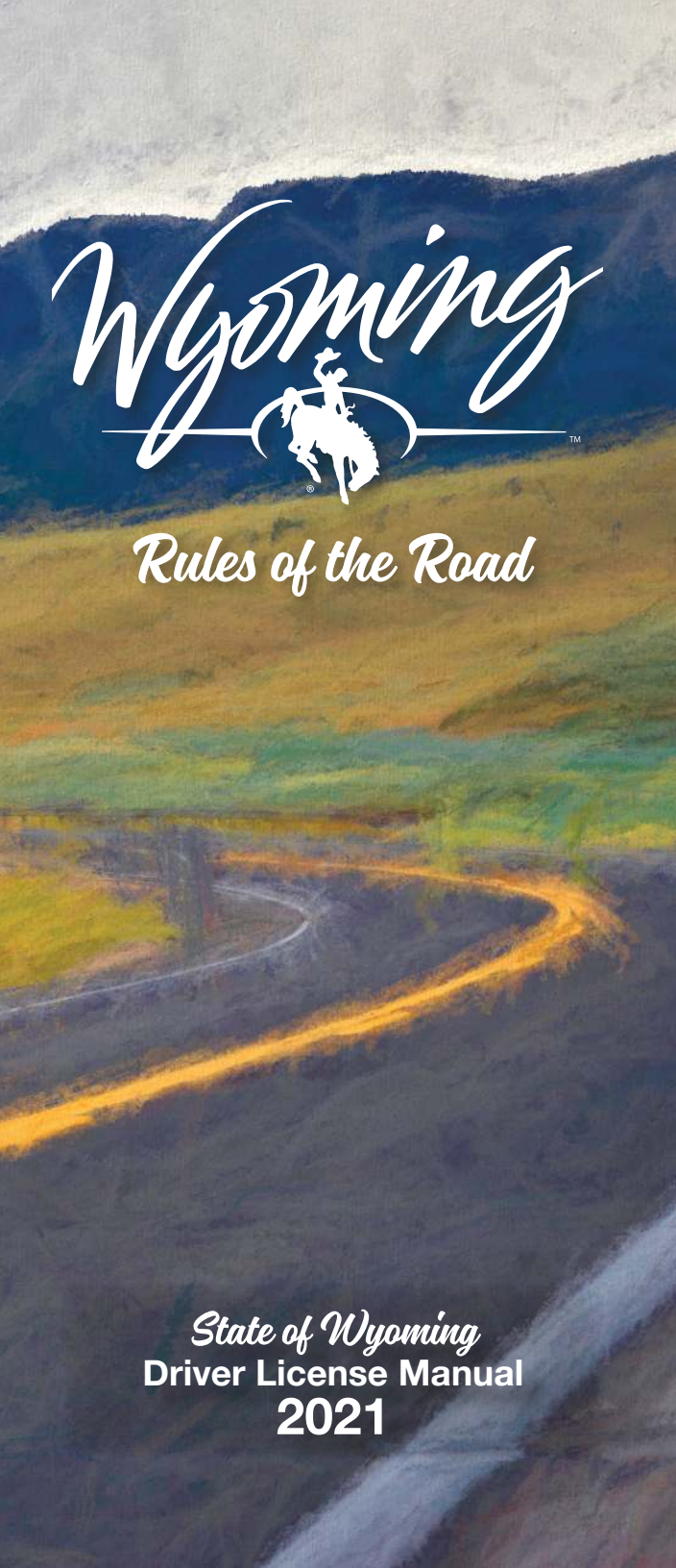
Wyoming
Rules of the Road
State of Wyoming
Driver License Manual
2021

Above all else, drive safely

Welcome to the latest edition of Wyoming's Rules of the Road driver's manual. This book has been revised to include some of the most recent changes enacted by the Wyoming State Legislature effective July 1, 2019 and beyond. You will find information on how to obtain a driver license or ID card, the penalties for drinking and driving, requirements for insurance, what to do in the case of a crash, rules for driving on streets, highways, and railroad crossings, and other driving related subjects. You will also find information on other driver services offered by the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Safe driving involves obeying traffic rules and regulations, being courteous on the road, driving defensively and making sure that you and your passengers wear a seat belt.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Driver Services at (307) 777-4800, or write to us at Wyoming Department of Transportation, Driver Services, 5300 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340. Also, visit our website at *www.dot.state.wy.us*.



This manual will help you attain your license and drive safely

While a thorough knowledge of the information in this manual will help you pass the state knowledge and driving tests, this manual covers only the basic requirements. We urge persons who are just learning to drive to also take advantage of local driver education classes.

The language of the Wyoming Motor Vehicle Law is not used in this manual, which therefore cannot be used as an actual expression of the law. This manual does provide, in simple terms, the basic intent of the law in driving situations. Statutes relating to driver licensing and motor vehicles are found in Wyoming Laws and Related Statutes.

Your future as a driver could be decided by how well you study and become familiar with the information in this manual. Applying it can help you drive crash free and provide enjoyment for you and others.

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Driver licensing

Requirements to drive

To drive legally in Wyoming, you must have a valid driver license, instruction permit, intermediate license or restricted license. Wyoming licenses are issued by the Driver Services Program of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT).

Those who do not need to obtain a Wyoming driver license are:

- Employees of the United States government operating vehicles owned or leased by the U.S. government;
- Members of the Armed Forces stationed in Wyoming, and their dependents, who have a valid license issued by their state of residence;
- Full-time students attending the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college who have a valid license from another state; and
- Any person licensed by another state which is a Driver License Compact member (see page 31), unless the person chooses to have a Wyoming driver license; however, their out-of-state license must be surrendered within one year of residency in Wyoming.

Who cannot get a Wyoming driver license

Certain individuals may not be eligible for a Wyoming license. They include:

- Persons under 16 years of age;
- Persons whose driving privileges are suspended, canceled, denied or revoked in this or any other state (All applicants are checked through The Problem Driver Pointer System and other electronic systems to make sure there are no adverse actions against them);
- Persons who fail any portion of a required driver license examination;
- Persons who have been judged legally incompetent;
- Persons who are habitual users of alcohol or any

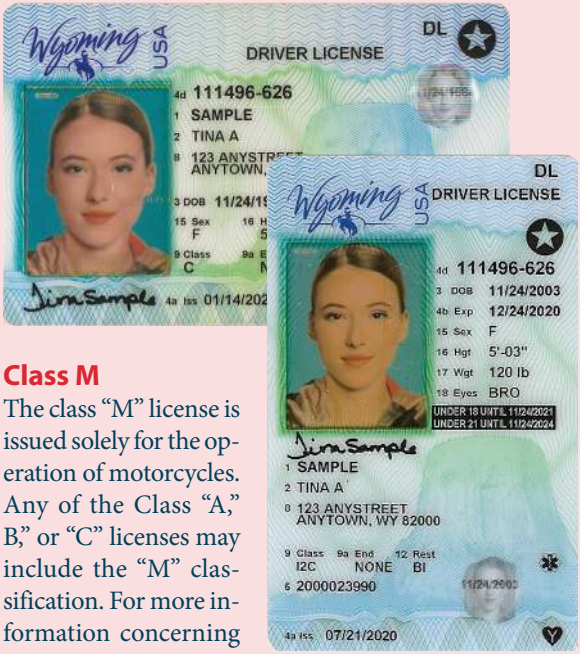
controlled substance;

- Persons who are in violation of the immigration laws of the United States.

Your Wyoming license
Non-commercial license classes

Class C

The Class C license authorizes operation of a single vehicle or combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, with a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds, or any such vehicle towing another which does not have a GVWR in excess of 10,000 pounds. In addition, the Class C CDL license allows operation of vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or which are placarded for transportation of hazardous materials.



Class M

The class "M" license is issued solely for the operation of motorcycles. Any of the Class "A," B," or "C" licenses may include the "M" classification. For more information concerning motorcycles, or for the requirements to obtain a Class "M" license, please see the "Wyoming Department of Transportation Motorcycle Operator Manual."

Restriction codes

Restriction codes mean that license holders may only operate a vehicle in certain circumstances or if special provisions are met. The codes are:

A – Automatic transmission

B – Corrective lenses

C – Mechanical aid

D – Prosthetic aid

E – No manual transmission; CDL only

G – Daylight driving only

I – Limited others

J – Valid without photo or signature

K – Intrastate driving only; CDL only

L – Vehicle without air brakes; CDL only

M – Class B bus; CDL only

N – Class C bus; CDL only

O – No Tractor/Trailer CMV; CDL only

P – No passengers; CDL only

R – 4-wheel recreational vehicle only

V – Must have variance letter or SPE certificate in possession; CDL only

X – No cargo in tank; CDL only

Z – No full air brake; CDL only

Getting your license

To obtain a Wyoming driver license, a person must be of sufficient age, provide legal proof of identification and Wyoming residency, and then pass a written knowledge test, a vision screening and a driving skills test. Applicants under 18 years of age must also have a release signed by a legal parent or guardian.

