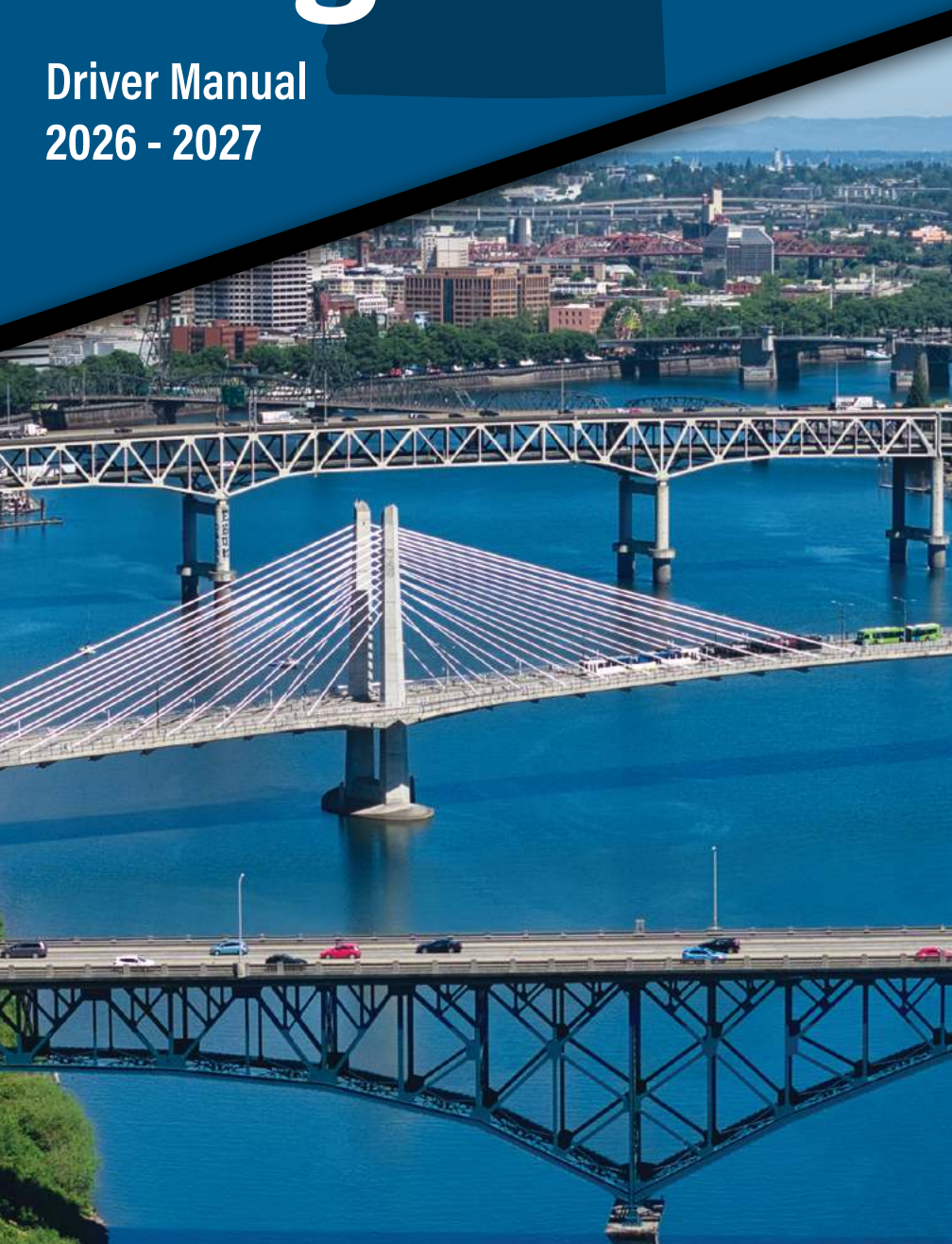
DRIVER AND MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

Oregon

Driver Manual
2026 - 2027



ID requirements for flying as of May 2025

- If you are 18+, you need a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial U.S. flight.
- A standard issue, non-REAL ID Oregon driver's license, instruction permit or identification card is no longer accepted.

Additional acceptable IDs include, but are not limited to:

- U.S. Passport or passport card.
- Foreign government-issued passport.
- U.S. military ID.
- Permanent Resident card.
- Federally recognized tribal photo ID.

Learn about your options at Oregon.gov/REALID



Oregon Department of Transportation

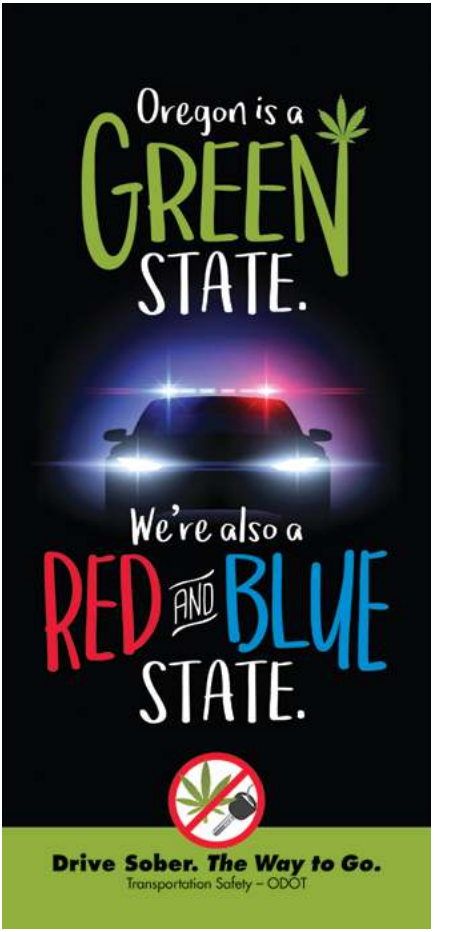
2026 – 2027 Oregon Driver Manual

Visit us at **OregonDMV.com**

Published by:

Oregon Department of Transportation
Driver and Motor Vehicle Services
1905 Lana Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon 97314

Front cover photo: ODOT Creative Services



The purpose of the Oregon Driver Manual is to help drivers prepare for Oregon licensing tests by providing a summary of rules of the road and safe driving practices.

This manual condenses and paraphrases selected language in the Oregon Revised Statutes. It also provides safety recommendations not included in law. This manual is not a source of law and should not be relied upon or cited as legal precedent in a court of law or other administrative or legal proceeding. Local governments may have additional ordinances not covered in this manual.

Table of Contents

Testing

Vision Test 1
Knowledge Tests 2
Drive Test 3

Study for Your Tests

Signs & Traffic Signals 7
Signs 7
Traffic Signals 15

Lane Travel 18
Speed Regulations 19
Pavement Markings 22
Maintaining a Space Cushion 26
Curves 30
Changing Lanes 30
Passing 31
No Passing 32
Freeway Driving 34
Driving a Large Vehicle or Towing 35

Turns & Intersections 38
Turn Signals 38
Turns 39
Intersections 42
Roundabouts 43

Sharing the Road 46
Pedestrians 46
School Zones 49
Bicycles 50
Motorcycles and Mopeds 52
Large Vehicles 53
School, Places of Worship or Worker and Public Transit Buses 55
Other Vehicles 56
Approaching Stopped Vehicles 57

Table of Contents *continued*

Emergency Vehicles....58
Police Stops....58
Work Zones....59

Railroad Crossings, Light Rail & Street Cars....63

Parking & Stopping....68

Safe & Responsible Driving....73
Defensive Driving....73
Safety Belts....73
Communicating With Other Drivers....74
Avoiding a Collision....74
Hazardous Conditions....76
Dangerous Driving Behaviors....80
Vehicle Equipment Failures....84
Fuel Saving Techniques....86

Other Important Information
How to Apply....89
Additional Services....92
Mandatory Insurance....93
Traffic Collisions....93
Loss of Driving Privileges....95
Contact DMV.... Inside Back Cover

Please check DMV's website OregonDMV.com for updates, office locations and hours, fees, and additional information.

Important message to drivers



The Oregon Driver Manual will help you learn the rules of the road and understand safe driving practices. New drivers are much more at risk because of their lack of experience behind the wheel. If you are learning to drive, one of the best ways to improve your safety is to get useful instruction and plenty of practice. This manual provides information about rules of the road that you will need to pass the knowledge test. If you already have an Oregon driver license, review this manual for new laws and safe driving practices.

Whether traveling by car, transit, bicycle, scooter or on foot, we all want to reach our destination safely. It is important to remember that driving is a privilege, and we all play a role in ensuring that everyone remains safe on our roadways. Each one of us has a responsibility every time we get behind the wheel of a vehicle to choose to be attentive, obey traffic laws, and share the road with other drivers, people riding bicycles and those who walk and roll.

Unfortunately, every day, too many drivers choose to drive distracted or in a careless way, risking the lives of themselves, their passengers, and other people sharing the road. Driving impaired - after drinking alcohol, using cannabis, or any other substance that alters your mind, or focusing on a phone or other electronic device instead of the road, or driving aggressively, puts everyone at risk. At best, you may lose your license. At worst, you may lose your life or cause someone else's death, including that of a loved one.

We need to look out for each other, share the road, and ensure that everyone reaches their destination safely!

Amy Joyce - DMV Administrator

1

Testing

To operate a motor vehicle on highways or premises open to the public in Oregon, you must possess a valid driving privilege. This manual only addresses requirements for obtaining a Class C non-commercial driving privilege.

For current information on requirements, fees, drive test scheduling and office hours, go to *OregonDMV.com*.

For an original driving privilege, DMV will test your vision, driving knowledge and driving skill.

Every time you take a test, you must first pay the test fee and present proof of identity, date of birth, and current residence address. You may take tests at most DMV Offices.

You must pay your test fee separate from any other fees.

Vision Test

DMV will test your eyesight to confirm you can see well enough to drive safely. If you take the test while wearing glasses or contact lenses, your driving privilege will indicate that corrective lenses are required. There is no fee for taking the vision test.

If you do not pass the vision test, DMV will give you a form to take to a licensed vision specialist.



Knowledge Tests

Class C Knowledge Test

This manual includes all the information necessary to pass this test. The test includes questions about road signs, traffic laws, and other information a driver needs to know. It has 35 multiple-choice questions. You must answer 28 questions correctly to receive a passing score. For current fees go to *www.oregon.gov/odot/DMV/Pages/Fees/Driver.aspx*

You have options to take the knowledge test! Online: Go to *DMV2U.Oregon.gov*, at any time; or at a DMV office, either standby service or with an appointment.

Guidelines for Taking a Knowledge Test in a DMV Office

- Only those being tested and authorized translators are allowed in the testing area.
- Knowledge tests are given on a touch-screen monitor. The test is available in several languages, with or without audio assistance. You may bring your own earbuds or headphones for the test.
- You cannot use a DMV manual, electronic devices or any notes to help you answer test questions. With permission, you may use a paper foreign language translation dictionary.
- If it is determined that you are cheating, you will fail your test. You will not be allowed to test again for 90 days. The following is considered cheating: talking, writing or note taking, cell phone use, operation of any electronic devices, or allowing someone else to take a test for you.
- If you fail a knowledge test, you may test again the same day, depending on the DMV office testing resource availability.
- If you require a special accommodation to take a knowledge test, please contact your local office.

Guidelines for Taking a Knowledge Test Online

- You must use a desktop or laptop computer with a keyboard, mouse and webcam.
  - » You cannot use a touchscreen device like mobile phones or tablets.
  - » Using the webcam, a clear photo of you will be taken at the start of the test. Random photos of you will be taken during the test to confirm your identity.
- If under 18 years of age, a Proctor over 21 years of age must supervise the test.
  - » A Proctor can only supervise two tests in a 24-hour period.
- You cannot use a DMV manual, other electronic devices or any notes to help you answer test questions.
- The test is available in several languages, with or without audio help.
- If you fail a knowledge test, you may test two times in a 24-hour period. You may take the test online four times total. After four attempts you must test at a DMV office.

Drive Test

During the drive (behind-the-wheel) test, you will demonstrate your driving skills and knowledge of traffic rules, highway signs, and signals. The test includes turning, backing up, parking, lane changes, speed control, signaling, vehicle control, and general driving ability. The examiner will sit in the front seat and give you directions. After the test, the examiner will discuss the results with you.

DMV may waive the drive test if:

- You are a new resident surrendering an out-of-state license that is valid or expired less than one year.
- DMV receives proof you completed an ODOT-Approved Driver Education Course within the past two years.

Drive tests are conducted by appointment only. DMV requires you to bring a passenger vehicle with current registration and valid proof of insurance. You must show valid proof of insurance for your vehicle before the drive test or you will have to reschedule the test. For current fees go to *www.oregon.gov/odot/DMV/Pages/Fees/Driver.aspx*

Rules and Guidelines for Drive Tests

- Only you and the examiner are allowed in the vehicle during a drive test. Translators, family, friends, or pets are not allowed.
- Remove weapons from your vehicle before taking a drive test.
- Turn off any electronic devices in your vehicle, including the radio and your cell phone.
- Remove objects from the dashboard and rearview mirror.
- If you fail the drive test, you must wait until the next business day before retaking the test.

Test Vehicle

The examiner will determine if the vehicle being used has the equipment required for the test. If your vehicle does not pass the equipment check, you will have to reschedule the drive test. Vehicle equipment that must be in working order for the test includes:

- The vehicle starts under its own power.
- Turn signals (front and back)
- Brake lights
- Horn
- Passenger door opens and closes with handle from inside and outside.
- Proper, secure and reasonably clean passenger seat.
- Seatbelts
- Tires are not bald or damaged
- Muffler has no excessive leaks or unreasonable noise.

- Display valid registration.
- Side view or rearview mirrors
- Nothing may obstruct the driver's or examiner's view to the front, side or rear of the vehicle.

If weather conditions require, your vehicle must have traction tires or chains, windshield wipers, headlights, taillights and a window defroster.

Test Appointments

If you need to take a drive test, you may go to *DMV2U.Oregon.gov* to schedule an appointment or call 503-945-5000. It's a good idea to schedule a minimum of three weeks in advance of the date you want to take your test.

