parking brake (located to the far left of the driver's footwell) before shifting the vehicle into "Park," especially when on an incline. Pull the parking release, located above the foot engaged parking brake to release.
- **Headlights:**
  - **O -** lights off
  - **D≡ -** interior lights and running lights
  - **≡D –** low beams for normal use
  - **≡D + push signal indicator** – high beams
  - **Hazard lights** - located on top of steering wheel

2. Driving Dynamics (Rear-Wheel Drive)

- **Rear-End Lightness:** Most of the truck's weight is over the front wheels (the engine). So, without a weight in the bed, the rear tires have less traction. **Tip:** Be gentle on the accelerator pedal when pulling away from a stop, especially on wet or gravel roads, to avoid spinning the tires.
- **Braking Efficiency:** This vehicle is equipped with an early-generation ABS (anti-lock braking system). It has less powerful brakes that require a longer braking distance than normal.
- **Turning Radius:** The Ranger is nimble for a truck, but it still has a longer wheelbase than a small car. Take your turns a bit wider to ensure the rear wheels clear the curb.

3. Transmission and Powertrain

The vehicle features a column-mounted automatic gear-shifter.

- **Shift Sequence:** Standard operation follows the P-R-N-D-2-1 (Park, Reverse, Neutral, Drive, 2/1 are low gears) sequence. Ensure the vehicle is at a complete stop before moving the selector. Use D (drive) for normal use and low gears only if needed. 2 is second gear and can be used to help you start moving on slippery surfaces like mud or ice, while 1 is first gear and can be used to provide maximum engine braking and pulling power for descending or climbing steep hills.
- **Overdrive Function:** The button on the end of the gear selector engages/disengages Overdrive. For standard campus and highway transit, Overdrive should remain **ON** to optimize fuel efficiency. Disengage Overdrive only if the transmission frequently shifts ("hunts") while climbing steep hills with a heavy load.

4. University Administrative Protocols

- **Usage Logs:** Ensure you fill out the vehicle mileage form after every use of the vehicle and report any issues with the vehicle via the form or when returning your keys. Taking a photo of the mileage before and after is a good way to help remember your mileage.
- **Fueling Requirements:** Use **87 Octane (Regular)** gasoline. Please follow the guide for fueling up, located in the glove compartment.
- **Cargo Management:** Before departing, verify that all items in the truck bed are secured with straps or netting. Loose debris must be cleared to prevent road hazards and liability issues.

5. Safety and Liability

- **Visibility:** This vehicle lacks electronic driver-assistance systems (backup cameras, blind-spot monitoring, or lane-departure warnings). Operators must rely on consistent mirror checks and physical over-the-shoulder blind-spot verification.
- **Parking Brake Utility:** To prevent strain on the transmission’s parking pawl, always engage the foot-operated parking brake (located to the far left of the driver’s footwell) before shifting the vehicle into "Park," especially when on an incline.