Age requirements

For full driving privileges, an applicant must be at least 17, or be 16-1/2 and have completed an approved driver education course and held an intermediate license for six months. At 16 an applicant may obtain limited driving privileges by acquiring an intermediate license. An instruction permit may be obtained at 15.

Acceptable legal identification

First-time applicants for a driver license or identification card must provide a state-certified birth certificate, a valid U.S. passport or immigration documents. If the last name has changed from the verification document, then proof of name change is required, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order. Applicants also **must** be able to verify their Social Security number by presenting a Social Security card, W-2 form or financial/banking statement that includes their Social Security number.

When licensees **change their addresses, they must** notify the department in writing within 10 days of the change. Forms for address changes are available at all exam locations and on the WYDOT website at *http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/formsapplications/general-forms.html*.

Acceptable Proof of Residency

Any two of the following are acceptable documents that must be provided as proof that you are a Wyoming resident, and they must show a residential address, not a P.O. Box:

- Vehicle title and/or registration;
- Property tax and/or mortgage documents;
- Rental, lease or other documents showing residence in the state;
- Federal tax documents with a Wyoming address;
- Bank statements from a Wyoming bank or credit union; or
- Any other legal documents showing a Wyoming address.

Required tests

Vision screening

A person must have 20/40 acuity with both eyes, either with or without glasses, and a combined horizontal field vision of at least 120 degrees to meet Wyoming vision standards for operating a motor vehicle. Those who fail the vision screening must obtain a vision statement from an eye specialist. If contact lenses or glasses are used to pass the screening, they will be required while driving. If your visual acuity is worse than 20/40 but at least 20/100, you will be required to take a driving skills test.

Written test – Automated Testing System

A written test covering the rules of the road and safe driving practices may be required. Questions are taken from the information in this manual. The test includes: (1) identification of traffic signs by shape, color or symbol; (2) identification of signals and pavement markings; and (3) correct answers to multiple choice questions about traffic laws, safety rules, crash prevention and vehicle equipment. Applicants for a driver's license are allowed to take the written test twice in one day. All tests are given in English only, so if a person cannot speak or write the English language, an interpreter may be used. Oral tests are available, but the applicant must request one prior to taking the test.

Wyoming Driver License Practice Tests are available at https://gowyld.driving-tests.org/wyoming/.

Skills test

First-time applicants, who have never been licensed in this or any other state, are required to pass a skills test consisting of safe driving maneuvers. Applicants are not asked to do anything against the law. Others situations may require a driver to pass a driving test to demonstrate their driving ability. Applicants who fail are required to wait 24 hours before testing again. Applicants who miss 13 or more questions must wait three days to be retested.

The skills test may be waived for those who present proof, in the form of a certification card, that they have completed an approved driver education class. The card must contain student's name, date of birth, driver license number and the original signatures of the instructor and school administrator. It must also state that the student has completed 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel driving. The certification card will be honored for no longer than two years.

License services

First Wyoming licenses

Applicants must pass all parts of the examination, including a written knowledge test, vision screening and driving skills test. The skills test may be waived if a valid out-of-state license or a driver's education certificate from an approved driver's education course is presented. **Applicants under 18, must have a minor's release signed by a legal parent or guardian.**

Instruction permits

Applicants should be prepared to pass a written knowledge test and vision screening. When operating a motor vehicle, the driver must be accompanied by a person 18 or older, who possesses a valid driver license for the type of vehicle being driven. This person must occupy the front passenger seat, for purposes of instruction, while the vehicle is driven.

Renewals

Renewals are issued to Wyoming citizens who hold a valid Wyoming license. Licensees over 21 may renew within the 120-day period preceding expiration. Licensees under 21 may renew within 90 days of expiration. If licensee is under 21 and wants an "adult"-type license, they can only renew within 30 days of their 21st birthday. Applicants must pass a vision screening. A skills test may be required at the discretion of the examiner.

Renewals by mail

Drivers may renew their current Wyoming license by mail once every other renewal period. Renewal applications are mailed to the current address on record for those whose licenses have not been canceled, revoked or disqualified within the previous five years, or who have not renewed by mail within the previous five years. Applications are mailed 120 days prior to expiration to persons over 21 and 90 days prior to expiration to persons under 21.

Renewals of expired licenses

Persons who let their license expire must apply in person for a new license and may be required to take all phases of the examination, including the written test, vision screening, and skills test.

Driver license fees

Non-commercial licenses

Original Wyoming License	$40
Restricted License	$20
Renewal	$30
Renewal of License by Mail	$30
Instruction Permit	$40
Restricted Instruction Permit	$20
Intermediate License	$30

Commercial licenses

Original Wyoming License	$50
Renewal	$40
Class Change	$40
Commercial Learners Permit	$40

Other fees

Motorcycle license	$6
Identification Card	$10
CDL Skills Test (by appointment only)	$80
Individual Driving Records	$5
Record Review	$15
Contested Hearing	$25
Non CDL Probationary License	$50
Reinstatement Fee	$50
Emancipated Minor Indication	$2
Child support suspension reinstatement	$5

NOTE: ***An additional technology fee of $5 will be imposed on all classes of driver licenses and CDL Skills tests. All fees are subject to change.***

Full driving privileges

At age 17

At 17, an applicant may be issued a Wyoming driver's license with full driving privileges without having been issued an intermediate license or any other type of license or permit. However, the applicant may not be issued a license if any current, restricted driving privileges have been suspended. An applicant must:

- Present proof of identity;
- Pass the vision screening, a written test and a driving skills test;

The most important 4.5 hours of your life.

Alive at 25

Saving Lives Through Education

National Law Enforcement Curriculum



WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL

aliveat25.us

- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the Minor's Release Form and pay the required fee.

At 16 and one-half

At 16 and one-half years of age, applicants may also be issued full driving privileges if they have a current intermediate license that is at least six months old, their current, restricted driving privileges have not been suspended, and if they have completed a driver education course approved by the Wyoming Department of Education. This applicant must:

- Present a signed certificate of completion from an approved driver education course which includes behind-the-wheel driving;
- Present proof of identity;
- Pass a vision screening;
- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the Minor's Release Form and pay the required fee.

Age restricted licenses

For extreme inconvenience

A restricted license may be issued to applicants, 14-15, when an extreme inconvenience exists in their household. The applicant **must** have held an instruction permit and must live five or more miles from school and/or employment. **The Wyoming Highway Patrol approves applications for restricted licenses.**

The license is only valid between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. and within 50 miles of the licensee's residence. The license will be suspended if the licensee is convicted of one moving traffic violation or of driving outside the designated hours or the 50-mile radius limitation. A restricted license expires 30 days after the holder's 16th birthday.

A restricted **instruction permit** is available for applicants, ages 14-15 years, who have been approved for a restricted license but do not currently hold an instruction permit. The permit is valid for 60 days.

Intermediate licenses

A license may also be issued to applicants at age 16 when they acquire an intermediate license.

At 16 an applicant may be issued an intermediate license if he or she:

- Has held a Restricted Class C (RC) license, or
- Has held an Instruction Permit and has completed 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving, including 10 hours of nighttime driving, as certified by a parent or legal guardian.

The Intermediate license applicant must also:

- Present proof of identity;
- Pass a vision screening and a driving skills test (The driving skills test may be waived if the applicant has completed an approved driver education course);
- Have a minor's release signed by a parent or legal guardian; and pay the required fee.

Holders of Intermediate licenses:

- May not transport more than one passenger under the age of 18 who is not an immediate family member unless also accompanied by a licensed driver 18 years of age or older (Intermediate motorcycle permit holders may not carry any passengers while driving their motorcycles);
- Must ensure that all occupants of the vehicle are wearing seat belts; and
- May not drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless the holder meets an exception criteria and presents a completed exception form.

An exception form allows driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., if the driver is:

- Required to drive for a medical necessity, that is certified by medical personnel; or
- Required to drive to or from work, as certified by an employer; or
- Required to drive to or from school, a school activity, organized youth sports activity or a religious activity, as certified by parent or legal guardian; or
- Required to drive for a medical emergency, as evidenced by medical personnel.

The appropriate individual (as determined by the exception) must complete and sign the exception form, and it must be carried by the licensee and presented to law enforcement if the holder is stopped.

Intermediate license suspension

An intermediate license will be suspended for 30 days for any violation of these provisions.

Intermediate license expiration

An intermediate license automatically expires 30 days after the holder's 17th birthday.

Licenses for disabled drivers

WYDOT understands that most people place great value in being able to drive and that, without the widespread availability of public transportation in Wyoming, it is even more important for persons with disabilities to have driving privileges whenever possible. Therefore Driver Services wishes to facilitate the licensing process for disabled people while making sure that the applicant is able to drive safely before actually issuing a license. It may be necessary to have a medical and/or vision statement completed by a physician before a license is issued.