You may also take a drive test through a certified Third Party drive tester. Third Party Testers can often schedule tests more quickly and at times or on days not available at DMV. Testing costs may be greater when using a Third Party Tester, however. Please visit *Oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/Pages/driverid/classctestingbusiness.aspx* for more information.

You must have held a permit for at least 6 months if you are under 18 years of age and applying for a driver license.

2

Study for Your Tests

Everything you need to know to pass your tests is located in this section. It is important that you study the material for each topic. Sample questions are provided to help you test your knowledge.

Signs & Traffic Signals

You must obey all official signs, signals, and markings unless you see a police officer or road worker redirecting traffic.

Signs

Signs often use symbols or pictures rather than words. Each type of sign has a special color and shape to help you easily recognize the sign at a glance.

Regulatory Signs—Prohibitive

Traffic signs that prohibit certain actions or movements are red in color and increase safety by controlling the flow of traffic through intersections.

Stop – Octagon: This sign means you must come to a complete stop. Yield to other vehicles and stop and stay stopped for pedestrians crossing in marked or unmarked crosswalks. When it is safe, you may enter the intersection.



Yield – Triangle: This sign means you should reduce speed and yield right of way. If needed, stop the same as you would for a stop sign.



Do Not Enter – Square: This sign warns you not to enter a road or freeway. You will see this sign if you are going the wrong way.



No Left Turn; No Right Turn; No U Turn: These signs prohibit certain actions.

When you see a sign with a red circle and a slash mark, it means do not make the turn shown.



Regulatory Signs – Other

Regulatory signs are rectangular with black words or symbols on a white background and tell you what to do. They are posted at or near where the requirement applies. Not all regulatory signs are shown here.

Speed Limit: This indicates the maximum speed in miles per hour. Signs may be electronic and may change based on current conditions.





One Way: Traffic flows only in the direction of the arrow.





Right Turn Permitted Without Stopping: This sign may appear below a stop sign. Traffic turning right may turn without stopping. Other traffic must stop and yield right of way.





Lane-Use Control: These signs are used where turns are required or permitted from lanes as shown.







Right Lane Transit Only: These signs are used in Transit Only lanes. Only transit vehicles (or people biking, if indicated on the sign) may continue straight through an intersection.





Right Turns Permitted: This sign indicates you can briefly use the transit lane to turn into a driveway, turn at the next intersection, or pull over to park along the curb where allowed. Always yield to transit vehicles and people riding bicycles in transit lanes. Merge into the lane behind them after they pass.



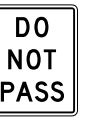
Keep Right: A traffic island, median or obstruction divides the road ahead. Keep to the right.



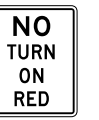
Center Lane Turn Only: Share the center lane for left turns from both directions.



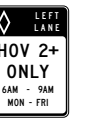
Do Not Pass: This sign indicates that you may not pass.



No Turn on Red: You may not turn during the red light. You must wait for the signal to turn green.



High Occupancy Vehicle: This lane is reserved for vehicles carrying at least two or more persons, as noted on the sign. A white diamond may be painted on the lane.



Left Turn Yield on Green: On a green circular signal, yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic and pedestrians until it is safe to turn.



Stop Here for Pedestrians: This sign may appear near a crosswalk. Stop at the stop line when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.



Warning Signs

Warning signs are yellow and alert you to known possible hazards or a change in road conditions ahead. As a driver, you are ultimately responsible for recognizing and reacting correctly to changing conditions, signed or not. Not all warning signs are shown here.

Pedestrian Crossing: Be alert for people crossing your path. These signs may include a flashing yellow beacon that indicates a pedestrian is crossing, has recently crossed or is about to cross.



Multiuse Path Crossing: People riding bicycles and pedestrians regularly cross the road in the area.



In-Street Pedestrian Crossing: This sign may appear at a crosswalk. Stop when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.



Curve: There is a curve ahead.



Sharp Turn: There is a sharp turn in the road ahead.



Chevron: A sharp curve or change in the direction of the road is at the sign.



Winding Road: The road contains a series of turns or curves.



Reversing Curves: The road ahead curves to the right, then left.



Crossroad: A four-way intersection is ahead. Cross-traffic may enter the road.



Side Road: A "T" intersection is ahead. Traffic may enter the road from the left or right.



Merge: Traffic is merging from the side shown.



Add Lane: Two roadways join together. You do not need to merge.



Lane Reduction: The indicated lane ends soon. Vehicles in that lane must merge into the through lane.



Two-Way Traffic Ahead: The one-way road joins a two-way road ahead. You will be facing oncoming traffic.



Divided Highway Begins or Ends: These signs indicate the beginning or end of a divided highway. Keep to the right.



Stop Ahead: There is a stop sign ahead. Slow down and prepare to stop.



Signal Ahead: A traffic signal is ahead. Slow down and be ready to stop.



Reduced Speed Limit Ahead: A reduced speed limit is ahead. Prepare to slow down.



Roundabout Ahead: There is a roundabout intersection ahead.



Railroad Advance: A railroad crossing is ahead. You may have to stop.



Low Clearance: The overpass ahead has low clearance. Do not proceed if your vehicle is too tall to pass under it.



Hill: A steep grade is ahead.



Advisory Speed: Advises the safe speed for freeway ramps and curves. This sign may be used with other signs.

Signs may be electronic and may change based on current conditions.





Slippery When Wet: The pavement is unusually slick when wet.



Deer: Deer often cross the road in this area. Be alert. Slow down if you see deer or other wildlife.



Route, Guide, and Information Signs

Route signs show you which route you are on and if the road is an interstate, U.S. route, or state highway.

Interstate Route



U.S. Route



State Highway



Guide or information signs are green. They give exit information or show the direction of roads or cities.

The number on an exit sign helps you know which exit to take.





Safety Corridors: Safety corridors are designated stretches of highway with more fatal and serious injury collisions than the statewide average. Turn on your lights for safety. Signs identifying safety corridors may include diamond shaped flags.



Historic, Cultural, and Recreational Signs: These brown signs point to historic and cultural locations. They also point to scenic areas, picnic grounds, and parks.



Motorist Service Signs: These blue signs tell you about services or facilities along the highway. These signs may indicate gas, food, and lodging are available at the next exit, a rest area is ahead, an electric vehicle charging station is available or a facility or parking area is accessible to a person with a disability. They can also indicate the road to a hospital.





Alert your family first!

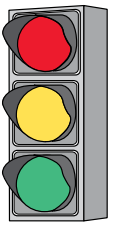
Register your emergency contacts now so that Oregon law enforcement can reach your loved ones quickly.

Available at DMV2U.Oregon.gov



Traffic Signals

Traffic signals control the right of way and provide for a smooth, orderly flow of traffic. If a signal appears dark, such as during a power failure, you should stop as if there are stop signs in all directions. When a traffic signal is out of order and flashes yellow or red, you must obey that signal as defined below.

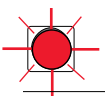




Steady Circular Red: A steady red signal means stop and remain stopped until the signal changes.

You are allowed to make the following turns on red after coming to a complete stop unless a sign or police officer states otherwise.

- When entering a two-way road, you may turn right.
- When entering a one-way road, you may turn right or left in the direction of the one-way road.



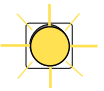
Flashing Red or Dark Signal: A flashing red or a dark signal is treated the same as a stop sign.



Red Arrow: A steady red arrow means stop and remain stopped until the signal changes, except for allowed turns on red. The same turns allowed for a steady red signal are allowed for a red arrow.



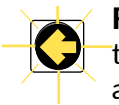
Steady Circular Yellow: A steady yellow signal warns you that the signal is about to turn red. Stop before entering the intersection. If you cannot stop safely, drive carefully through it.



Flashing Yellow: A flashing yellow signal means slow down and proceed with caution.



Yellow Arrow: A steady yellow arrow warns you that the signal is about to turn red. Stop before entering the intersection, or if you cannot stop safely, drive carefully through it.



Flashing Yellow Arrow: A flashing yellow arrow means that you may make the movement indicated by the arrow, but first you must yield to pedestrians and oncoming traffic. Oncoming traffic has a steady green signal.



Steady Circular Green: A green signal means all movements—straight ahead, left or right turns—are permitted, unless prohibited by a sign. Left turns must first yield to pedestrians and oncoming traffic. Right turns must first yield to pedestrians.



Green Arrow: A steady green arrow means you have the right of way and may make the movement indicated by the arrow.

Sample Test Questions

1. What does this sign mean?

   a. Curves ahead.
   b. Slippery when wet.
   c. Obstacle in the road.
   (page 12)



2. Regulatory Prohibitive signs are red and white. Which one of these signs is a regulatory prohibitive sign?

   a. Do Not Enter.
   b. Railroad Advance.
   c. Hospital Ahead.
   (page 7)

3. If a traffic signal is dark because of a power outage, you should

   a. wait for a police officer to direct traffic.
   b. treat it like a yield sign.
   c. treat it like there are stop signs in all directions.
   (page 15)

Lane Travel

Drive on the right side of the road except when:

- Passing another vehicle going in the same direction as you.
- Driving to the left of center to pass an obstruction.
- A road is marked for one-way traffic.
- A road has three marked lanes and the center lane is a passing lane.
- Directed by emergency personnel or other persons directing traffic.

When a road has no center line and traffic moves in opposite directions, drivers must give at least half the road to oncoming traffic.

If you must drive to the left of the center line to go around a road hazard or for any other reason, you must yield to oncoming traffic.

There will be times when you need to yield so another vehicle can proceed. Yielding means you must slow down or stop to allow another vehicle or pedestrian to continue safely.

Stop before you enter or cross a road from an alley, driveway or parking lot not controlled by signs or signals. Yield to approaching vehicles and pedestrians.

Change lanes only when you can do so safely. Avoid frequent lane changes.

Speed Regulations

Speed Limits

In addition to the basic rule, Oregon has maximum speed limits. A speed limit is the maximum speed considered safe for the area under ideal driving conditions.

The following speed limits are set in law for the specified areas, whether posted or not. They apply unless a different speed is posted.



15 Miles Per Hour

- When driving in alleys.
- Narrow residential areas.



20 Miles Per Hour

- In any business district.
- Within a school speed zone.



25 Miles Per Hour

- In residential districts.
- In public parks.
- On ocean shores, if vehicles are permitted.



55 Miles Per Hour

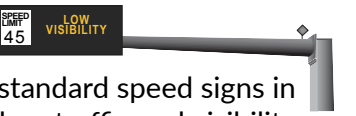
- On all roads and highways not meeting any other definition unless otherwise posted.



Interstate Speed Limits

- Speed limits will vary on interstate highways.

Variable Speed Signs



Digital speed signs have replaced some standard speed signs in Oregon. The digital signs use road, weather, traffic and visibility sensors to lower the speed limit when conditions require drivers to slow down. The digital displays may also show the reason for a reduced speed. There are two types of digital variable speed signs.

- **Variable Advisory Speed:** Variable advisory speed signs are yellow and say, "advisory speed." These signs recommend a speed based on driving conditions like heavy traffic, poor weather or a slippery road (such as heavy rain, fog, ice or snow). These signs are turned on and off as needed. These are not speed limits, but police may enforce them through the basic rule law.
- **Variable Speed Limit:** Variable speed limit signs are black and white and say, "speed limit." These signs change the speed limit based on driving conditions like heavy traffic, poor weather or a slippery road (such as heavy rain, fog, ice or snow). Police may enforce these signs like any other speed limit sign.

Variable speed signs, based on specific conditions, work to improve safety and reduce the chance of a collision by:

- **Improving Line of Sight:** In poor weather conditions, such as fog, heavy rain, or snow, slower speeds give drivers more time to react to obstacles or hazards that may be difficult to see.
- **Providing More Time to Stop:** In areas such as sharp curves, steep hills, or construction zones, slower speeds allow drivers more time to stop or maneuver their vehicles safely. It also helps avoid collisions by providing a larger space cushion.

The Basic Rule Law

The basic rule states you must drive at a speed that is reasonable and cautious for existing conditions. The basic rule applies on all roads at all times.

To obey the basic rule, think about your speed in relation to other traffic, pedestrians, people riding bicycles, the surface and width of the road, hazards at intersections, weather, visibility, and any other conditions that affect safety. The basic rule does not allow you to drive over the speed limit.

If you drive at a speed that is unsafe for existing conditions in any area, at any time, even if it is slower than the speed limit, you are violating the basic rule.

Slow Drivers

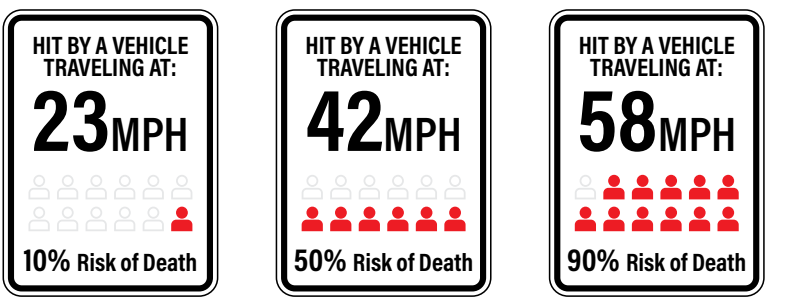
If you drive slower than the normal speed of traffic, you must use the right lane or drive as closely as possible to the right curb or edge of the road, unless you are preparing to make a left turn.

Watch for congestion behind you if you drive slower than the designated speed. Pull off the road at the first safe area and let the traffic behind you pass.

Racing

It is illegal to race on any road. Racing can be any acceleration or speed contest or the making of a speed record.

Vehicle Speed and Pedestrian Fatalities



Source: FHWA. Adapted from USDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Pavement Markings

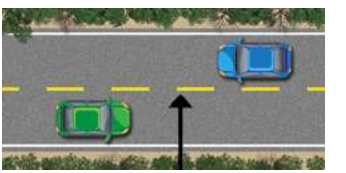
Oregon's pavement markings follow the national standards. You must obey all pavement markings unless you see a police officer or road worker redirecting traffic.

Yellow Markings are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions (center line) and to mark the left edge of one-way roads and ramps, two-way left turn lanes, and painted medians.

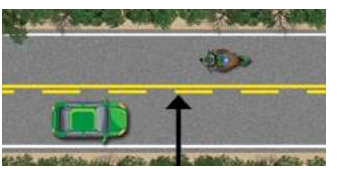
Solid yellow line: Marks the left edge of one-way roads and ramps.



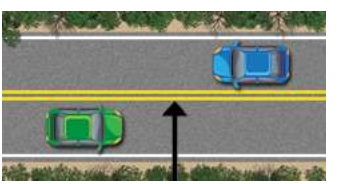
Broken yellow center line: Indicates a two-way road used for traffic traveling in opposite directions. Passing is allowed for both directions of travel.



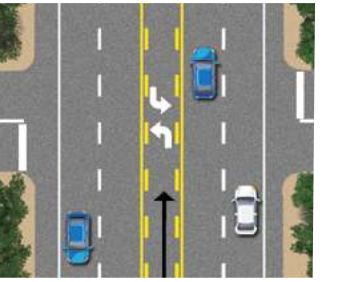
Double center line consisting of a solid yellow line and broken yellow line: Indicates where passing is allowed. A broken yellow line on your side of the lane indicates you are allowed to pass. A solid yellow line on your side of the lane indicates you are not allowed to pass.



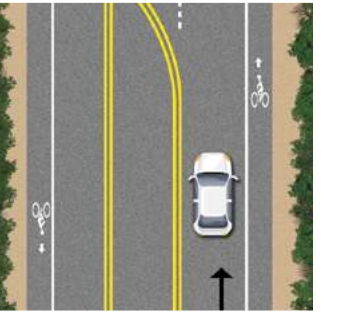
Double solid yellow line: Indicates passing is not allowed for both directions of traffic. You may turn left, to enter or exit a roadway, across double solid yellow lines after waiting for oncoming traffic to clear.



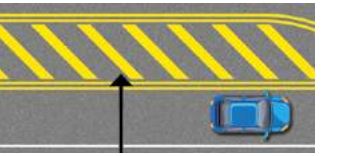
Two-way special left turn lane: If a two-way left turn lane has been provided, do not make a left turn from any other lane. It is illegal to travel in a two-way left turn lane, so enter the lane just before you want to make the turn. Wait in the left turn lane until traffic clears and you can complete the turn.



Painted median with double solid yellow lines on both sides: Marks the area between two directions of travel. You may make a left turn across a painted median after waiting for oncoming traffic to clear. You may not use a painted median as a turn lane. It is illegal to travel in a median with double yellow lines.

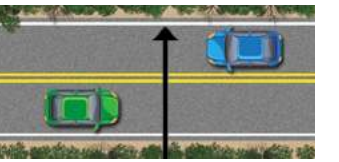


Yellow diagonal stripes: Used within a painted median to inform you of fixed objects in the road ahead or areas where vehicle use is not allowed. It is illegal to drive in or make a turn across these stripes.

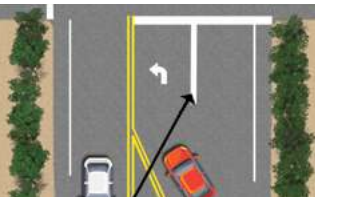


White Markings are used to separate lanes of traffic flowing in the same direction and mark the right edge of travel lanes. These are also used for crosswalks, stop lines, symbols, and words.

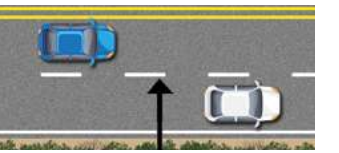
Solid white line: Used for an edge or fog line to help drivers to stay on the road.



Wide solid white line: Used to direct traffic into specific lanes, such as turn lanes, and to separate bike lanes from other traffic lanes. Crossing a wide solid white line is permitted but discouraged.

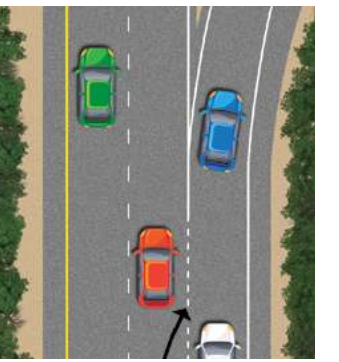


Broken white line: Separates lanes of traffic going in the same direction. Crossing a broken white line is permitted with caution.



Dotted white line: Short dotted lines placed closer together than a broken line. Crossing a dotted line is permitted with caution.

When used prior to an exit ramp or intersection, it informs you that the lane you are traveling in will not continue on the same route, such as a right-turn only lane or an exit only lane on the freeway.



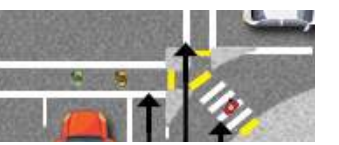
When used at a freeway entrance ramp, it informs you that you are entering the freeway and must merge into traffic.

When used within an intersection, it will help guide you through the intersection into the proper lane.

Double solid white line: Usually accompanied by a sign prohibiting lane changes for a certain distance. Means you are not allowed to change lanes. Stay in your lane.



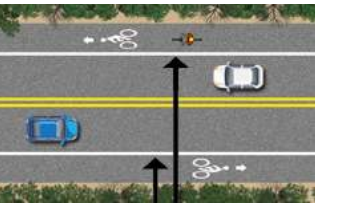
Marked crosswalk: Noted by white lines in an area where pedestrians cross the road. Stop when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.



Stop line: A solid white line across your lane to show the point at which you are required to stop.



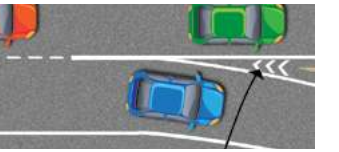
Bike lane: Identified by a wide white line with a bicycle symbol or a bike lane sign. Bike lanes may be painted green.



Yield line: A row of triangles in your lane, pointing toward your vehicle to indicate the point at which you are required to yield.

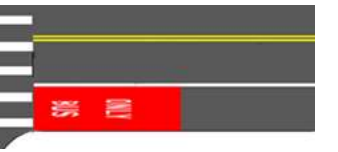


White chevrons: May be used to inform you of fixed objects in the road ahead or other areas where vehicle use is not allowed.



Red markings are used to designate where transit only vehicles may travel continuously – like buses, light rail trains (LRT) or bikes. Not all Transit Only lanes are red, so always look for signs or other markings on the road.

Solid red lane: Transit Only lane, not for cars. These may also say "BUS ONLY, BUS BIKE ONLY, or LRT".



Striped red lines: Show where you may enter the Transit Only lane to turn, park or enter a driveway.





Maintaining a Space Cushion

When a driver makes an unexpected or quick movement, other drivers need time to react. The only way you can be sure you have enough time to react is by leaving plenty of space between your vehicle and the vehicles around you. That space becomes a "space cushion." You should try to keep a cushion of space ahead, to each side and behind you.

Following Distance

The speed at which you drive determines how much time you have to act or react and how long it takes to stop. The higher the speed you are traveling, the less time you have to spot hazards, judge the speed of other traffic, and react to conditions.



Always maintain a safe following distance from the vehicle in front of you. You will have a better view of the road to watch for problems and more time to react.

A safe following distance is defined as 2-4 seconds. For speeds greater than 30 mph, a safe following distance should be 4 seconds or more to allow you time to make a decision and take action.

To determine if you are following too closely:

- Watch for when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes something like a sign or pole. Count the seconds it takes you to reach the same spot.
- You are following too closely if you pass the mark before you finish counting at least two seconds.
- If so, increase the space between you and the vehicle ahead and count again at another spot to check your new following distance. Repeat until you are no closer than two seconds behind the other vehicle.

When stopping behind another vehicle, make sure you can see where the rear tires of the vehicle in front meet the road. After traffic starts to move, return to a safe following distance.

There are situations, such as those listed below, when you need even more space between your vehicle and the one in front of you. **In all of these situations, you should increase your following distance:**

- **On wet or slippery roads.** You need more distance to stop your vehicle.
- **When the driver behind you wants to pass.** Slow down to allow room in front of your vehicle for the passing vehicle to complete the pass.
- **When following people riding bicycles or motorcycles.** You need extra room in case the rider loses control or stops suddenly.
- **When following drivers who cannot see you.** The drivers of large vehicles may not be able to see you when you are directly behind them. These vehicles also block your view of the road ahead.
- **When you have a heavy load or are pulling a trailer.** The extra weight increases your stopping distance.
- **When it is hard for you to see.** In bad weather or darkness, increase your following distance to make up for decreased visibility.

- **When stopped on a hill.** The vehicle ahead may roll back when it starts to move.
- **When you are learning to drive.** The extra room provides you time to make critical decisions as you learn.
- **When approaching or in a work zone.** Traffic may slow or stop unexpectedly in these areas.

Side Space Cushion

A space cushion to the side will give you room to react defensively to sudden moves toward your lane by other vehicles. You should:

- Be cautious when driving alongside other vehicles on multi-lane streets. Someone may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and hit you. If possible, drop back a little or move ahead of the other vehicle.
- Keep as much space as possible between your vehicle and oncoming vehicles. In general, it is safest to drive in the center of your lane so your vehicle can move left or right to avoid a potential problem.
- Make room for vehicles entering freeways. If there is no one next to you, move over a lane. Help other drivers signaling for a lane change make the move safely by slowing down or speeding up a little, if needed.
- Keep extra space between your vehicle and parked cars by moving away from them without leaving your lane. A vehicle door may open in your path or someone may step out of a vehicle or from between parked vehicles.

Space Cushion Behind

You can help keep the driver behind you at a safe distance by keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance by gently pressing the brake when you have to slow down or stop. Your brake lights will alert drivers behind you that you are slowing down. If a vehicle behind you is following too closely and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If you can't move over,

slowly reduce your speed. This may encourage the vehicle to pass you or to stop tailgating. Never brake hard to discourage tailgating; you could get hit from behind.

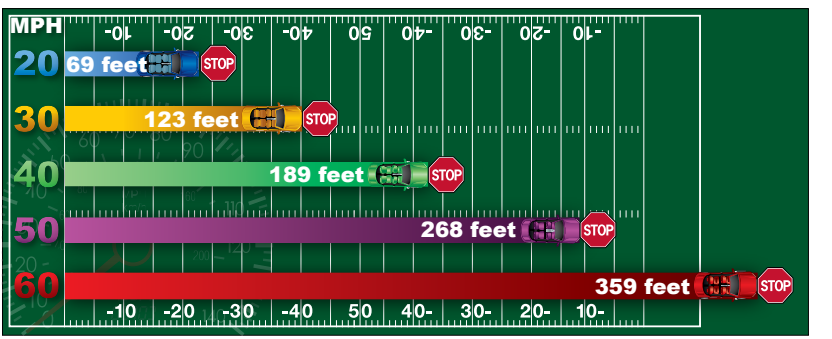
Backing Up

A mistake that drivers make when backing up is failing to look both ways behind them. Mirrors do not give you a full view. To see as much as possible, turn your body and head to the right and look out through the rear window. Check for pedestrians and approaching traffic by glancing to either side, then back up slowly.

Stopping Distances

You need to know how long it takes to stop any vehicle you drive. Stopping distance can depend on road and weather conditions, the weight of your vehicle, your reaction time, and the braking ability of your vehicle. The faster you drive, the greater your stopping distance even in ideal conditions.

Stopping takes longer than you think. At 60 mph, the distance traveled from the point you recognize a hazard ahead and apply the brakes, to where your vehicle comes to a stop is greater than the length of a football field.



Source: American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, 2014

Looking Ahead

It is important for drivers to scan ahead for trouble spots as far as you can see to help you avoid the need for last-minute moves. Scanning means taking in the entire scene, including the sides of the road. Scanning the road ahead and to the sides helps you see pedestrians ahead, potential hazards, vehicles that may enter your path, or signs routing you to another street or road.

Look for clues that a driver ahead may be going to slow down or stop, such as a person riding a bicycle or pedestrian on the road ahead, brake lights coming on, or blinking turn signals.

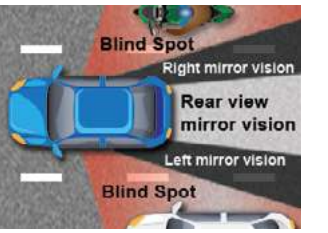
Curves

Slow down before you enter a curve. Use the speed shown below a curve sign as a guide, if posted. Look through the curve to where you want to go and then check the lane position of approaching vehicles. Stay to the right of the center line and in the middle of your lane. Be alert for people riding bicycles, pedestrians, or slow-moving vehicles hidden around the curve. As you come out of a curve, increase your speed gradually.

Changing Lanes

Your "blind spot" is the area around your vehicle that you cannot see from the driver's seat even with the use of your mirrors. Avoid driving in another driver's blind spot, if possible.

Before you change lanes:



- Use your turn signal to let other drivers know you plan to change lanes.
- Check your side and rearview mirrors for traffic approaching you from behind.
- Glance over your left shoulder if you are moving left. Glance over your right shoulder if you are moving right so you can see if there are any vehicles.

Passing

Passing another vehicle is a normal part of driving, but can be very dangerous. Give yourself a good view of the road ahead by not following vehicles too closely, especially large trucks and trailers. Know the speed and acceleration ability of your vehicle. Be sure you have enough room to complete the maneuver. If you have to cut back into your lane too soon, you risk sideswiping the vehicle you are passing. If you do not get back into your lane soon enough, you risk a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle. When in doubt, stay in your lane.

When passing another vehicle on a two-lane road, you should pass only to the left of the vehicle. Your pass may not begin before the start of a passing zone and must be completed before you enter a no-passing zone. Do not exceed the speed limit when passing; it is against the law to exceed speed limits at any time.

Check for a clear path ahead. Before you start to pass, check your mirrors and your vehicle's blind spot by glancing over your shoulder to the rear in the direction of the lane change. Turn on your signal, increase your speed and complete your pass as soon as possible. When you can see the vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror, signal and return to your lane.