Many applicants need or use special equipment to drive safely. It is WYDOT's responsibility to license an applicant with any restrictions recommended by their physician, optometrist or ophthalmologist and as a result of a skills test, when deemed necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Additional driver/ motoring services

Wyoming Amber Alert System

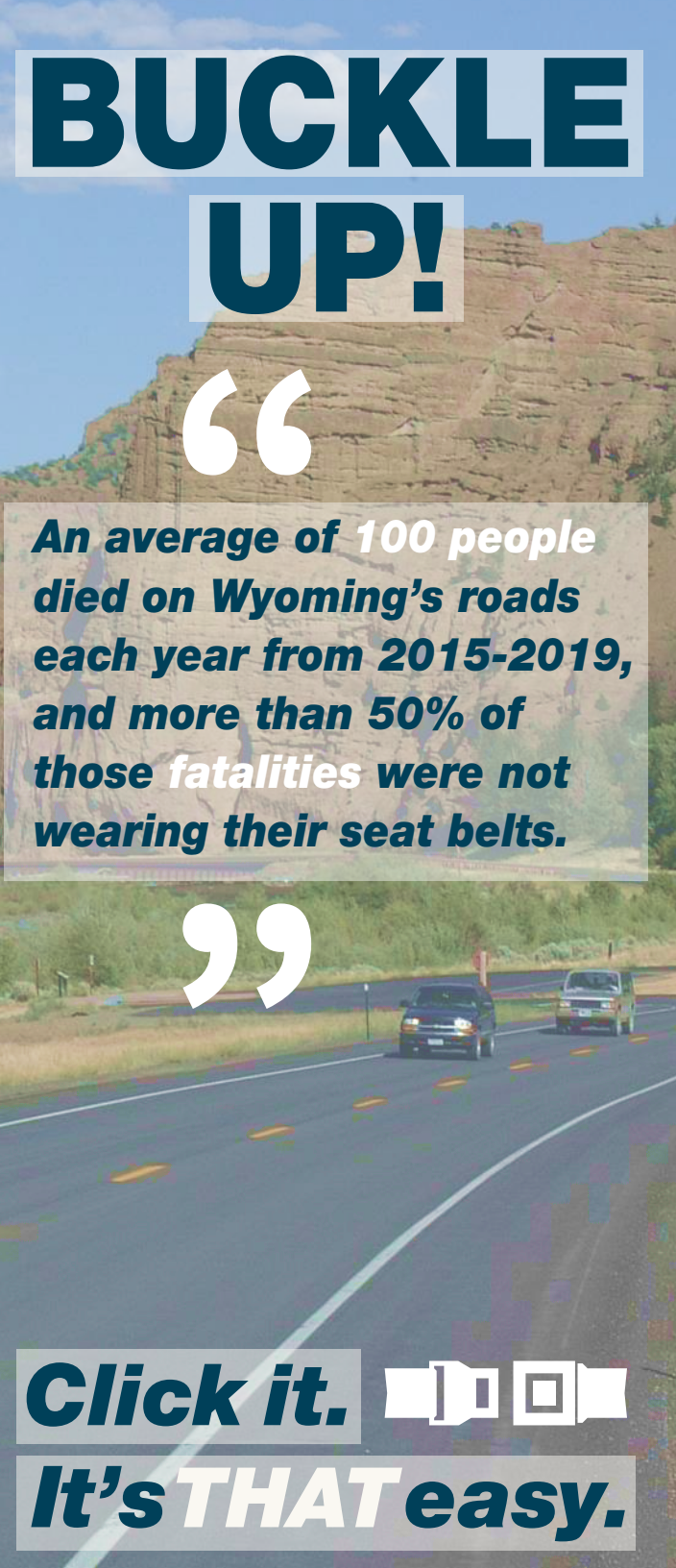
In 2003, Wyoming Law Enforcement, the Association of Broadcasters, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Cable TV Association and the Department of Transportation (DOT) coordinated the Amber Alert Plan. The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is the designated liaison between the local law enforcement agency and the NWS, broadcasters and DOT. All of the following criteria must be met prior to DCI activating an Amber Alert:

- A child has been abducted.
- The child **must** be 17 years of age or younger.
- The child **must** be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There **must** be enough descriptive information to believe a broadcast will assist or help in the recovery.

The Wyoming Amber Alert Plan is designed to broadcast critical information about an abducted child believed to be in danger, using the Emergency Alert

BUCKLE UP!

“An average of 100 people died on Wyoming’s roads each year from 2015-2019, and more than 50% of those fatalities were not wearing their seat belts.”



Click it.

It’s THAT easy.

System, via radio and television. If an Amber Alert is activated, please do be aware of the information provided.

Accessing your driving record

WYDOT maintains a computerized driving record of every driver in the state. It contains a record of all convictions, motor vehicle convictions, and adverse actions as a result of these convictions.

You may obtain a copy of your driver record at any of the local exam stations upon presenting your driver license or other legal forms of identification and payment of the fee. A legal parent or guardian can obtain a copy of a child's driver record, if the child is a minor under the age of 18 years. It is possible to obtain another's driver record provided a written release is presented to the examiner from the person whose driver record is being released.

A person can also obtain a copy of their driver record by submitting a written request along with the required fee to the department. The fee for the driving record may be paid by credit card; however, this must be stipulated in the written request with a phone number and email address to contact the person requesting the record.

The Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act prohibits WYDOT from providing personal information to individuals and businesses for the purposes of surveys, marketing and solicitations. Personal information includes photographs and digital images, signatures, telephone numbers and medical/disability information. It does not prohibit the release of records pertaining to vehicular crashes, driving violations and driver license or registration status.

Wyoming Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to register to be an organ donor. The Department of Transportation is authorized to electronically transfer donor status to the Donor Registry. A parent's or guardian's signature is required to approve an anatomical gift for minors under eighteen (18) years of age.

If you wish to be a donor, a donor designation is indicated on your driver's license or identification card. You can directly register or remove your name

from the Donor Registry by accessing the website at *www.WyomingDonorRegistry.org*.

Organ donation is a deeply personal decision only you and your family can make. You'll feel good knowing that you could leave the one thing money cannot buy – life.

Disabled placards

Permanent disabled placards are issued to persons who suffer from physical impairments. The impairment must last a minimum of 12 months. Temporary placards may be issued to persons who suffer an impairment for up to 6 months.

Applications are available at all driver license exam stations and on the website at *http://www.dot.state.wy.us/driverservices*, then navigate to the forms page. The application must be completed by a physician. To obtain disabled plates, you must complete an application for a placard and indicate on the form that you want license plates. You may be issued one placard and one or more sets of plates, or two placards and no license plates.

Disabled placards are available at no cost to the applicant.

Medical Alert

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to specify a medical condition to first responder or law enforcement officer in the event you are unable to communicate it yourself.

If you with to specify a medical condition, a medical alert designation is indicated on your driver's license or identification card. The designation information can be removed or changed in the system anytime by contacting Driver Services.

Wildlife Conservation

Applications for a Wyoming driver's license or identification card ask whether or not you wish to donate to Wildlife Conservation. If you choose to donate, you will indicated the amount you are donating on the application and the examiner will collect this amount along with any other fees.

Funds in the wildlife conservation account shall only be used to provide for wildlife conservation efforts related

to the transportation system, including signage, wildlife corridors, wildlife crossings and game fences.

Losing the privilege to drive

License suspensions, cancellations and revocations

Driving in Wyoming, as in all states, is a privilege, not a right. Abuse the privilege, and you may lose it.

Drinking and driving suspensions

Administrative Per Se Suspension

An Administrative Per Se Suspension and a Disqualification of Commercial Driving Privileges results when you have been arrested for DWUI and the results of your chemical test show an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or greater. Dismissal of the DWUI in court will not affect the Administrative Per Se suspension.

Length of suspension: 90 days. (*If you are convicted of the DWUI in court, the time served for the Administrative Per Se suspension will be credited toward the DWUI suspension.*)

Length of disqualification: One year if this is a first major offense and lifetime if this is a second or subsequent major offense.

Start of suspension/disqualification: 30 days after the issuance of the temporary driver's license and notice of suspension given by the officer at the time of the arrest, or at the end of any existing suspension or revocation. The procedure to apply for limited driving privileges or a contested case hearing is explained on the form issued by the officer.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible. NOTE: You cannot have an ignition interlock requirement.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Driving While Under the Influence

A DWUI results when you have been convicted in court of Driving While Under the Influence. (In addition to an Administrative Per Se/Refusal, you may be convicted of DWUI or receive a deferred prosecution under W.S. 7-13-301.)

1st offense (within previous 10 years)

Length of suspension: 90 days. *(If you served or are serving a suspension for Administrative Per Se, the suspension period will be the same.)*

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years, are otherwise eligible and do not have an ignition interlock requirement.