No Passing

Signs and pavement markings help you determine where you are allowed to pass other vehicles. Do not pass in any area where your view of oncoming traffic is limited.

Do not cross the center line to pass when:

Solid Yellow Line and **No Passing Zone:** You are in a no-passing zone. Do not attempt to pass a vehicle if you cannot safely return to your lane before entering a no-passing zone.




Hills and **Curves:** Your view of oncoming traffic is blocked because you are on a hill or in a curve.




Intersections and **Railroads:** You are approaching, at or in an intersection or railroad crossing.




Crosswalks: The vehicle ahead is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross.



You may cross the center line in a no-passing zone only if the right side of the road is blocked or if you are turning left.

Passing on the Right

You may pass on the right only under one of the following conditions:

- The vehicle you are passing is making or has signaled for a left turn. There must be sufficient space to the right for you to pass without leaving the paved portion of the road or driving in a bike lane. The road in front of the vehicle you are passing must be clear.
- You are traveling on a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction and the vehicle you are passing is in the left lane. You may pass the vehicle using the right lane.

Use extra care when you pass on the right. Other drivers do not expect to be passed on the right. Do not exceed the speed limit to pass.

Being Passed

When another driver starts to pass, stay to the right. You can help the other driver pass you safely by checking oncoming traffic and adjusting your speed to let the vehicle move back into the right lane as soon as possible. Do not use your hands or lights to signal other drivers when to pass. The law prohibits flashing any of your signals at drivers to let them know when to pass.

Freeway Driving

Freeways have several lanes in each direction and speeds are higher than on other roads. Traffic on freeways usually moves more efficiently because access is controlled, there are few sharp curves, no railroad crossings, and no traffic signals.

Drive at a steady speed; you will have less need to change lanes. Weaving through traffic increases the risk of a collision and seldom saves time. Try to keep pace with traffic on the road, but do not be lured into exceeding the posted speed to stay with the flow of traffic. If you drive at a speed below the flow of traffic, you must use the right lane. Watch for traffic trying to enter the freeway and adjust your speed to permit a safe, smooth merge.

There are times when freeway traffic slows. Be alert for any hint that traffic on the freeway ahead is not moving at a normal pace. If you spot traffic slowing ahead, lightly tap your brake pedal several times to alert drivers behind you.

Entering a Freeway

In most driving situations, you slow down or stop before you enter a busy road, but when entering a freeway you do the opposite. Use the freeway on-ramp to speed up and merge with fast-moving traffic already on the road.

You must yield to traffic already on the freeway. Use your mirrors and check your blind spots before merging. Adjust your speed to match traffic already on the freeway. Keep moving if at all possible. Drivers behind you expect you to speed up rather than slow down.

If you start to enter a freeway the wrong way, a **DO NOT ENTER** or **WRONG WAY** sign will warn you of your mistake. Immediately pull off to the side of the ramp and stop. Turn on your hazard lights to warn other vehicles. Cautiously turn around or back off the ramp.

Ramp meters are placed on some freeway on-ramps. These look like traffic signals, but only operate during certain times of the day. For multi-lane on-ramps, each lane has a ramp meter. Only one vehicle can proceed each time the green light comes on. When your light turns green, speed up to merge with traffic on the freeway. Ramp meters will appear dark when not in use. Do not stop at a dark ramp meter.

Leaving a Freeway

When you leave a freeway, turn on your signal well ahead of time. Maintain your speed until you are off the freeway. Once on the exit ramp, begin slowing to the posted advisory speed.

Most freeway exits are numbered to help you quickly spot the exit you want to take. If you miss your exit, go to the next one. Never stop or back up on a freeway. The shoulder should only be used in an emergency.

Vehicle Trouble

If you have vehicle trouble on a freeway, move to the right shoulder or emergency stopping area. Turn on your hazard lights to warn other drivers. If possible, it is better to stay in or near your vehicle on the side away from traffic. Walking along a freeway is dangerous.

Driving a Large Vehicle or Towing

Large vehicles or vehicles towing a trailer are longer, higher, and wider than other passenger vehicles. They take longer to accelerate and to stop, and require more room to turn.

When you drive a pickup with a camper, a motor home, or tow a trailer, you should often check your speed and the traffic behind you. If traffic is stacking up behind you, pull off at the first safe turnout to let the traffic pass. Use the right lane on roads with two or more lanes of traffic going in the same direction.

It is against the law to allow passengers to ride in any type of trailer, except a commercial bus trailer, an independently-steered trailer, or a trailer towed with a fifth-wheel device. To carry passengers in a fifth-wheel trailer it must have safety glazing materials in windows and doors with windows. It must also have a way for passengers in the trailer to get the driver's attention by a visual signal or sound. An unobstructed exit that opens from both inside and outside is also required.

Oregon law allows you to tow a maximum of one boat, general utility trailer, or other vehicle behind a passenger or recreational vehicle. You cannot tow a second trailer or vehicle.



FINES:

- **1st offense:** Up to $1,000
- **2nd offense:** Up to $2,000
- **3rd offense:** Up to $2,500 &, six months in jail

Sample Test Questions

1. When entering a freeway
   a. slow down.
   b. speed up and merge with traffic.
   c. turn on your hazard lights to warn other traffic.
   (page 34)

2. A broken yellow line on your side of the road only means
   a. passing is not allowed on both sides.
   b. passing is allowed on both sides.
   c. passing is allowed on your side.
   (page 22)

3. When passing another vehicle
   a. it is okay to exceed the speed limit.
   b. do not begin your pass before the start of a passing zone.
   c. you can pass in an intersection if no cars are waiting to cross.
   (page 31)

4. When you stop behind another vehicle, you should be far enough away to see
   a. where the rear tires meet the road.
   b. the top of the bumper.
   c. the brake lights.
   (page 27)

Turns & Intersections

Turn Signals

Turn signals are used to communicate with other drivers where you intend to go. You must signal before you turn, change lanes, exit a roundabout, or pull away from a curb. Before making such a move, be sure you can do so safely. Check traffic ahead, behind and to the side.

If your vehicle is moving in traffic, use your turn signal at least 100 feet before the turn or lane change. When you are parked at a curb and about to reenter traffic, use a signal long enough to alert traffic that you are moving into the lane.

Only use hand-and-arm signals in daylight and when you can clearly see people and vehicles at a distance of 1,000 feet. You must use turn signal lights at night or when visibility is poor. Hand-and-arm signals should not be used any time you are driving a wide or long vehicle.

Hand-and-arm signals

Right Turn



Left Turn

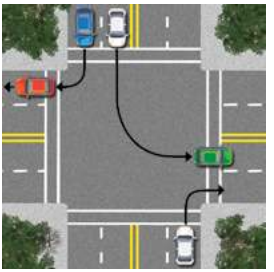


Stop or decrease speed



Do not rely solely on the turn signal of another driver. The driver may signal to turn right and instead turn left, or may turn without signaling.

Turns



Rules for turning apply at all locations, such as driveways and alleys, not just at intersections. Check for traffic behind and beside you well before you turn. Turn smoothly and at a lower speed. The diagram on the right illustrates the lanes to use when making left and right turns.

You may turn across a bicycle lane, but do not move into a bicycle lane in preparation for a turn. Always check for people riding in your blind spot before turning. This includes looking over your shoulder and checking your mirrors. Watch for people riding bicycles who may ride up beside your vehicle while you are preparing to make a turn. You must yield to people riding bicycles in a bicycle lane or on a sidewalk. Check the crosswalk and stop for pedestrians.

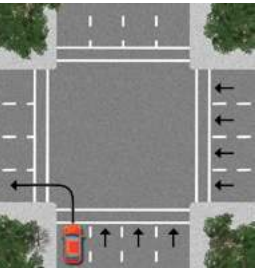
Lane use control signs or pavement markings may be used to direct you into the correct lane before turning. If you are at an intersection and in the wrong lane to turn, go to the next intersection. It is safer to drive around the block than it is to risk a collision due to a last-minute lane or direction change.

Right Turns: Get as near as you can to the right curb or edge of the road. Just before entering the intersection, look to the left, to the front, to the right and to the left again for traffic.

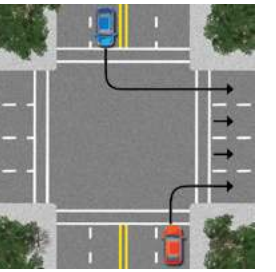
Left Turns: On a two-way road, approach the turn with your vehicle in the lane just to the right of the center line. Just before entering the intersection, look to the left, to the front, to the right and to the left again for oncoming traffic and cross traffic. Oregon law requires a driver to yield the right of way to oncoming traffic until it is safe to turn. Turn just before the imaginary center point in the intersection. Drive just to the right of the center line of the street you are entering.

It is illegal to execute a left turn onto a two-way road against a red light. If a left turn lane is provided, you must turn from that lane.

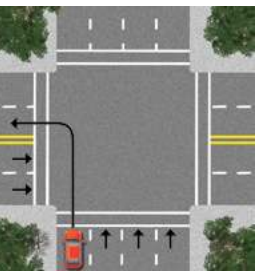
Left Turn: One-Way Road to One-Way Road: Approach the turn in the traffic lane that is nearest the left curb. Turn into the nearest left lane for traffic on the road you are entering. You may make this turn against a red light after stopping and yielding to traffic and pedestrians.



Left or Right Turn: Two-Way Road to One-Way Road: Approach the turn in the traffic lane that is nearest to the direction of the turn. Turn into the nearest lane for traffic on the road you are entering. You may make this turn against a red light after stopping and yielding to traffic and pedestrians.

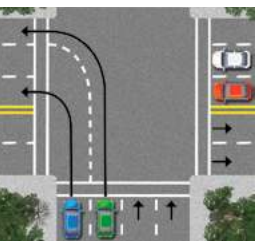


Left Turn: One-Way Road to Two-Way Road: Approach the turn in the traffic lane nearest the left curb. Turn into the lane just to the right of the center line. You cannot make this turn against a red light.



Dual Left or Right Turn Lanes: Multiple lanes may turn in the same direction at the same time when lane use control signs or pavement markings permit it.

Be sure to follow the pavement markings and stay in your lane when executing turns onto roadways with more lanes than the lane you are turning from.

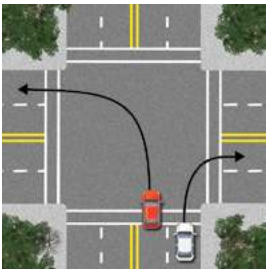


Turning Errors

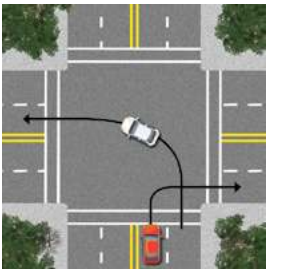
The general rule for turning is to turn from the nearest lane in the direction you are traveling to the nearest lane in the direction you want to go. Avoid swinging wide or changing lanes while turning.

Turning Error Examples:

Into Wrong Lane



From Wrong Lane



U-Turns

U-turns are prohibited in these locations:

- Intersections controlled by a traffic signal, unless a sign permits the turn.
- Between intersections in a city.
- Any location within city limits where your vehicle cannot be seen by traffic coming from either direction within 500 feet.
- Any location outside city limits where your vehicle cannot be seen by traffic coming from either direction within 1,000 feet.
- At or on a railroad crossing.
- Any location where U-turns are prohibited by official signs or markings.

Intersections

Stop signs, yield signs, and traffic signals control the flow of traffic at busy intersections. A defensive driver never assumes a stop sign or a traffic signal will stop approaching traffic.

At an intersection with a stop sign, steady red signal or flashing red signal, you must stop before the marked stop line or crosswalk, if there is one. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before the unmarked crossing area before entering the intersection (see section on Pedestrians). Always yield to vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and people riding bicycles, as well as traffic in the intersection when making an allowed turn. After stopping, if you are unable to see traffic coming from your left and right, slightly pull forward and scan the area. Even if you have a green light, do not enter an intersection unless there is room for your vehicle on the other side.

At intersections with stop signs in all four directions, it is common courtesy to allow the driver who stops first to go first. When in doubt, yield to the driver on your right. Never assume another driver will yield the right of way to you.

At intersections with two-way stop signs across from each other, the driver turning left should yield the right of way to approaching or oncoming traffic going straight.

As you approach an intersection with no signs or signals, first look to the left to make sure cross traffic is yielding right of way, then look to the front and to the right. Be prepared to stop. Yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching from your right. As you enter the intersection, check again for unusual or unexpected actions.

If you are the driver on a road that ends at a “T” intersection with no signs or signals, you must yield to drivers on the through road.

Roundabouts

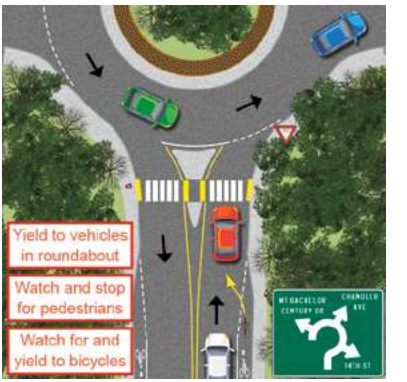


Roundabouts, rotaries, and traffic circles are all terms used for circular intersections with a center island. Traffic moves in one direction, counterclockwise, around the center island. A warning sign with arrows in a circle pattern indicates a circular intersection is ahead.

The following steps will help you travel safely through a roundabout.

Approach: Slow down as you approach the roundabout. Look for signs to determine where your exit is located.

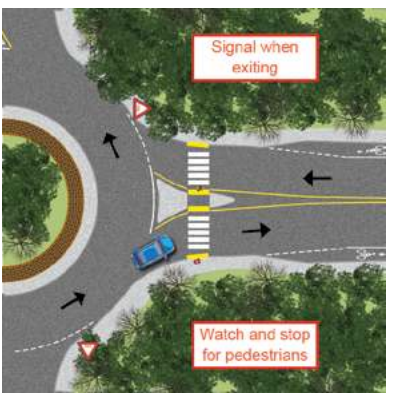
Watch for people riding bicycles; they will either merge into traffic or use the sidewalk. When approaching the crosswalk, stop for pedestrians using the crosswalk in your lane.



Enter: Before you enter the roundabout, you must yield to traffic inside as well as exiting the roundabout. Wait for a gap and merge into traffic. Be prepared to stop if necessary.

Proceed: Once inside the roundabout, move around the circle until you reach your exit.

Allow people riding bicycles that have merged into traffic the full travel lane. Do not pass a person riding a bicycle within the roundabout.



Exit: Indicate your plan to exit using your right turn signal. Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk and be prepared to stop.

Multi-lane Roundabouts

Roundabouts may have one or more lanes. Here are a few tips to help you safely negotiate a multi-lane roundabout.





Lane Choice: Prior to entering the roundabout, pay close attention to exit and lane use signs, along with pavement markings. Enter the roundabout using the appropriate lane for your exit.

Maintain your lane position until you exit. Avoid lane changes while inside the roundabout, if possible.

Do Not Pass: Do not attempt to overtake or pass any vehicles, especially large trucks and trailers within the roundabout. Trucks may need to straddle both lanes. It is illegal to pass or drive beside a truck within the roundabout.

Emergency Vehicles in Roundabouts

Do not enter a roundabout when emergency vehicles are approaching. Pull over to the right. Allow other vehicles to clear the intersection so the emergency vehicles can move through the roundabout. Never stop while inside the roundabout. Instead, move through and exit the roundabout. Once you exit, pull over to the right shoulder and allow emergency vehicles to pass.

Sample Test Questions

1. When turning from one road to another
   a. swing wide to make the turn.
   b. move into the bicycle lane prior to the turn.
   c. turn into the closest lane in the direction you want to go.
   (page 41)

2. When you reach a roundabout you must
   a. yield, wait for a gap and merge into traffic.
   b. stop before entering then merge into traffic.
   c. accelerate to merge into traffic.
   (page 43)

3. When stopped on a two-way road at a red light waiting to turn left onto a one-way, you
   a. must wait until the light is green.
   b. can only turn on the red light if a left turn sign is posted.
   c. can turn on the red light after yielding to other traffic.
   (page 40)



Sharing the Road

Drivers of passenger vehicles share the road with many other users. Pedestrians, people riding bicycles and motorcycles, highway workers and persons using a mode of transportation such as a skateboard or scooter in a public way, crosswalk or shoulder of the highway are all vulnerable users of the road. These users of the road are vulnerable because they can be hard to see and may not have protection against injury in a collision. While driving it is important to look for all types of road users.

Pedestrians

The term pedestrian refers to people walking, as well as rolling with skateboards, scooters and wheelchairs, etc. You must stop for pedestrians crossing the road at any marked or unmarked crosswalk. A pedestrian is crossing the road when any part or extension (cane, wheelchair, bicycle, etc.) of the pedestrian moves onto the road.

Stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian crossing in a crosswalk when the pedestrian is:

- In your lane of travel,
- In a lane next to your lane of travel, including a bike lane, or
- In the lane you are turning into.

If you are turning at an intersection that has a traffic signal, before you begin to turn, the pedestrian must be six feet or more from the lane you are turning into.

If you are turning at an intersection that doesn't have a traffic signal, before you begin to turn, the pedestrian must be past the lane you are turning into, plus the next lane.

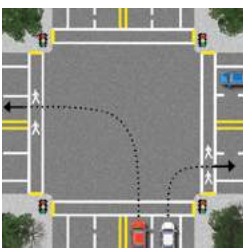
Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk, it is against the law. The driver may be waiting for a pedestrian to cross the road.

You are not required to stop if the pedestrian is in a crosswalk on the other side of a safety island.

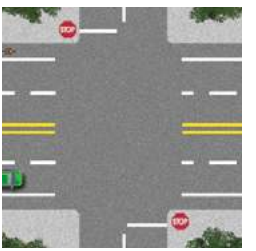
There is a crosswalk at every intersection, even if it is not marked by painted lines. To determine where an unmarked crosswalk is, imagine that a sidewalk or shoulder at the corner extends to the other side. An unmarked crosswalk is at least six feet wide and exists even if there is no sidewalk or shoulder.

Crosswalk Examples

Marked Crosswalks



Unmarked Crosswalks



Mid-block Crosswalks

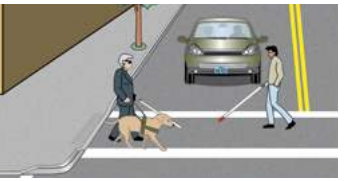


A mid-block crosswalk may have a flashing yellow light that indicates a pedestrian is crossing or about to cross the road.

Do not stop with any portion of your vehicle overhanging the crosswalk area. Blocking a crosswalk forces pedestrians to go around your vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.

If you cross a sidewalk, such as when entering or leaving a parking lot, alley or driveway, stop before reaching the sidewalk and yield to pedestrians and people riding bicycles.

White Canes and Guide Dogs



You must give the right of way to a pedestrian with limited vision or any pedestrian who is blind or deaf and blind carrying a white cane or using a guide dog. Stop if the person is about to cross or is crossing the road. Remain stopped until the person has crossed the entire road, even if you have a green light.

Children at Play

Be extra careful in residential areas and places where children are likely to be, such as a park. Do not drive too close to parked cars that may block your view. Be watchful when backing in or out of a driveway. Children are unpredictable and may run or be playing behind your vehicle.



School Zones



A school zone is a section of road adjacent to a school or a school crosswalk where signs designate a school zone.

This five-sided sign marks the beginning of school zones and warns you about school crossings. These signs will be a yellow color. Actively look for children and be ready to stop.

A school speed zone is an area where a reduced speed of 20 mph applies and is defined by school speed signs. The school speed zone begins at the **SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT** 20 sign and ends at the **END SCHOOL ZONE** sign or at another posted speed sign.

School Zone Signs

School speed zone signs tell you when you must obey the reduced speed limit of 20 mph.



Flashing School Speed Limit Sign: Any time a yellow light on a school speed sign is flashing indicates that children are arriving at or leaving school.



School Hours Speed Limit Sign: Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a day school is in session. If you are unsure whether or not it is a school day, slow down to 20 mph.



School Speed Limit Sign for When Children Are Present: Any day, at any time children are present. Children are present means:

- children are waiting at a crosswalk.
- children are occupying or walking within a crosswalk.
- a traffic patrol member is present to assist children at a crosswalk.

Stop and yield to children when they enter the crosswalk or if a school crossing guard signals you to do so. Remain stopped until the children clear the crosswalk.

Bicycles

People riding bicycles are more difficult to see than other vehicles. They can be hidden in your blind spot and easily missed.

People bicycling often react differently to road hazards than drivers of motor vehicles. These hazards could include potholes, glass, litter, storm grates, and railroad tracks, as well as opened doors of parked vehicles. Any of these items could cause a person riding a bicycle to move into your path or to slow down. Give people riding bicycles plenty of room to move around these hazards.

When you approach a person riding a bicycle, be alert and prepare to slow down, if needed. You may not be able to predict a bicyclist's intentions. As a driver, you need to know the following rules to properly share the road with people riding bicycles:

- Do not drive or park in a bike lane. You may cross a bike lane when turning or when entering or leaving an alley, driveway, or private road.
- Do not move into or travel in a bike lane in preparation for a turn.
- You must yield to people riding bicycles in a bike lane or on a sidewalk before you turn across the lane or sidewalk.
- You must yield to people riding bicycles at intersections the same as you do for other types of vehicles.
- At speeds greater than 35 mph, you may only pass a person on a bicycle traveling in your lane if you leave enough distance to prevent contact with the person riding a bicycle if they were to fall.

- The same rules for passing other vehicles apply to passing people riding bicycles. If you cannot pass safely, you must slow down and remain behind the bicycle until it is safe to pass.
- Operators of motorized wheelchairs, scooters, and personal assistive mobility devices are permitted to use bike lanes and paths. You must yield to these operators as you would a person riding a bicycle.

Bike Boxes



Most bike boxes are a green painted box on the road with a white bicycle symbol. Bike lanes approaching and leaving the box may also be green.

As a driver, you must stop for a traffic signal behind the bike box. Do not stop in the box. People riding bicycles will move into the box in front of you at the intersection. No right turns are allowed at these intersections when the traffic signal is red. If turning right on a green light, you must signal and yield to people riding bicycles on the right.

Sharrow



A sharrow indicates that the lane is shared and people riding bicycles may be in the road. It is indicated by two chevrons above a bicycle symbol painted on the road.

To learn what is required of a person riding a bicycle, read the Oregon Bicycling Manual available at your local DMV office or online at *www.oregon.gov/odot/DMV/Pages/Online_Bicycle_Manual/Table_of_Contents.aspx*

Motorcycles and Mopeds



A motorcycle or moped is more difficult to see than other vehicles. They can be hidden in your blind spot and easily missed.

It can be difficult to judge how far away a person riding a motorcycle is or how fast they are going. You must yield to an oncoming person riding a motorcycle just as you would any other type of vehicle. It is safest to wait until they pass to make a turn. When following a person riding a motorcycle, allow more distance between your vehicle and the person riding a motorcycle than you would another car.

Turn signals do not automatically cancel on some motorcycles and the rider may forget to turn the signal off. Before you make a turn in front of an oncoming motorcycle that has its turn signal on, be sure the rider is actually slowing to turn rather than riding with their signal on by mistake.

It is against the law to share a lane with a person riding a motorcycle or moped. When passing, you must allow them a full lane.

Weather and road conditions may impact people riding motorcycles and mopeds more than other vehicles. Strong winds can move a person riding a motorcycle out of their lane of travel. Road surfaces such as gravel, debris, pavement seams, grooved pavement and manhole covers may cause people riding motorcycles to change speed or direction. Increase your following distance.

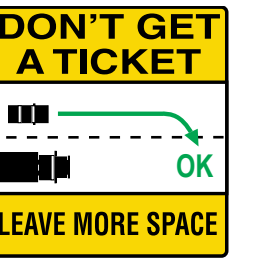
Large Vehicles

Large vehicles such as recreational vehicles, vehicles towing trailers, trucks and commercial buses take longer to accelerate and require more room to maneuver. These vehicles take about three times the distance to stop than smaller vehicles traveling at the same speed. Keep the following in mind when sharing the road with large vehicles:

Side blind spots: Large vehicles have larger blind spots on both sides of their vehicles than smaller vehicles. If you can't see the driver in the side mirror of the large vehicle, the driver can't see you.

Rear blind spot: Large vehicles have a deep blind spot directly behind them where the driver cannot see your vehicle. You also severely reduce your own view when following too closely. Do not pull up too close behind a stopped large vehicle as it may roll back slightly when starting forward.

Unsafe passing: It takes longer to pass a large vehicle. Complete your pass as quickly as possible and don't stay alongside the vehicle. It is dangerous to stay in a blind spot too long because the driver doesn't know you're there. Look for the entire front of the vehicle in your rearview mirror before pulling in front.



If there is water on the road, the spray from a large vehicle will seriously reduce your vision. You should keep as far away from the vehicle as you can, while staying in your lane.

Turns: Large vehicles often cannot see vehicles directly behind or beside them when they are attempting to negotiate a turn. Observe their turn signals. Do not cut in between a large vehicle and the curb or shoulder. Large vehicles may need to swing wide and use more than one lane to start or finish a turn. Be aware of long loads that may extend into adjacent lanes during a turn. When you see a large vehicle making a turn, do not crowd the intersection; allow it to complete the turn.

Backing: When a large vehicle is backing, it may need to block the street to maneuver. Never cross behind a large vehicle that is preparing to back up or is in the process of backing.

Hills or mountain roads: Large vehicles cannot maintain speed when climbing hills and must go slowly down hills to stay under control. Smoking wheels or a high speed can be a sign of brake loss. If you encounter this situation, leave more space and do not pass.

Pilot Vehicles

Pilot vehicles are specially marked vehicles that lead or follow a vehicle carrying an especially large load.

- If you see a pilot vehicle in oncoming traffic, reduce your speed and position your vehicle as far to the right as possible, while staying in your lane.
- If you are following a pilot vehicle, increase your following distance.
- Be cautious when you pass a pilot vehicle or the vehicle with the large load.

School, Places of Worship or Worker and Public Transit Buses

School Buses

School buses have flashing amber and red lights near the top of the bus on the front and rear. They may be equipped with a stop arm that extends from the bus near the driver's window when the red lights begin to flash.

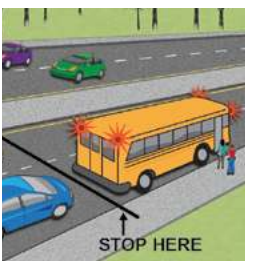
Flashing amber lights warn traffic that the bus is about to stop on the road to load or unload children. Prepare to stop. When the red lights flash, stop before reaching the bus and remain stopped until the driver turns off the flashing red lights.

If you are on a divided highway with two roads separated by an unpaved median strip or barrier, you must stop only if you are on the same side of the road as the bus.

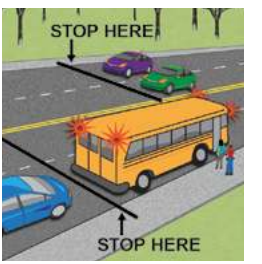
A painted median strip or turn lane does not create two separate roads. In this case, all lanes of traffic must stop.

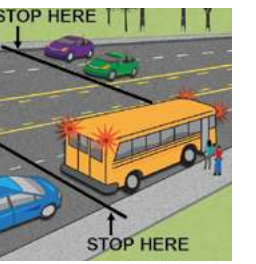
Stopped Bus Examples

Divided Highway



Painted Medians



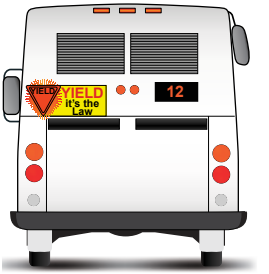


Places of Worship or Worker Buses

Flashing amber and red lights are permitted on places of worship and worker transport buses. If the bus turns on flashing amber or red lights, you must treat these lights the same as you would a school bus.