Ignition Interlock Requirement: If your BAC (blood alcohol content) at the time of arrest was .15% or greater, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of 6 months before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if .15% BAC or higher at arrest, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

2nd offense (within previous 10 years)

Length of suspension: One year. (*If you served or are serving a suspension for Administrative Per Se, an additional nine-month suspension will be added to your record.)*

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No, according to Wyoming law. *Limited driving privileges cannot be issued for any DWUI after the first offense, unless convicted of DWUI that includes alcohol.*

Ignition Interlock Requirement: If convicted for DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of one year before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if required, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

3rd or subsequent offense (within 10 years)

Length of revocation: Three years.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No, unless convicted of DWUI that includes alcohol.

Ignition Interlock Requirement: If convicted of 3rd DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of two year plus the remainder of the revocation period before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

If convicted of 4th or subsequent DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for life, but you may petition to the court, 5 years from your conviction date, for removal of the lifetime ignition interlock requirement.

Reinstatement requirements:

- Completion of all suspension/revocation actions on record; or
- Application for an ignition interlock restricted driver license, if required, must show proof of ignition interlock device installation; and
- Filing of an SR-22;
- Payment of reinstatement fee;
- Undergo an alcohol/drug evaluation;
- Successfully complete an alcohol/drug treatment program;
- Complete and pass a re-examination of the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. If you are re-licensed, you may be restricted to “No alcohol or substance abuse offenses," and must follow counselor's recommendations. NOTE: If you have obtained an ignition interlock restricted license and there are no violations, your re-examination and additional restriction may be waived.

Youthful Driver Suspension

If you are younger than 21 years of age and are in actual physical control of a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of two one-hundredths of one percent (0.02 percent) or more, you will be suspended for DWUI.

First offense:
Length of suspension: 90 days.

Second or subsequent offense: (within two years)

Length of suspension: Six months.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible, if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible. NOTE: You cannot have an ignition interlock requirement.

Ignition Interlock Requirement

First offense:

If your BAC (blood alcohol content) at the time of arrest was .15% or greater, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of 6 months before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

Second offense:

If convicted for DWUI which includes alcohol, you will be required to hold an ignition interlock restricted driver license for a period of one year before you are eligible for any other type of driver license.

Other types of suspension

Reckless Driving Suspension

This suspension results upon receipt of a conviction of driving a vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

First offense (within previous five years)
Length of suspension: 90 days.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and you are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:
- Completion of all suspension actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Second offense (within previous five years)
Length of suspension: Six months.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:
- Completion of all suspension actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Third or subsequent offense (within five years)
Length of revocation: One year.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No.

Reinstatement requirements:
- Completion of all suspension/revocation actions on record;
- Filing of an SR-22;
- Payment of reinstatement fee;
- Complete and pass a re-examination of the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Transporting Liquor to a Minor Suspension
This results from a conviction for the intent of furnishing any alcoholic liquid or malt beverage to any person under the age of 21 while operating or occupying a motor vehicle.

Length of suspension: One year.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:
- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Non-Resident Violator Compact Suspension

This results when a court informs the department that you have not complied with the terms of a traffic citation. This includes citations from other states as well as Wyoming. The state where the violator is licensed takes suspension action, not the state where the offense occurred. (It is named the Non-Resident Violator Compact to ensure that non-residents receive the same treatment as residents when they receive a traffic citation.)

Length of suspension: Until notice of satisfaction of the requirements of the citation are received from the court, and payment of the reinstatement fee.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No.

Reinstatement requirements: (prior to start date of suspension)

- Notice from the court indicating you have satisfied the requirements of the citation. (Suspension will be deleted from record.)

Reinstatement requirements: (after start date of suspension)

- Notice from the court indicating you have satisfied the requirements of the citation; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Moving Violation Suspension

You are allowed up to three moving violations within a 12-month period. Upon receipt of conviction for a fourth moving violation, you will be notified that your driving privilege will be suspended. A moving violation means an act of control or lack of control by the driver of a motor vehicle while the vehicle is in motion that results in a conviction, including a conviction for driving in violation of the restriction.

Length of suspension: 90 days. Each additional moving violation received within a 12-month period will cause an additional 90-day suspension. The date of the offense is used when determining the 12-month period. (**See section “Restricted Class RC/RM Licenses" and "Intermediate License Suspension” on page 24 for additional suspension information.)

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? You may be eligible if you have not been issued a probationary driver license in the past five years and are otherwise eligible.

Reinstatement requirements:
- Completion of all suspension actions on record; and
- Payment of reinstatement fee.

Compulsory Insurance Suspension

This is a result of a conviction in court of not having liability insurance.

Length of suspension: Until an SR-22 insurance form has been filed with the department.

Am I eligible for limited driving privileges? No.

Reinstatement requirements: (prior to start date of suspension)
- Filing of an SR-22 (Suspension will be deleted from record.)

Reinstatement requirements: (after start date of suspension)
- Filing of an SR-22
- Payment of reinstatement fee

Unlawful Use & False Application Suspension and/or Cancellation

This suspension results from displaying, or using someone else's license or identification card -OR- having in your possession any license or ID card which has been tampered with or altered. It is unlawful to lend your license or ID card to someone else to use as their identification, to knowingly make a false statement, give fictitious information, use a false name, or conceal a fact on an application for a license or ID card. It is against the law to apply for a license or ID card using a name, address, Social Security number or birth date belonging to another person. These actions may result in the cancellation of the card, and/or a 90-day suspension for the person using or lending the driver's license or ID card.

Child Support Suspension

This results upon notification from the Department of Family Services (DFS) that you are in arrears of $5,000 or more for 90 consecutive days. The suspension will

remain in effect until notification is received from DFS that the person has complied in full or has entered into an approved payment plan, and a $5 reinstatement fee is paid.

Restricted Class RC/RM License Suspension

This suspension is the result of a moving violation conviction when the driver is holding a class RC/RM license at the time of offense. A 90-day suspension is imposed for a first offense and a one-year suspension for a second or subsequent offense.

Intermediate License Suspension

This suspension is the result of a violation of the restrictions for an intermediate license. A 30-day suspension is imposed for this offense.

Driving under Suspension, Revocation or Cancellation

This results in a 30-day suspension of your driving privileges if you are under 21 years of age.

Uninsured Accident Suspension

This is a result of the driver's insurance not being verifiable at the time of the crash.

Reinstatement requirements: If you were uninsured, you can do one of the following:

- Submit a notarized release from the other party(s) involved in the crash stating they are not holding you liable for their damages and/or injuries or that you have made restitution to them; OR
- Submit a conditional release signed and notarized by you and the other party(s) stating an agreement has been made for you to make payments for their damages and/or injuries; OR
- Post a cash deposit for the total amount of property damage, plus $25,000 per injury. One year from the date of the crash, you will be entitled to a refund of your cash deposit; provided there are no judgments against you.
- If you are unable to provide any of the above, you can provide a signed and notarized affidavit one year from the date of the crash, stating that there are no unsatisfied judgments as a result of the crash.

Should you be suspended, you will be required to pay the reinstatement fee and file an SR-22 in addition to one of the above requirements.

Suspension-related matters

Requests for limited driving privileges and/or contested case hearings

In some suspension cases, you may be eligible for limited driving privileges. If so, you may request a Record Review to see if you are eligible to be issued a probationary driver license which will allow you limited driving privileges during the suspension period. You must submit your request in writing and include the required fee. Both the written request and the fee must be postmarked within 20 days of the date of notice you receive. You can only be issued one probationary driver's license in a five-year period

If you wish to contest the suspension of your privilege to drive, you may submit your request for a **Contested Case Hearing**, in writing, along with the required fee. Your written request must be postmarked within 20 days of the date of the notice you receive.

License reinstatement fee

Generally, the reinstatement fee for suspensions is $50. This fee is in addition to any fees for a new driver license, if one is issued to you. The reinstatement fee for a child support suspension is $5.

Revocation

A revocation cancels your driver license, and you must go through a driver investigation to be re-licensed once the revocation is over. You cannot have limited driving privileges during a revocation. Offenses that will cause a revocation are:

- Third or subsequent Driving While Under the Influence (DWUI);
- Third or subsequent Reckless Driving;
- Leaving the Scene of an Injury Accident;
- Homicide by Vehicle;
- A felony which is a direct result of the manner of driving.

SR-22

An SR-22 is an insurance certificate that your insurance company files with the department. Wyoming Statute

31-9-401 requires that proof of financial responsibility be required for certain violations or actions. Proof of financial responsibility must be maintained for three years from the date it is required. When an SR-22 is on file, the insurance company must notify the department when there is a cancellation of the insurance. During a suspension, the SR-22, for the duration of your ignition interlock requirement, if required, is required to maintain your vehicle registration or for a probationary driver license, if one is issued to you. If the SR-22 is not on file by the end of your mandatory suspension, your driving privilege will remain suspended until the SR-22 is filed.

Start of suspension/revocation

The start of a suspension/revocation is 30 days from the date the order is mailed to you by the department or given to you by law enforcement, or at the end of any suspensions already on your record.