Public Transit Buses

Public transit buses often pull to a curb to load or unload passengers. Vehicles approaching from the rear must yield when a bus driver signals to re-enter a traffic lane and there is an electric sign flashing "yield" on the back of the bus.



Other Vehicles

Slow Moving Vehicles



Slow moving vehicles, such as farm equipment, must display the **SLOW MOVING VEHICLE** emblem when using a public highway. The emblem contains a reflective, red border and a fluorescent orange center. Be prepared to slow down or adjust your position when you see this sign.

Over-Length and Over-Width Loads

A red flag, at least 12 inches square, must be shown at the end of any load that extends 4 feet or more beyond the rear of the vehicle. A red light, visible for 500 feet to the rear and sides, must replace the red flag when limited visibility conditions exist.

Passenger vehicles must not carry loads that extend beyond the sides of the fenders on the left side. Loads may not extend more than 6 inches beyond the sides of the right fenders. Loads may not extend more than 4 feet in front of any vehicle.

Funeral Processions

Funeral processions are exempt from certain rules of the road. Vehicles in a funeral procession may enter an intersection without stopping and do not have to obey traffic control devices. Other vehicles must yield right of way to funeral processions.

If you are not a member of the funeral procession, it is against the law for you to join or drive between vehicles in the procession.

Approaching Stopped Vehicles

If you are on a road with two or more lanes of traffic going the same direction and you approach any motor vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing, you must change lanes so you do not drive next to the stopped vehicle. You may also slow down by at least 5 miles per hour under the posted speed limit. Allow the stopped vehicle as much room as safely possible.

When you approach emergency scenes, slow down and be prepared to stop. Do not drive over fire hoses unless told to do so by officials at the scene.



Emergency Vehicles

You must yield right of way to emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, police vehicles, and ambulances, when they approach from any direction using a light or siren.

When you see or hear an emergency vehicle warning, you must immediately drive as close as you safely can to the right side of the road and stop. Do not stop in an intersection. Do not drive or stop in a way that interferes with these vehicles. Stay stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed or until an officer tells you to move.

After the emergency vehicle passes, you must stay at least 500 feet behind the vehicle.

Police Stops

Police vehicles attempting to stop drivers will do so by turning on flashing lights or a siren. If you are stopped:

- Drive as close as you safely can to the right side of the road, stop and turn off the engine. Do not stop in an intersection or pull into the center median of a highway.
- Limit your movements and those of any passengers.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel. Passengers should keep their hands in plain view.
- Show your driving privilege and/or vehicle registration only when requested.
- Stay in your vehicle. Do not get out unless requested.
- If it is dark, turn on the vehicle's interior light after stopping and before the officer approaches.
- Do not argue with the officer at the scene. Traffic violations and traffic crimes charged against you are decided in court.

Work Zones

Work Zones are defined by orange traffic control devices. When entering a work zone you need to be alert to changes in the roadway. Workers and construction equipment may be close to traffic. Traffic fines are doubled in all work zones. You are expected to yield to workers.







Work zones can change the flow of traffic. You can expect to be guided through a work zone by signs, cones, flaggers, lane markings, or other devices. Orange signs warn you what to expect ahead. Orange cones guide you away from the road construction. The temporary speed posted in a work zone applies at all times, even if workers are not visible. The reduced speed limit applies until you see an End Work Zone Speed Limit sign or another posted speed limit sign.

You can expect to be stopped by flaggers or automated devices in work zones on two lane roads. Flaggers use signs and hand signals to tell you which direction to travel, to slow down, or stop. Automated flagger devices have the same duties as a flagger. Automated flagger devices have red and yellow lights and a stop arm. Stop when the red light is on and the arm is down. Proceed when the yellow light is flashing and the arm is up.

Work Zone Traffic Signalers:

Flagger

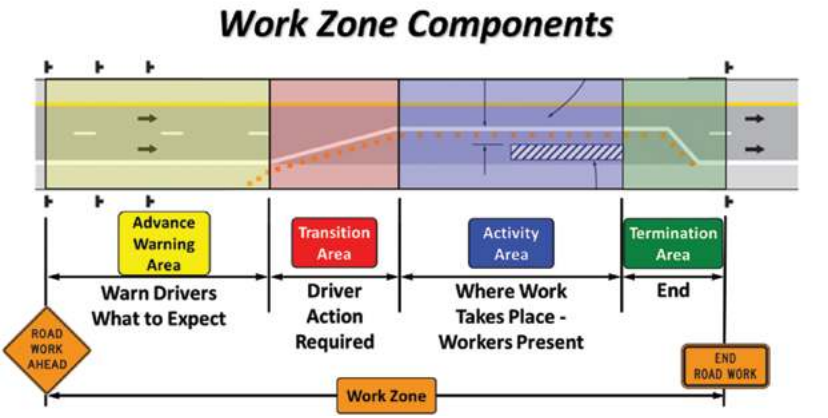


Automated Flagger



On freeways you can expect to remain driving through the work zone. There may be fewer, narrow or new lanes. You can expect to merge with other lanes of traffic. You can expect to drive very close to cones, workers and construction equipment. Slow down and pay attention.

Construction vehicles may be driving in work zones. Do not follow construction vehicles when in a work zone. Construction vehicles may enter the road and cause slowing in a work zone.





Sample Test Questions

1. Work zones may have temporary speeds posted that apply
   a. when workers are present.
   b. at all times.
   c. at night.
   (page 59)

2. When on a 4-lane road with a painted median or turn lane and a school bus is stopped with flashing red lights
   a. traffic in all lanes must stop.
   b. traffic behind the bus must stop.
   c. no traffic needs to stop.
   (page 55)

3. If a large vehicle swings left but has their right turn signal on and you are also turning right
   a. stay beside the large vehicle on the right.
   b. wait until the large vehicle turns before you turn right.
   c. squeeze between the large vehicle and the curb.
   (page 53)

4. A person on a bicycle is riding in front of you within a travel lane. You are driving 45 mph and your lane is marked with a broken yellow center line. You
   a. can pass to the left if you leave enough distance to prevent contact with the person on the bicycle if they fall into your lane.
   b. need to roll down your window and get their attention then tell them to move out of the travel lane so you can pass safely.
   c. cannot pass the person on a bicycle at any time.
   (page 50)

(Continued)

5. When starting through an intersection and you see an ambulance behind you, you must
   a. stop in the intersection and allow the ambulance to go around.
   b. pull to the right in the intersection and stop.
   c. drive through the intersection, pull to the right and stop. (page 58)



Railroad Crossings, Light Rail & Street Cars

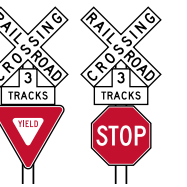
Railroad Crossings

Signs and signals are used to mark railroad crossings. When you see them, look, listen, and slow down because you may have to stop.

A railroad advance sign warns you that a railroad crossing is ahead.



A railroad crossbuck assembly will include a yield or stop sign. Obey the posted sign. If there is more than one track, a sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks.



A crossing signal system includes flashing red lights and may have a gate with red flashing lights that are activated when a train is nearby. Railroad crossings have pavement markings that include a large "**X**" with the letters "**RR**." Only cross the tracks if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing. Be aware that one train may be blocking the view of another one.

Remember:



- Never stop on the tracks.
- Never try to beat a train at a crossing.
- The train you see is closer than it seems.
- Trains cannot stop quickly.
- All school buses, hazmat vehicles and some school activity vehicles must stop at railroad tracks. Be prepared to stop when following these vehicles.
- One train may be blocking the view of another one.

When required to stop, do so at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop at least 15 feet from the nearest rail.

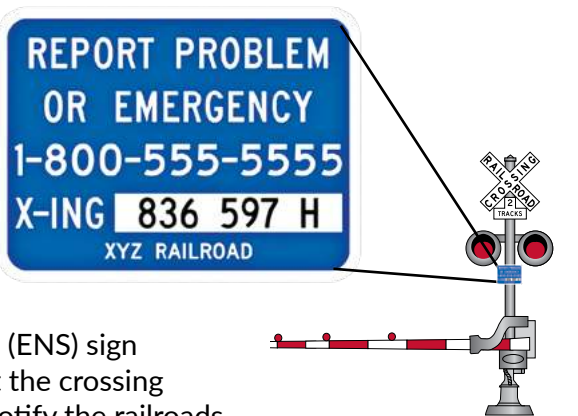
Stop before railroad tracks when:

- Flashing red lights are activated.
- An approaching train is clearly visible or is so close to the crossing that it would be hazardous for you to try to cross.
- A stop sign is posted, even if you do not see a train coming.
- A flagger signals you to stop.

It is against the law to drive around or under a crossing gate – while down or while being raised or lowered – and it is extremely dangerous. After stopping, do not start across the tracks until you are sure you can do so safely. At crossings with multiple tracks, look carefully to see if a second train is coming on another track from either direction.

If a vehicle, person or object is stuck on the railroad tracks:

1. Get out of the vehicle!
2. Get away from the tracks, even if you do not see a train.
3. If it's safe, look for an Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign located on a post at the crossing near the tracks to notify the railroads of the obstruction in the tracks so they can alert incoming trains.
4. If a train approaches, move at a 45 degree angle from the tracks in the direction of the train so you are not hit with debris.



Travelling Around Streetcars & Light Rail Trains

Streetcars and light rail trains are electric transit vehicles that run on tracks embedded in the streets. They sometimes travel in the same lanes as cars and make frequent stops to pick up and drop off passengers, much like buses. These streetcars and trains are a key part of a city's public transportation system, helping people travel easily through downtown. Because they share the road with cars, drivers need to be extra careful around them. Here are some simple rules to help you stay safe.

Let Streetcars and Trains Go First:

- Always let streetcars and trains go first. Do not try to pass a streetcar or train, unless it is safe to do so.
- If a streetcar or train stops to pick up or drop off people, stay behind it until it moves again or the people are safely away.

Do Not Block Tracks:

- When approaching tracks at an intersection, stay behind any stop line before crossing tracks.
- Never park on streetcar or train tracks. Park behind the solid white line separating the parking area from the track. If there is no white line, park as close to the curb as possible away from the rails.
- Always check for approaching streetcars or trains before opening vehicle doors.
- Always make sure your parked car is clear of the tracks so a streetcar or train can pass.

Be Careful at Intersections and Making Turns:

- Never turn in front of a streetcar or train traveling in the same direction as you from an adjacent lane, even if the streetcar or train is stopped.
- Never turn in front of an approaching light rail train or streetcar, unless safe to do.
- Slow down and look both ways before crossing tracks at an intersection.
- When turning where there are tracks, look both ways for streetcars or trains. Signal your turn and make sure it is safe. If there is a left turn signal wait for a proper signal before you make a left turn over the tracks.

Watch for Pedestrians:

- Be careful where streetcars and trains stop. Look out for people getting on or off the streetcar. Passengers will run across lanes to catch the streetcar or train.
- Follow pedestrian signals and let people cross the street safely.

Check Before Changing Lanes:

- Check for streetcars and trains before changing lanes, you may not be aware they are close behind you.
- Streetcars and trains cannot stop quickly. Avoid braking suddenly or performing unpredictable moves in front of or around them.

Following these rules will help keep everyone safe. Always be alert and drive carefully. If you do make contact with a streetcar or train, wait for the operator or police to give you direction on what to do.

Sample Test Questions

1. When passing a stopped streetcar or light rail train, you should

   a. maintain speed while passing.
   b. stop and stay stopped until the streetcar or train moves.
   c. watch for pedestrians and pass with caution.
   (page 66)

2. If you are required to stop at a railroad crossing and there is no stop line, you must stop at least ___ feet from the nearest rail.

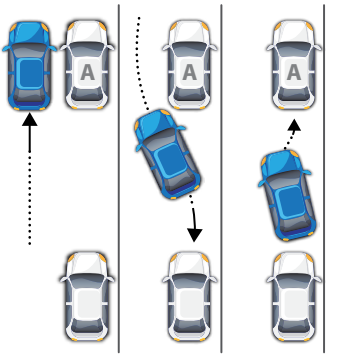
   a. 15
   b. 12
   c. 20
   (page 64)

Parking & Stopping

There are different types of parking. When leaving a parked or stopped position, check your blind spots and mirrors, and yield to all other traffic.

Parallel Parking

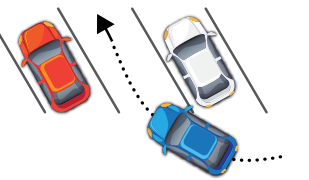
Park in the direction vehicles are moving in the lane. Park parallel to and no more than 12 inches from the curb. If there is no curb, park as close as possible to the edge of the shoulder. If parking areas are marked, your wheels must be within the marked space.



1. Pull even with Car A.
2. Back slowly toward the space and turn wheels sharply.
3. Straighten wheels.

Angle Parking

This type of parking is common in parking lots, shopping centers, and on wide streets. When driving large vehicles avoid parking in spaces that obstruct traffic on the road.



Signs may be posted to indicate when a parking area is reverse angle or back-in only.

Parking on Hills

Always set your parking brake. Leave your vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission or in park for an automatic transmission. Turn your front wheels as indicated below to prevent your vehicle from rolling downhill in case the brake fails.

Downhill Against a Curb: Turn your wheels toward the curb.



Uphill Against a Curb: Turn your wheels toward the travel lane.



No Curb: Turn your wheels toward the edge of the road.



Parking Spaces for Persons with Disabilities

Oregon issues special parking permits to persons with disabilities or groups that transport persons with disabilities. Spaces may have the disabled symbol on the ground as well as a sign with the symbol placed at the front of each space.



It is illegal to park in a space marked for persons with disabilities unless you have a valid disabled parking permit.

Why can't I park in a Disabled Person parking space?

- **It can be expensive! Fines begin at $165 and go up to $1,000** if you are not a Disabled Person Parking Permit holder. This includes parking **even for "just a few minutes"**.
- For more information: see the Disabled Person Parking Permit Placards and Decals webpage - *www.oregon.gov/odot/DMV/Pages/Form/Oregon_Disabled_Person_Parking_Placard.aspx*
- To apply for a Disabled Person Parking Permit: see the Disabled Person Parking Permits webpage - *www.oregon.gov/odot/dmv/pages/driverid/disparking.aspx*

No Parking

The rules about parking and stopping apply whether you are in your vehicle or not. You cannot stop or park your vehicle in any of the locations identified below. This does not apply if your vehicle breaks down and you cannot get it out of the traffic lanes or there is not enough room off the road on the shoulder for you to stop or park.

- In a traffic lane, on a highway, street or road.
- Within an intersection.
- On the road side of any parked vehicle (double parking).
- On a sidewalk, crosswalk, bicycle lane or path.
- On any railroad or light rail tracks.
- On a bridge, overpass, or in a tunnel.
- Between separate roads of a divided highway.
- Near construction or road work when stopping or parking would interfere with traffic.
- Any place where official signs, traffic control devices, painted diagonal stripes, or other pavement markings prohibit parking.
- In front of a public or private driveway.
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

- Within 15 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station on the same side of the street or within 75 feet on the opposite side of the street.
- Within 20 feet of a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within 50 feet of a traffic signal or sign if your vehicle hides the signal or sign from view.
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad or light rail crossing.
- Within 7 1/2 feet of railroad or light rail tracks when it interferes with the train.

Emergency Parking

If your vehicle breaks down and you have no choice, you may temporarily stop or park in areas where it usually is not allowed, as long as the vehicle does not create a hazard. If you must stop or pull off the road, turn on your hazard lights to warn other drivers.

If necessary, you may park a vehicle on the shoulder of a highway if passing traffic has enough room to get by. If your vehicle cannot be seen from 200 feet in each direction, you need to warn approaching traffic. This can be done with flags, flares, signs, signals or flaggers placed at least 200 feet from your vehicle in each direction.

If you must leave your vehicle unattended, turn off the engine, remove the key, set the brakes, and turn on your hazard lights.

If a police officer finds a vehicle parked in an area where it is not allowed or it creates a hazard, the officer may have it removed and you will be responsible for towing and storage costs.

Sample Test Questions

1. When you parallel park, you need to be no more than ___ inches away from the curb.

   a. 12
   b. 10
   c. 8
   (page 68)

2. What is the safest way to re-enter traffic from a parked position?

   a. Yield to other traffic after you signal and check your blind spots and mirrors.
   b. Signal, check your blind spots and pull into traffic.
   c. Check all your mirrors and signal; other traffic will yield to you.
   (page 68)

Safe & Responsible Driving

The key to being a safe and responsible driver is to be aware of your surroundings at all times and to be alert for potentially dangerous situations.

Defensive Driving

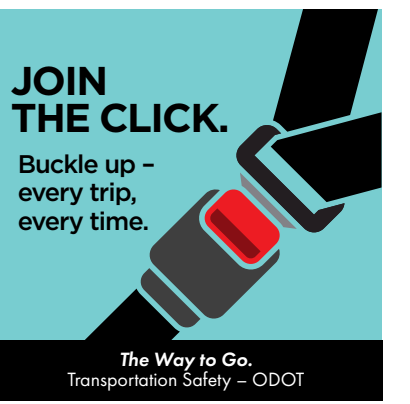
Know how to adjust your driving to allow for problems with your vehicle, the type of road surface, poor weather, heavy traffic, poor lighting, and your own physical, mental, and emotional condition.

You must be able to see what is to the front, sides, and rear of your vehicle. Do not load or equip your vehicle in any way that blocks what you can see. Placing stickers or other objects on your vehicle's windows can limit your view of the road.

You will constantly make decisions every mile that you drive. A defensive driver is always aware of their surroundings and possible escape routes.

Safety Belts

Safety belt use is mandatory in Oregon for all drivers and passengers in all available seating positions. A properly worn safety belt reduces the chance of injury in a collision. Do not leave slack in the lap or shoulder portion of the belt. Never put the shoulder strap under your arm or behind your back.



Child passengers must be restrained in approved child safety seats until they are 8 years of age or at least 4 feet 9 inches in height, and the adult lap and shoulder belt fits them correctly. Infants must ride rear-facing until they reach two years of age.

Communicating With Other Drivers

Collisions often occur when one driver does not see another vehicle or a driver does something unexpected. You can let other drivers know what you plan to do or where you are by:

- Signaling before changing direction or lanes.
- Using your brake lights to indicate you are slowing or stopping.
- Turning on your headlights.
- Using your horn as a reasonable warning.
- Using your hazard lights when needed.

Avoiding a Collision

There are three things you can do to avoid or minimize the impact of a collision—stopping quickly, turning quickly, and speeding up.

Stopping quickly: If you have enough distance to stop, apply the brakes. Be sure to read your vehicle owner's manual on how to properly use your brakes.

Turning quickly: In most cases, you can turn the vehicle more quickly than you can stop it. Scanning the area ahead will help you identify potential escape routes. If you will not stop in time to avoid a collision, turn away from it.

Speeding up: Sometimes it is best to speed up to avoid a collision. This may happen when another vehicle is about to hit you from the side or from behind and there is room ahead of you to get out of danger.

Driving Off the Road

If you should drive off the road, you need to know how to safely get back on it. The wrong reaction could result in a collision.

- Don't panic or brake hard. Slow down until you can get back on the road safely.
- Grip the steering wheel firmly and keep your vehicle on a straight course.
- Turn the front wheels just enough to get you back on the road. Do not turn sharply or you might go across the road into oncoming traffic.

Oncoming Traffic

If an oncoming vehicle is drifting into your lane, pull to the right as far as possible, slow down, and warn the other driver with your horn or lights. Never pull into the opposing lane; the oncoming driver may turn back sharply into that lane. In most cases, steering to the shoulder or ditch is safer than risking a head-on collision.

Animals

Animals can be unpredictable. Watch for signs warning of animal crossings and be prepared to brake or slow down as you pass an animal.

If you hit and injure a domestic animal, stop and make a reasonable effort to check injuries. What you can do may depend on traffic hazards or the animal's behavior. Immediately report the injury to the animal's owner. If you are unable to locate the owner you must report the incident to local law enforcement.

Stop your vehicle if a person riding on horseback or leading an animal raises a hand or it is obvious the animal is frightened, unless stopping would cause a collision. A raised hand means the animal is frightened. Do not use your horn or make other loud, sudden noises near the animal.

Hazardous Conditions

Driving becomes hazardous when visibility is reduced or when the road surface is wet or covered with snow or ice. Hazardous conditions require slower speeds and increased following distances.

Using Lights



Using headlights will help other drivers see you at all times of the day. Headlights must be turned on from sunset to sunrise. Lights also must be on at any time conditions make it difficult to see people or vehicles 1,000 feet ahead.

If using your high beams, you must dim your lights when an oncoming vehicle is within 500 feet. Dim your lights when following another vehicle within 350 feet. Headlight glare in a rearview mirror can blind another driver. When you are required to dim your headlights, other auxiliary lights such as fog lights, must be off. These extra lights make it difficult for oncoming drivers to see.

It is illegal to drive a vehicle at night or in bad weather with only the parking lights on. A vehicle stopped or parked on a road or shoulder must have parking lights on in limited visibility conditions.

Night Driving

At night, your reaction is slower because you can only see as far as your headlights. To adjust your driving habits accordingly, here are some night driving tips:

- Look a little to the right of oncoming lights and watch the road edge or fog line. This helps you be less blinded by headlight glare.
- Check your headlights, taillights, and turn signal lights often to make sure they are working and lenses are clean.
- Be careful when passing at dawn or dusk. Oncoming vehicles may not have their headlights on, and you may not see it until it is too late.
- Be alert for vulnerable road users, such as people riding bicycles and pedestrians, as they are harder to see.

Fog, Dust and Smoke

If you drive into fog, dust, smoke, or any area of low visibility, use headlights on low beam. Light from high beams will reflect back, causing glare, making it more difficult to see ahead.

As visibility decreases, slow down. Be alert for slow or stopped vehicles and other obstacles. Be prepared to pull over and stop. If you choose to pull off the road, pull as far as you can to the right and turn on your hazard lights.

Rain

Rain impairs your ability to see ahead and increases the braking distance needed to stop your vehicle. When roads are wet, apply the brakes sooner and more gently than usual. Even summer showers can cause slippery roads when rain mixes with oil and dirt.

Increase your visibility to other motorists by turning on your headlights when your windshield wipers are on. Do not use cruise control in wet conditions. Keep windows clear of moisture.

Vehicle tires sometimes hydroplane (skim or float) over a wet road surface. The ability to steer and stop can be reduced or lost. Slow down when roads are wet.

If you drive through water and the brakes get wet, gently apply the brakes while driving slowly until they begin to respond. It is best to do this as soon as you can after driving through water.

Do not drive through flooded areas. High water may cause loss of control or engine stalling.

Snow and Ice

Snow and ice also impair your ability to see ahead and increase the braking distance needed to stop your vehicle. Drive at slower speeds and leave more room between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Keep windows clear of snow, ice and fog, and do not use cruise control.

Pay attention to weather forecasts and warnings. When police or highway officials say driving is very hazardous, stay off the road. If you must drive on snow and ice, follow these tips:

- Gently press on the gas pedal. Too much power may cause the tires to spin or the vehicle to slide.
- Gently press and release the brakes. If you slam on the brakes, your vehicle will likely skid.
- Get the "feel" of the road away from traffic when you start driving. Try your brakes lightly so you will know what to expect.
- Make turns at a reduced, steady speed to avoid a skid.
- Watch for danger spots ahead. A bridge or shaded area freezes first and may be icy when the rest of the road is free of ice.
- When you go uphill on a snow or ice-covered road, apply just enough power to maintain motion without causing the wheels to spin.
- Be aware that the road is likely to be the most slippery when the temperature is near the freezing point rather than below freezing.

Skidding

Skids occur when the tires can no longer grip the road. Driving too fast for road conditions causes skids. If your vehicle begins to skid:

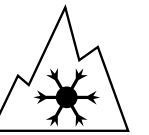
- **Stay off the brakes.** Until the vehicle slows, your brakes will not be effective.
- **Steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go.** As soon as the vehicle begins to straighten out, turn the steering wheel back the other way. If you do not do this, your vehicle may swing around in the other direction and you could start a new skid.
- **Continue to correct your steering,** left and right, until the vehicle is again moving down the road under your control.

Chains and Traction Tires

You may see signs that require you to carry or use chains or traction tires.

"Chains" include link chains, cable chains or any other device that attaches to the wheel, vehicle, or outside of the tire, specifically designed to increase traction on snow and ice.

"Traction tires" are studded tires, retractable studded tires or other tires that meet the tire industry definition as suitable for use in severe snow conditions. Tires designated by the tire industry display a mountain/snowflake emblem on the tire sidewall like the illustration to the right.



Studded tires are generally allowed only from November 1 through March 31 in Oregon. Because of the damage caused by studded tires, drivers are encouraged to use alternates such as chains or other traction tires.

Information on chain and traction tire requirements is available from the ODOT website at *TripCheck.com*.

Dangerous Driving Behaviors

Driving requires your full attention. There are many distractions that may prevent you from focusing on driving. Your mental and emotional state, as well as your physical health, affects the way you drive. Your overall health, fatigue, and even emotions, such as anger or worry, are a few of the conditions that can make you an unsafe driver. If you find yourself just going through the motions of driving, without really being aware of what you are doing or what is happening around you, it is time to stop for a rest or maybe quit for the day.

Distracted Driving

Being alert is an essential part of safe driving. Pay close attention to your surroundings, be aware and always on the lookout for other users of the road. Avoid the following distractions:

- It is illegal for drivers under 18 years of age to use a cell phone or other mobile electronic device while operating a vehicle. Turn it off or put it in the back seat and ignore it.
- Drivers 18 years of age or older must use a hands-free accessory to use a cell phone or other mobile electronic device. The hands-free accessory must only require minimal use of a finger to activate or deactivate the device. Consider assigning your passenger to be in charge of the device.
- It is illegal to have a TV, tablet or other video display visible to the driver.
- It is illegal to play a radio or other sound system so loud it can be heard 50 feet away from your vehicle. It is important to be able to hear horns, screeching tires and sirens.
- It is dangerous to do any activity that takes your eyes off the road while driving such as removing clothing, applying makeup, texting, reading, eating or drinking.
- Do not hold a person, pet, or package in your lap or arms.
- Do not take your eyes off the road to turn around to deal with the needs of passengers, children or pets. If you must give attention to passengers or animals, pull over to the side of the road and park your vehicle.

Road Rage

Angry or aggressive behavior by other drivers is often called "road rage." These behaviors may include driving in an illegal, unsafe or threatening manner, shouting and rude gestures. If you see an aggressive driver, stay out of the way. Do not challenge them by going faster or trying to out-drive them.

Fatigue and Drowsy Driving

A lot of yawning, head nodding, heavy eyelids, blurred vision and not staying in your lane while driving can mean you may be falling asleep at the wheel. When tired or sleepy, you are slower to react, and less aware of changing road and traffic conditions. Be sure you are well rested before and during travel. Take breaks to rest if you feel tired.

Things that may help you stay awake:

- Never try to push through to your destination. Find a safe place to stop and rest or take a brisk walk.
- Drink water. Dehydration can cause fatigue.
- Talk with your passenger to stay alert.
- Take turns driving to allow each driver to rest.
- Beware of medicines that can make you drowsy.



Health and Hearing

Your health can impact your ability to drive safely. If you are sick, think about if you really feel up to driving, especially on a long trip. Some medical conditions may cause serious problems that impact safe driving. These can include confusion, decreased reaction time, or an unexpected loss of consciousness. Talk to your doctor about the effects your condition may have on driving.

Being able to hear is important when driving. A change in the sound coming from your tires warns you of road surface changes. A difference in the sound of your engine may warn you of a problem. Sound also can tell you when another vehicle may be in your blind spot. It is important to be able to hear an approaching emergency vehicle. Do not use headphones that may reduce your hearing.

Impaired Driving

Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol or using other drugs. The chances of being in a collision go up for drivers who have used alcohol and/or drugs. This can lead to serious injuries or death. Leave the driving to someone else if you have used drugs of any kind.