Ignition Interlock Devices

Ignition interlock devices are required to be installed, at the applicant's expense, upon conviction of the following offenses:

- Six-month ignition interlock requirement if convicted, or receive a deferred prosecution, of a 1st DWUI and the department's administrative action indicates a BAC of .15 percent or greater.
- One-year ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 2nd DWUI when alcohol is involved.
- Two-year ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 3rd DWUI when alcohol is involved; however, ignition interlock requirement for duration of three-year revocation to legally drive.
- Lifetime ignition interlock requirement if convicted of a 4th or subsequent DWUI when alcohol is involved; however, may petition for removal of requirement five years after conviction date.

For more information, contact Driver Services at 307-777-3837.

Drivers convicted of alcohol-related offenses requiring the ignition interlock device, are also required to do the following:

- File an SR-22 insurance form.
- Pay the $50 reinstatement fee.

- Pay the $100 ignition interlock fee.
- Have the ignition interlock device installed on any vehicle they drive at an installation site and by a technician certified by the department.
- Bring the lease agreement/certification of installation to their local driver exam office to be issued the IIR restricted driver license. The applicant's driving privilege must not be suspended, revoked or canceled in this or any other state for any reason other than the DWUI conviction that caused the ignition interlock requirement, or the license cannot be issued.
- Take and pass any tests required for licensing.

A driver is not eligible for any other type of driver license until they have held an ignition interlock restricted driver license for the period required.

A driver may apply for a 24/7 restricted driver license if they have received an order from the Court ordering the driver to participate in the 24/7 Sobriety Program in lieu of the ignition interlock requirement.

For a list of ignition interlock vendors and installers in Wyoming, please visit our website at: *http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/suspensionsignition-interlock/ignition_interlock.html*

Safety laws/issues

Safety belt law

Under Wyoming law, a safety belt (seat belt) must be worn by all occupants of the vehicle, including the driver. It's the driver's responsibility to see that the law is obeyed. Children must be properly restrained in appropriate child-restraint systems.

Safety belts should be worn properly. The lap belt should be drawn snugly across the hip bones. It should never be worn across the stomach or soft part of the abdomen. The shoulder strap should be loose enough to allow the driver to reach important controls. The shoulder strap should not be worn alone.

Child restraints

WYOMING CHILD RESTRAINT GUIDE

KEY POINTS:

Child who has not reached his/her ninth birthday.

- Applies to all drivers.
- Applies to privately owned, leased or rented non-commercial passenger vehicles.
- Child must be secured in vehicle seat other than front seat except in vehicles with one row of seats, or if all safety belts are in use by other child passengers.
- Child in rear-facing infant seat shall not be placed in front of an active airbag.
- Child must be properly secured in restraint and it must be properly installed, both as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Restraint must conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 for child restraint systems.
- Applies to residents and non-residents.
- Primary Offense: Non-use or misuse are reasonable suspicion for stopping a vehicle to investigate a suspected violation.

PENALTY:

- Maximum $60 fine for first offense. Fine shall be waived by the court upon receipt of proof of purchase, lease, or other acquisition, of an approved restraint after the offense occurred.
- Maximum $110 fine for second and subsequent offenses.

EXEMPTIONS:

- Child within age requirement if the lap and shoulder belt fit properly across the collarbone, chest and hips of child and does not pose danger to neck, face or abdominal area in a crash or sudden stop.
- Physician's signed statement, carried in the car, certifying that the child should not be secured in a child restraint system.
- Vehicles that were not equipped with safety belts at time of manufacture. (Passenger vehicles before MY1967; Vans and trucks before MY1972).
- Emergency and law enforcement vehicles.
- School buses, including private or church, used to transport children as well as buses or other vehicles used for public transportation manufactured without seat belts.
- The driver is rendering aid or assistance to the child, parent or guardian. **(Effective 02/17/2006)**

Who can help in your area?

Safe Kids Wyoming **800-992-GROW (4769)**

Call above number for local Safe Kids chapter numbers.

Safe Kids Albany
Safe Kids Campbell
Safe Kids Converse
Safe Kids Fremont
Safe Kids Hot Springs
Safe Kids Johnson
Safe Kids Laramie
Safe Kids Lincoln
Safe Kids Park
Safe Kids Platte
Safe Kids Sheridan
Safe Kids Sublette
Safe Kids Sweetwater
Safe Kids Teton
Safe Kids Uinta
Safe Kids Washakie
Safe Kids Central Wyoming

Additional copies:
WYDOT Highway Safety
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340
307-777-4450

HINTS FOR BOOSTER SEAT USE:

Look at weight and height limits of the belt-positioning booster which provides protection for child over 40 pounds. Review individual instructions for booster.

For most, look at vehicle seat:

- If head rest available, use low back belt-positioning booster and adjust head rest to middle of child's head behind the ears.
- If no head rest on vehicle seat, use high back belt positioning booster to provide head protection.

Look at vehicle seat belt, if lap and shoulder belt available, then use booster seat but if lap belt only available, other options must be considered.



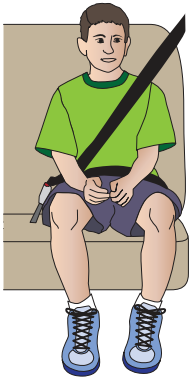
TO FIT A SEAT BELT A CHILD MUST:

Keep back and buttocks against vehicle seat back.

Keep the shoulder belt on the shoulder resting snugly over the chest and lap belt low across the hip/upper thigh.

Keep knees completely bent over the edge of the vehicle seat.

Keep feet flat on the floor and able to stay comfortably seated this way for the entire trip.



Proper fit of safety belt.

Provided by Federal Highway Safety Grant Funds

Persons not required to wear a safety belt include anyone:

- With a written statement from a physician that it is not advisable for the person to wear a safety belt for physical or medical reasons;
- In any passenger vehicle not required to be equipped with safety belts under federal law;
- Who is a U.S. postal service worker performing duties as a postal carrier;
- Properly secured in a child safety restraint system;
- Occupying a front seat in a vehicle in which all operable safety restraints are being used by the driver or passengers.

Proper use, misuse of seat belts



The Driver License Compact

Wyoming is a member of the Driver License Compact. The compact provides guidelines for greater cooperation among states in driver license issues, and provides a *one license, one record* concept. All states except Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee and Wisconsin are currently members.

How alcohol and drugs affect you and your ability to drive

Alcohol the major cause of crashes

Driving while under the influence of alcohol is the major cause of ALMOST HALF of the crashes in which someone is killed. Nationwide, nearly 25,000 persons die each year because of drivers who have been drinking.

Alcohol is a drug that slows the activity of the brain and spinal cord. When alcohol enters the stomach, it goes directly into the blood and to all parts of the body, including the brain. Its effect is to put the brain to sleep when taken in sufficient amounts.

Alcohol directly affects a person's ability to drive. If a person drinks increasing amounts of alcohol, the amount of alcohol in the blood will rise accordingly, and the degree of impairment and the intensity of the effect will rise rapidly.

The amount or concentration of alcohol in the blood is known as Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC. Three factors influence a person's BAC:

- The amount of alcohol consumed;
- The period of time over which the alcohol was consumed; and
- The person's body weight.

Effects of the amount of alcohol

Pure ethyl alcohol is a colorless liquid that looks like water but has a burning taste. It mixes readily with other liquids. Its strength is reduced by the amount of water or mix used. Beer usually contains about 5 percent alcohol, wines 12 or 20 percent, and hard liquors, such as whiskey, gin, vodka, rum, brandy, etc., about 40 to 50 percent. Therefore, 12 ounces of beer, three to five ounces of wine, and one and one-half ounces of 86 proof hard liquor each have about one-half ounce of alcohol.

Effects of time

When alcohol reaches the stomach, it is absorbed directly into the blood stream. As more and more alcohol is absorbed, the percentage of alcohol in the blood gets higher and higher.

A person may feel the effects of alcohol shortly after starting to drink. The effects will increase with the passage of time since it takes 30 to 40 minutes to totally absorb the alcohol contained in a single drink.

While food or milk in the stomach does slow absorption, two hours later it won't matter if you had been drinking on a full stomach or not. If two persons of equal weight drink the same amount they will have about the same BAC at the end of that two-hour period. **TIME IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN REDUCING BAC LEVELS.**

Approximately 90 percent of the alcohol in your body is eliminated by the liver. It is eliminated at a constant rate and this rate is about the same for all persons, about one drink per hour. It CANNOT be eliminated any faster. *SHOWERING, DRINKING COFFEE OR EXERCISING IN AN EFFORT TO SOBER UP ARE USELESS.* Only TIME can do the job.

Effects of body weight

Heavier people do have more blood and body fluids which dilute a given amount of alcohol more than a light person's blood and fluids. Therefore if a heavy person and a light person drink the same amount of alcohol, the heavy person will likely have a lower BAC.