Alcohol and drugs affect your mental and physical abilities. If you drive while alcohol or drugs are affecting you, you could be arrested for DUII. If your blood alcohol concentration is 0.08% or more, Oregon law presumes you are impaired, but you can still be arrested even if your BAC is lower than 0.08%.

Alcohol is the most common drug involved when drivers are impaired, but marijuana impairment has also contributed to many collisions in Oregon. The use of alcohol and marijuana together can reduce a person's ability to drive safely. The safest choice is to not drive after using any drug that affects your reaction time or physical abilities.

Over the counter and prescription medications can also impair your driving ability. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the side effects of any medication. If you are not sure if it is safe to drive after taking a new medication, it is best to find different transportation. Oregon's DUII law applies to any substance that impairs your mental or physical ability to drive.

Oregon's Implied Consent law means that by driving a motor vehicle, you have agreed that you will take a breath, blood, or urine test when asked by a police officer. If you refuse to take a test, you may receive a fine, and/or your driving privileges could be suspended.

- If you are under 21, you will fail the test if you have a blood alcohol concentration of any amount. Oregon has a zero tolerance law.
- If you are 21 or over, you will fail the test if your blood alcohol concentration is 0.08 percent or more.

Oregon's Open Container law says it is illegal to have an open bottle or other container with alcohol in it while you are in a vehicle on any road. A container is considered to be open if its seal is broken, even if it has been reclosed. Any open bottles or containers should be in the trunk.



External Passengers

Anyone, regardless of age, should not ride in a pickup bed or on any external part of the vehicle. Oregon law prohibits anyone under 18 years of age from riding on the hood, fender, running board, or other external part of a vehicle, including a pickup bed.

You cannot carry a dog on an external part of a vehicle, including a pickup bed, unless the dog is protected by a framework, carrier, or other device to keep it from falling from the vehicle. Do not hold an animal in your lap or arms when driving.

Vehicle Equipment Failures

Most equipment failures can be avoided with good maintenance. An unmaintained vehicle can become unsafe to drive. Check your vehicle owner's manual for maintenance information.

There may be times when equipment fails, resulting in a driving emergency that calls for you to take fast action.

Blowouts

If a front tire blows, steering will be difficult and there may be a strong pull to the side. A rear blowout causes the back of the vehicle to weave or sway. If you have a blowout:

- Grip the steering wheel firmly.
- Slow down gradually.
- Pull off the road.

Brakes Fail

If your brakes stop working:

- Pump the brakes. This may build up enough pressure to get them working again.
- Shift to a lower gear so the engine can help slow you down.
- Slowly apply the parking brake.
- Use your horn or lights to warn others that you are out of control.
- Once you have slowed, ease onto the shoulder.

Headlights Go Out

If your headlights stop working:

- Turn the headlight switch off and on.
- Try other lights such as high beams, driving lights or hazard lights. This may give you enough light to guide you off the road.
- Slow down and ease onto the shoulder.

Power Steering Fails

If your power steering stops working:

- Grip the steering wheel firmly. Steering will be difficult.
- Slow down and ease onto the shoulder.

Accelerator Sticks

If your accelerator sticks:

- Search for an escape path.
- Shift the vehicle to neutral. Use an open palm to avoid shifting into another gear.
- Steer smoothly while braking.
- Pull off the road when it is safe to do so.

Fuel Saving Techniques

Improve gas mileage or save fuel by using these techniques:

- Drive steadily and avoid exceeding posted speed limits.
- Avoid rapid starts and sudden stops.
- Avoid unnecessary idling.
- Combine errands into a single trip.
- Properly maintain your vehicle.

For more helpful tips go to:

www.fueleconomy.gov
www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/discover-fuel-saving-tips

Sample Test Questions

1. It is illegal to have fog lights on when you are
   a. required to dim your headlights.
   b. using them to see through fog.
   c. using your high beam headlights.
   (page 76)

2. A driver has three tools to use to avoid a collision.
   a. Slow down, check your mirrors, stop.
   b. Stop quickly, turn quickly, speed up.
   c. Speed up, honk your horn, change lanes.
   (page 74)

3. Oregon's Open Container law
   a. does not apply to anyone over the age of 21.
   b. requires any open bottles or containers to be in the trunk.
   c. allows only passengers to have open containers.
   (page 83)

4. You are driving and receive a text on your cell phone. What do you do?
   a. Read and respond to the text.
   b. Ignore the text until you stop in a safe parking area.
   c. Slow down and read and respond while keeping one eye on the road.
   (page 80)

3

Other Important Information

Additional details about any of the topics in this section are available at *OregonDMV.com*.

A Class C non-commercial driving privilege allows you to drive a vehicle (passenger car, moped, autocycle, van, or pickup) of not more than 26,000 pounds that is exempt from commercial driver license (CDL) or motorcycle endorsement requirements.

How to Apply

To qualify for a Class C non-commercial driving privilege you must:

- Be at least 15 years of age to apply for an instruction permit.
- Be at least 16 years of age to apply for a license.
- Complete an electronic application. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or legal guardian will need to sign the electronic application. If your parent or legal guardian is unable to come with you to DMV, you will need to submit form 735-173DP with your parent or legal guardian's signature. If emancipated or married, you must provide proof and then a parent or legal guardian signature is not required.
- Present proof of identity, date of birth, and residence address.
- Provide your Social Security Number (SSN) or electronically certify that you do not have a SSN.
- If you are under 18 years of age and applying for a first-time Oregon driving privilege, a parent or legal guardian must certify that you are enrolled or attending school. If you are no longer in school, you must present a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate.
- Successfully complete required knowledge, vision, and drive tests.
- Pay applicable fees.
- Have your photo taken. Hats, glasses, paint or other temporary substances on your face, or contact lenses that change the appearance of the eye are not allowed.
- Not be suspended, revoked or canceled in Oregon or any other state.
- Surrender any other driving privilege or ID card.

- If you are under 18 years of age and applying for a driver license:
  - » You must have had an instruction permit for at least 6 months. Holding an out-of-state permit does count towards this requirement.
  - » You must have 100 hours of supervised driving experience or 50 hours of supervised driving experience and have taken an ODOT-approved traffic safety education course. DMV must receive proof of course completion. Your driving experience only counts if supervised by someone at least 21 years of age who has had valid driving privileges for at least 3 years.

Proof of Identity and Date of Birth

You are required to present acceptable proof of identity and date of birth. Documents presented as proof must be original or certified copies from the issuing agency.

The most common forms of proof include:

- U.S. government-issued birth certificate (hospital-issued birth certificates and baptismal records are not acceptable).
- U.S. passport or passport card, valid or expired no more than 5 years.
- Tribal ID card from a federally recognized tribe located in Oregon, approved by DMV.
- Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship.
- Employment Authorization Card, valid or expired no more than 5 years (I-766).
- Permanent Resident Card, valid or expired no more than 5 years (I-551).
- Foreign passport, valid or expired no more than 5 years.
- Re-entry Permit, valid or expired no more than 5 years (I-327).
- Refugee Travel Document, valid or expired no more than 5 years (I-571).

- Consulate Card, valid or expired no more than 5 years.
- Oregon driver license, permit or ID card, valid or expired no more than 13 years.
- Out-of-State driver license, permit or ID card, valid or expired no more than 1 year.

If your current legal name is different than the name shown on your identity document, you will be required to provide proof of legal name change.

Proof of Current Residence Address

You must present one document to prove your address when applying for a driving privilege. Common proof includes:

- Certification by a person who resides at the same address as you. The individual must accompany you and provide proof of the address such as their license or ID card.
- Mail from a business, school or government agency containing your first and last name. Personal mail and forwarded mail is not acceptable.
- A document from an educational provider.
- A utility hookup order, bill, mortgage document, or property tax statement.

For a complete list of acceptable documents to prove identity, date of birth, legal name change or residence address, visit *OregonDMV.com*.

For REAL ID additional requirements and information, please visit *Oregon.gov/REALID*.

Additional Services

Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

When issued your driving privilege, you can sign up on the organ, eye, and tissue donor registry. DMV will add a "♥" to the front of the card, with the words "Anatomical Donor" to the back of your license or permit.

For additional information or to sign up to be a donor, go to *donatelifenw.org* or call (800) 452-1369.

Veteran Designation

If you are a veteran, you may request a veteran designation on your license or permit. You must present a Certification of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (Form DD214) or a Correction to DD214 (Form DD215) showing you were discharged under honorable conditions as proof that you are a veteran.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing Designation

You may request that DMV add a deaf or hard of hearing designation on your license or permit. No proof is required. This designation will also be visible to law enforcement through your DMV record.

DMV will add a  to the front of the card, with the words "Deaf or hard of hearing" to the back of your license or permit.

Mandatory Insurance

Oregon law requires every driver to insure their vehicles by at least these minimum amounts:

- **Bodily Injury and Property Damage:** $25,000 per collision for one person; $50,000 per collision for bodily injury to or death of two or more persons; and $20,000 per collision for damage to the property of others.
- **Personal Injury Protection:** $15,000 per person for reasonable and necessary expenses within two years after the date of the person's injury. Expenses may be for medical, dental, and other services needed due to injury or death resulting from the use, occupancy, or maintenance of the vehicle.
- **Uninsured Motorist Coverage:** $25,000 per person; $50,000 per collision for bodily injury.

Traffic Collisions

The common term for collisions, wrecks, and crashes is "accidents." However, the word "accident" is misleading. If you are involved in a collision with another vehicle or object because you were distracted, tired, or not driving defensively, it is a preventable collision—not an accident.

Your Responsibilities

If you are involved in a collision, you must:

- **Stop.** If there are no injuries and vehicles can be safely moved, move them out of travel lanes as soon as possible. Information can be exchanged away from the scene of the collision.
- **Give reasonable assistance to injured persons.** Injured people should never be moved carelessly.

- **Exchange information.** Provide your name, address, driver license number, license plate number of your vehicle, and your insurance information to the other driver, passengers, or any injured pedestrian involved. If a person is killed or unconscious, remain at the scene of the collision until police arrive.
- **File a collision report within 72 hours, Form 735-32, if:**
  - » Damage to the vehicle you were driving is over $2,500;
  - » Damage to property other than a vehicle is over $2,500;
  - » Damage to any vehicle is greater than $2,500 and any vehicle is towed from the scene due to damage from the collision;
  - » There is injury or death resulting from the collision;
  - » You are the owner of a vehicle involved in a reportable collision and the driver fails to report the collision.

A police report does not replace your requirement to file a report with DMV.

Unattended Vehicles

If you hit an unoccupied vehicle, try to find the owner. If you cannot find the owner, leave a note with your name and address, along with a brief description of what happened. If you damage property other than a motor vehicle, you must also try to find the owner or someone in charge of the property to notify them of the damage.



Loss of Driving Privileges

In order to keep your driving privilege, you must maintain a good driving record. Some of the reasons you can lose your driving privilege are:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or inhalants.
- Failing to report a vehicle collision.
- Driving uninsured.
- Too many traffic convictions (Driver Improvement Program).
- Failure to comply with court fines.

This is not a complete list. For additional information on suspensions and reinstatements, go to *OregonDMV.com*.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS AN EVERYWHERE PROBLEM ... WITH AN EVERYBODY SOLUTION

Oregon Department of Transportation

TAT

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It occurs in all 50 states in the U.S., in both rural and urban settings, when people are subject to forced labor or illegally bought and sold for commercial sex. A minor being sold for sex is always a victim of human trafficking.

While the recruitment or purchase of victims may occur online, survivors may be recovered in many locations, including truck stops, bus terminals, local businesses, restaurants, hotels, strip clubs, private homes, a variety of events, etc. The movement of victims may include the use of rideshares, taxis or other modes of transportation.



As a licensed driver, you may intersect with a human trafficking situation while you're en route somewhere, stopped at a business or in a neighborhood or attending a sporting or other event where a large number of people are gathered.

If you suspect someone could be a victim of human trafficking, time is of the essence.

1) If you're seeing a crime in progress, call 911. When reporting a tip, provide "actionable information," including times, dates, location and address of the situation, descriptions of cars or trucks involved (make, model, color, license plate, distinguishing marks and/or USDOT number, etc.) and people (height, weight, hair color, eye color, age, etc.). Take a picture if you can. When you contact law enforcement, tell them you suspect human trafficking.

2) To access the national human trafficking hotlines to ascertain if you're witnessing human trafficking, to access services, make a report or share incidents that have been reported to law enforcement, **call 1-888-3737-888 in the U.S., 1-833-900-1010 in Canada or 01800-5533-000 in Mexico.**

3) Please do not approach traffickers. Allow law enforcement to deal with traffickers and recover victims. Approaching traffickers is not only dangerous for you and their victims but could lead to problems in the eventual prosecution of traffickers. **If you do interact with a human trafficking victim, provide support based on your comfort level.**

For red flag indicators of human trafficking and more information, download the TAT app today.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Important Contact Information

Contact DMV

DMV Website ..... *OregonDMV.com*

DMV outside the Portland area..... 503-945-5000

within the Portland area..... 503-299-9999

TDD (deaf and hard of hearing)..... Statewide Relay 711

Report Drunk Drivers..... 911

Road Information ..... *TripCheck.com*

Vital Records—
Oregon (Birth Certificate Information)..... 971-673-1190

Send your comments regarding the contents of this manual to:

Driver Programs
DMV
1905 Lana Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon 97314

ODOT does not discriminate regarding access to our programs, services, activities, hiring, and employment practices.

To report concerns and complaints related to discrimination, contact ODOT's Nondiscrimination team:
www.oregon.gov/odot/Business/OCR/Pages/Civil-Rights-Concerns.aspx
ODOT.TitleVI@odot.oregon.gov
855-540-6655

ODOT complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other federal nondiscrimination statutes. Assistance is provided to anyone who requests it.

This information can be made available in an alternative format by contacting a local DMV office.

DRIVER AND MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

Drive Safely and Courteously. It Could Save a Life!

This Message is Brought
to You by Your Local DMV Office

Oregon Department of Transportation

Form 735-37 (1-26)©
STK #300011