Drunkenness is not always apparent

A BAC of 0.02 percent is considered low and most persons are not significantly affected by alcohol at this level. On the other hand, ***a BAC of 0.08 percent is considered to be high, and people at this level are impaired mentally and physically whether or not they show it.***

Many people think that drunkenness is determined by outward signs. They have in mind individuals who stagger, slobber or put lamp shades on their heads. However there are individuals who regularly drink to relatively high BACs that do not show any of the outward signs. Even though they are able to compensate and cover up their drunkenness, they still increase their chances of

being in a crash, if they drive with a BAC of 0.02 percent or higher. ***As a person's BAC rises, their ability to judge and make accurate decisions in traffic become more and more impaired, regardless of whether they appear to be impaired.***

Effects on decision-making

Alcohol seriously impairs the ability to drive safely because the ability to IDENTIFY, PREDICT, DECIDE and EXECUTE is seriously reduced.

- IDENTIFY: Senses such as vision, hearing, and body position are reduced, and therefore a person's ability to detect hazards in a pattern of traffic is seriously affected. Impaired drivers tend to fix their vision on a particular object and not see others. The ability to detect persons and vehicles to the side is almost completely lost. Hearing is reduced, as is the ability to judge distances. Drivers with a high BAC may also lose their sense of body position, and with increasing impairment, they may fade across the center line, wander from lane to lane and even run off the road.



- PREDICT: Effective drivers predict what other drivers might do to cause them problems, and driving under the influence of alcohol, with the ability to see, hear, and feel body position impaired, makes such predictions difficult, if not impossible.
- DECIDE: The ability to make good decisions in critical situations is also vitally important to safe driving, and that ability is seriously affected when it is based on faulty senses, faulty judgments and poor predictions. Couple this with the false sense of confidence and lack of good judgment that alcohol provides, and you can see how very likely it is that the impaired driver will make bad decisions in critical driving situations.

- EXECUTE: In demonstrations using driving simulators, test subjects often turn left when they think they are turning right. They jam on the accelerator when they think they are applying the brakes. This happens even though the people being tested may be sober by outward appearances and legal definition. Even if they execute correctly, they do so much slower. Because of this reduced ability to execute, a drinking driver, traveling at 55 mph, will drive an additional 32 feet or more before he can apply the brakes. Even at lower speeds, this added two-fifths of a second can be the difference between crashing and not crashing.

Other factors

There are several other factors that influence a driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely when drinking. These factors help explain why people behave differently when affected by alcohol, and why some drivers show greater impairment than others with the same BAC.

- DRIVING EXPERIENCE: ***Alcohol affects the inexperienced driver more than the experienced driver.*** The poor or inexperienced driver will become a much worse driver quicker when drinking, and even small amounts of alcohol are likely to increase the number of errors dramatically.
- DRINKING EXPERIENCE: The same can be said of less experienced drinkers. Beginning drinkers will often show greater impairment and be less able to drive after drinking than a person who is a more experienced drinker.
- DRIVING CONDITIONS: Unusual weather, lighting and road conditions make driving more difficult and call for a higher level of performance, while drinking only reduces a person's ability to perform. The drinking driver will not be able to lift his performance level.
- MENTAL STATE: A person who is tired, angry, anxious, emotionally upset, or even elated, may already be impaired as a driver. The good driver will compensate for these conditions, but alcohol reduces the ability to do so. In fact, anger and alcohol have been found to be one of the most dangerous combinations. ***Simply put, alcohol makes it much more difficult for people to control themselves.***

Drinking and driving — Is it worth it?

If you are placed under arrest for driving under the influence, a chemical test or tests to determine your BAC may result. Under the Implied Consent law, drivers are deemed to have given their consent to such tests whenever driving on a public street or highway.

- If you REFUSE to take the required test or tests, law enforcement may obtain a warrant to require the test or tests to be administered by an approved tester.
- If you submit to the required test or tests and your BAC is 0.08 percent or more, your driver license and driving privileges will be suspended for 90 days and you may be subject to criminal penalties.
- And while a BAC of 0.08 percent or more may result in a conviction, you may also be convicted of DWUI with a BAC of 0.05 percent and other supporting evidence.

It's your decision

We would suggest you seriously consider planning ahead so that you do not have to drive after you have been drinking.

Other drugs

Most of the common drugs (diet, sleeping, allergy, tranquilizers) affect at least one of the major skills you need as a driver. Drivers need to know how drugs affect their ability to Identify, Predict, Decide and Execute.

- Diet and "stay-awake" pills, known as "pep pills," "uppers" and "speed," give drivers a false feeling of alertness and often increase self-confidence, which may lead to excessive risk-taking. Some drivers try to drive longer by taking "stay-awake" pills. However these drugs keep drivers from realizing how tired they are and that they therefore do not have the ability to identify critical objects and make quick decisions. Attempts to stay awake with drugs can cause additional problems.
- Sleeping pills are intended to relax and help persons sleep. They can make thinking difficult, affect emotions and cause sleepiness. They can affect all of the driving IPDE skills for several hours.

- **Allergy pills and cold remedies:** These pills can contain a variety of antihistamines, bromides, codeine and alcohol. They can cause a person to become sleepy and impair a person's ability to think clearly.
- **Tranquilizers:** These pills are intended to help a person calm down. The drugs cause a person to become less alert and sleepy. They also make thinking difficult and affect emotions. The pills can affect alertness, attention, judgment and reactions. The effects may last for several hours.
- **Mind-altering drugs:** Marijuana, LSD, heroin and similar drugs are illegal. They are often impure and may vary in strength. These drugs often affect a person's mood, vision, reaction and ability to judge time and space. They tend to make users indifferent to or even unaware of their surroundings. The total effects are often unpredictable. Anyone under the influence of these drugs must not attempt to drive a motor vehicle.

Be cautious of new medicines. Do not drive until you are certain that they will not impair your driving. You should know that Driving While Under the Influence of any controlled drug is not legal. You may be charged and convicted of DWUI.

Ask your doctor about what effects any drugs he prescribes might have on your driving.

Read the label carefully before you buy or use any over-the-counter or non-prescription drug.

What to do when you are stopped by law enforcement

There are many different reasons why a police officer might stop you. Whatever the reason, the officer needs your cooperation.

- The police may want to warn you about a potentially dangerous situation.
- You may have committed a traffic violation.
- Your vehicle may match the description of one used in a criminal act.

- The officer might think you are in trouble and need help.
- You may have witnessed a crime.

If you are stopped by the police while driving, you may feel confused, anxious, or even angry. These are natural feelings, but remember, traffic stops can also be stressful and dangerous for the police officer. Each year, many law enforcement officers are killed or seriously injured while making the "routine" traffic stop. When you see the blue and red overhead lights and/or hear the siren, remain calm, slow down, and pull over to the right of the roadway in a safe location. Do not stop in the lane of travel, on bridges, or against guardrails.

- Put your vehicle in park.
- To facilitate communication with the officer, roll down your window, end phone calls, and turn down your radio.
- Do not exit your vehicle unless asked to do so. This is for safety reasons. Drivers and passengers may be ordered to stay in the vehicle, or told to exit. Wait for direction from the officer.
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel so the officer can see them.

Understand that each situation is unique, and the police officer must alter his or her response to fit the circumstance. Generally, however, a police officer:

1. **Will provide his/her name upon request.**
2. **Will inform a person of the reason for being stopped.**

- Inform the officer of any weapons in your vehicle and their location. Do not reach or point to the location.
- Avoid any sudden movements, especially toward the floorboard, rear seat, or passenger side of the vehicle.
- Turn on your interior lighting if stopped at night.
- Comply with the officer's request to see your driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration. Wyoming law requires you to carry these with you.

- If your documents are out of reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them.
- If there are passengers in your vehicle, encourage them to remain quiet, and cooperate with instructions. You, as the operator, are solely responsible for your vehicle and its occupants.
- Answer all questions truthfully.
- The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, politely ask the officer for details.
- Avoid becoming argumentative. Arguing will not change the officer's mind. If you contest the violation, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court.
- You have the right to politely deny a request by a police officer to search your car; however, if probable cause is present, the officer has the right to search your vehicle without your consent.
- If you come across an emergency or maintenance vehicle with its lights activated on the side of the road, remember Wyoming law requires you to merge into the lane farthest from that working vehicle (interstate) or to reduce your speed by at least 20 mph (two lane road).
- If you are being overtaken by an emergency vehicle with its lights activated, Wyoming law requires you to pull off to the right side of the road and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Speed

Legal speed limits (All unless otherwise posted)

Interstate Highways..... 80 mph, 75 mph
Secondary Highways.....70 mph
Residential Areas.....30 mph
Business Areas .....30 mph
School Zones.....20 mph

Adjust speed for road conditions

The only contact your car has with the road is through its tires, and each only has an area of rubber about the size of a person's hand on the surface of the road. The grip provided by the tires, then, is very dependent on the condition of the road itself. It is imperative, therefore, that motorists drive according to road conditions.

On curves

Adjust speed BEFORE entering a curve. Going too fast can break the grip that tires have on the road.

At intersections

Trees, bushes or buildings at intersections can block the view of vehicles coming from the side. Therefore approach a "blind" intersection at no more than 15 mph.

On slippery roads

Slippery roads reduce your the tires' grip, so drive slower than you would on a dry road. When driving on:

Wet road	Reduce speed by at least 5-10 mph.
Packed snow	Reduce speed by at least half.
Ice	Reduce speed to a crawl. You may have to slow even more if vehicles are ahead.

Adjust speed for traffic conditions

Crashes tend to happen when one driver is going faster or slower than other vehicles on the road:

- If you are going faster than traffic, you will have to pass other vehicles. The chances of a crash increase if you pass many vehicles.
- Going slower than traffic or stopping suddenly is as dangerous as speeding. The risk of rear-end collisions

is added to the risk of vehicles passing you.

- You should be able to identify slower-moving vehicles. Adjust your speed gradually. Slowing suddenly is a major cause of traffic crashes.
- Remember that you are sharing the road with bicyclists, and that they have as much legal right to be on a public roadway as you. All bicycles should be identified as slow-moving traffic and your speed and driving should be adjusted to accommodate them.

Adjust speed for light conditions

Darkness

Never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see ahead with your headlights. Your lights will only let you see clearly about 250 feet. If you then drive faster than 55 mph on a dark road, you are really "driving blind" because you won't be able to stop within the 250 feet ahead of you that is lit well enough to see.

Rain, fog or snow

In a very heavy rain, snowstorm or thick fog, you may not be able to see more than 100 feet ahead. When you can't see any further than that, you cannot drive safely at any speed. Whenever you cannot see well enough, pull off the road and wait until it clears.

Right of way

"Right-of-way" laws tell who must yield at intersections or other places where two or more motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, or combinations of these cannot all go at the same time.

Laws do not give anyone the right of way. They only indicate who must yield the right of way. Therefore you must always be alert for those who fail to yield and you should do everything possible to avoid a crash. This includes recognizing other vehicles and pedestrians. It is important to remember that bicyclists are classified as vehicles and are granted the same rights and responsibilities that operators of motor vehicles have.

Right of way at intersections

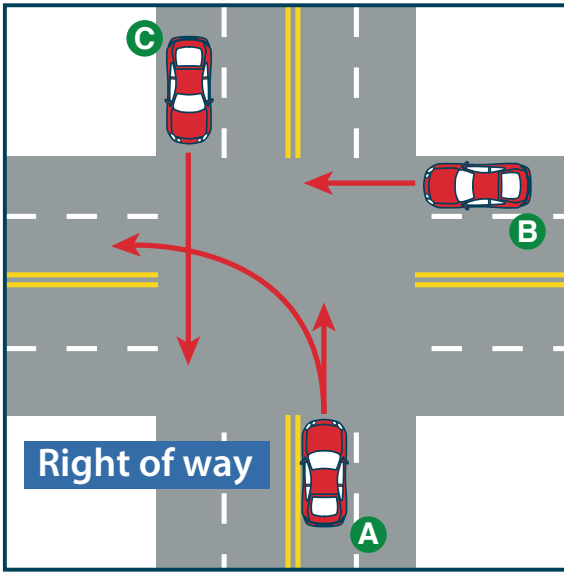
Intersections with no signs or signals

Where no signs or signals are in place, you must watch for any driver coming from your right and yield the right of way regardless of who first reaches and enters

the intersection.

The diagram below illustrates such a right-of-way situation.

- Car "A" yields to Car "B" if Car "A" is going straight ahead.
- If Car "A" turns left, Car "A" yields to both "B" and "C."
- Car "B" yields to Car "C."



Anytime you come to a place where others may cross or enter your path, check to the sides to make sure no one is coming. Do not depend upon traffic signs or signals to provide a safe path. Check in front of you, and then check to the left, since you will meet vehicles coming from the left first. Check for vehicles coming from the right. Then make another check in both directions.

Intersections with "YIELD" signs

- Check for cross traffic before reaching the intersection.
- If a yield sign is in your lane, yield the right of way to cross traffic close enough to be dangerous.
- When turning onto a street or highway, yield to any vehicles close enough to be dangerous.
- Check for a gap in traffic, merge and adjust your speed.

Conditions on Wyoming highways can become slick, icy and treacherous quickly when a winter storm hits.

That's why it's important to move slowly along winter Wyoming roads and to check out the surface you are driving on, when traffic permits. Touch the brakes to see if your vehicle begins to slow down or swerve. Watch for ice on bridges, overpasses and shaded areas, where it can remain, even after the sun comes out.



Black ice is treacherous

Black ice is invisible and is treacherous, so always watch for sudden changes in road surface conditions, from merely wet, to extremely icy. These changes occur often at bridge decks, overpasses, on



Traffic can quickly back up when a storm hits.

Get a Winter Wheelin' brochure at:

www.dot.state.wy.us/home/travel/winter.html
or by writing:
WYDOT Public Affairs
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340



Make it, "Count on it being icy!!"

high fills, in deep cuts and near snow fences. Drive slowly and in full control in order to avoid skidding. And thawing temperatures can also leave a thin film of water over melting ice, making it even more slick.

Start & drive slowly, steadily

Starting your car moving on snow and ice requires slow, steady and careful acceleration and front wheels that are pointed straight ahead. Many rely on second gear, or "drive," in an automatic, for safer starts. Four-wheel-drive and front-wheel-drive vehicles generally allow better traction, but be aware they can skid with sudden changes in power to drive wheels, such as when the accelerator is quickly released. And four-wheel-drive vehicles with high centers of gravity are also more likely to tip over in a skid.



Be prepared to stop

Whatever your type of vehicle, be prepared to stop, and increase your following distance. Allow the car ahead to pass a landmark, and then count "one-thousand-one" through "one-thousand-four." If your car reaches the same landmark before you finish, you are following too closely.

How brakes can best be used depends on whether a vehicle has anti-lock brakes (ABS) or conventional brakes. Locked wheels and skids typically result when drivers jam on conventional brakes. Pumping those brakes once every second is a good rule of thumb. But don't pump ABS brakes. That's achieved automatically.

If you begin to skid

On a slippery road, keep your speed down. Stopping will be a simpler maneuver, and the risk of skidding will be reduced. But if you begin to skid, gently turn into the skid and ease your foot off the gas until you regain control.



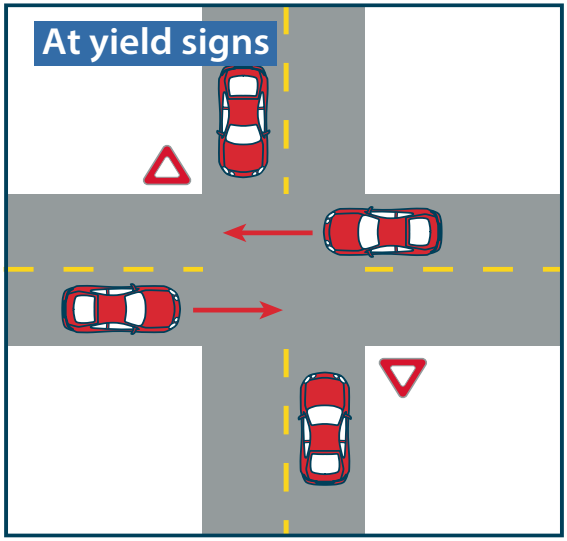
In a ground blizzard

Icy roads topped by a blowing ground blizzard make for double trouble. Slow down, of course, but also keep moving and don't panic. Don't do anything quickly. Any steering or braking movements, as well as the speed you maintain, should be SLOW. If you do lose your bearings, roll down the window and look on the downwind side of the car to determine where you are on the road, by using either the center stripe or the edge of the road.

Most of all, be patient when driving on ice or snow. If the vehicle in front of you spins out on an icy hill, stay in line. Wait for a snowplow to clear the way. You'll get through much quicker.

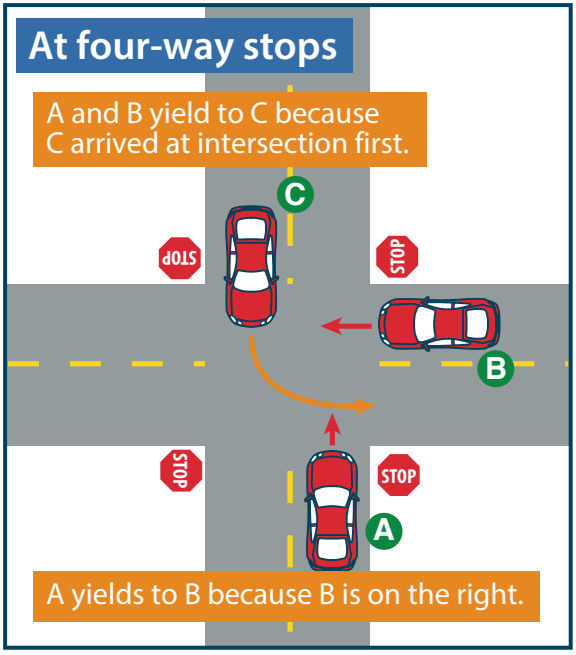
If one person skids, others may

If you stop to help someone who has slid off the road or been in a crash due to ice, be careful. Park well away at the crash site, and be ready to get out of the way should anyone else lose control at the same icy location.



Intersections with four-way stops

At a four-way stop intersection, common courtesy requires that the driver who stops first should be permitted to go first. IF IN DOUBT, YIELD TO THE DRIVER ON YOUR RIGHT. It's important to remember to never insist on the right of way at the risk of a crash. If you enter an intersection while violating the speed law, you forfeit any right of way you might have had.



Roundabouts

Roundabouts are a safer, more cost-effective way to build some intersections. By keeping traffic moving and requiring fewer stops and starts than conventional intersections, roundabouts reduce crashes, delays and congestion, resulting in drops in fuel consumption and emissions.

Traffic moves at slow speeds in a counterclockwise direction, and is constantly moving except when yielding to traffic in the roundabout and pedestrians in the crosswalks.

To navigate a roundabout:

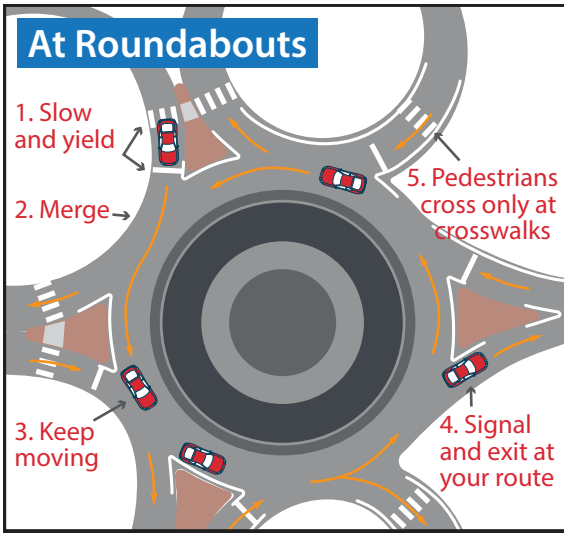
1. Slow down as you approach the roundabout and yield to pedestrians and traffic already in the roundabout;

2. Look to the left, wait for a gap in traffic and merge into the roundabout;

3. Once in the roundabout, keep moving, don't stop;

4. Proceed to your exit, use your turn signal to indicate you are leaving the roundabout and yield to pedestrians as you leave the roundabout;

5. Pedestrians should cross only in crosswalks.



Right-of-way involving emergency vehicles

When you hear the siren or see the flashing lights of a fire truck, police car or ambulance approaching you from behind:

- Pull as close as possible to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway and stop;
- Do not stop in an intersection;
- Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed;
- Keep your foot on the brake so the emergency driver knows you are stopped; and
- Watch for other emergency vehicles to pass you before you begin moving.
- When approaching a roundabout, pull over and let the emergency vehicle pass. If you are already in a roundabout, continue to your exit, leave the roundabout and then pull over to the right so the emergency vehicle can pass.
- Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, when you are driving on a highway with two or more lanes, upon approaching an authorized emergency vehicle or municipal, public utility, highway construction or maintenance vehicle parked with lights flashing or visual signals, you must merge your vehicle into the lane farthest from the emergency vehicle. On roads with only one lane in each direction, you must reduce your speed to at least 20 mph below the speed limit when approaching a parked emergency vehicle.

Right of way to pedestrians

The driver and the pedestrian are both responsible for traffic safety. Statutes require a driver to give the right of way or yield to a pedestrian:

- When a pedestrian is in a marked crosswalk on your side of the roadway with or without traffic control signals;
- When making a lawful turn on a red light, after coming to a complete stop; and
- When a blind pedestrian is carrying a clearly visible white cane or is accompanied by a guide dog.

Braking/stopping

You cannot stop on a dime! You must look ahead to **IDENTIFY** dangers. **PREDICT** what could happen, and **DECIDE** what to do. This takes **at least** one second. You must then **EXECUTE** your decision. It takes about 3/4 second to move your foot from the accelerator to the brake. The distance it takes to stop after the brake

is applied depends upon your initial speed, your brakes, tires, road surface and weather conditions.

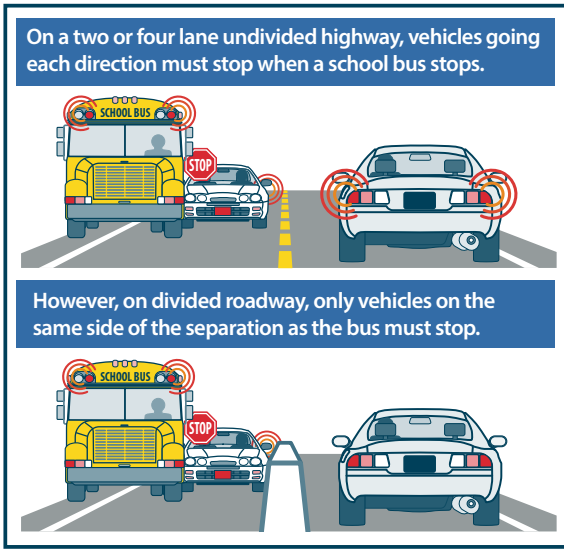
A tractor-trailer rig takes considerably more time and distance to stop than a passenger vehicle traveling at the same speed. A passenger vehicle traveling 55 mph can typically stop in about half the length of a football field (about 130-140 feet). A heavy vehicle with a loaded trailer will usually take over two-thirds the length of a football field (about 190-200 feet) to stop. In heavy traffic, when a truck's brakes may be hot, the stopping distance may double to 1.5 times the length of a football field (400 feet).

If you are tired, have been drinking, or simply are not paying attention, you may not identify the danger at all. You won't be able to predict what may happen until it is too late to decide what you should do. Finally, you may not be able to execute your decision soon enough because your reaction time may also be slower.

Required stops

You MUST always stop your vehicle:

- When meeting or overtaking, from either direction, a stopped school bus with flashing red lights. The driver shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the flashing red lights are no longer activated. **Exception:** You may pass a school bus with activated flashing red lights, ***only if there is a physical barrier or separate roadways between your vehicle and the school bus***. You MUST use extreme caution, however, watching for pedestrians.
- Before the crosswalk at all stop signs, red traffic lights and flashing red lights;
- When entering a street from a driveway, alley, building, or parking lot (W.S. 31-5-506) and when entering a business district from a side road;
- When directed to do so by a police officer. A police officer's directions outweigh traffic lights or signs;
- For flashing red lights or crossing gates at a railroad crossing;
- When signaled by a flag person at or near railroad crossings or construction sites;
- For blind persons attempting to cross a street who are carrying a white cane or guided by a guide dog; and
- If you are in any way involved in a traffic crash.



Changing lanes

Proper lane changing rules

Before changing lanes:

- Check in your rear view and side mirrors;
- Check over your left or right shoulder. Make sure no one is in your blind spots;
- Check for other drivers who may also be moving into the same lane; and
- Signal and change lanes.

Do not change lanes before or while in an intersection.

Turning

Turn signaling

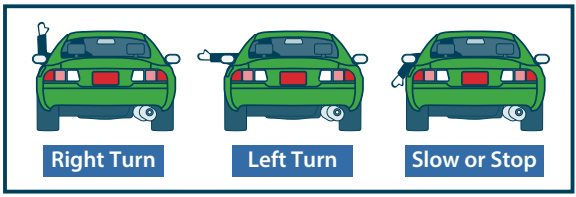
All drivers must signal:

- When turning or changing lanes; and
- At least 100 feet from an intersection. Signaling at least 4 to 5 seconds BEFORE you wish to turn is better at higher speeds.

Drivers may signal in two ways:

- With ***electrical turn signals*** (Flash the right turn signal for a right turn and the left turn signal for a left turn.); or
- With ***hand and arm signals***. Signals should be given with your left arm. For a right turn, the hand and arm are extended straight up from the elbow. For a left turn, the driver's hand and arm are extended straight

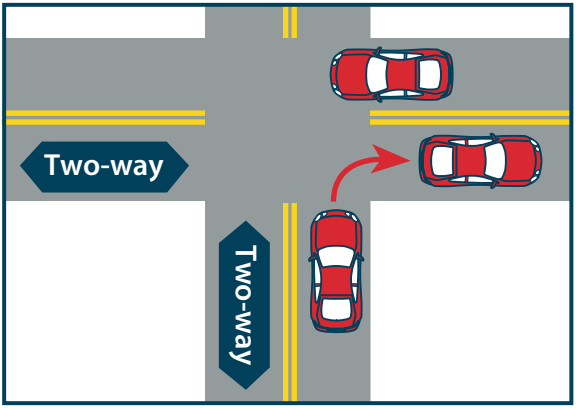
out to the left. To slow down or stop, the hand and arm are extended down from the elbow.

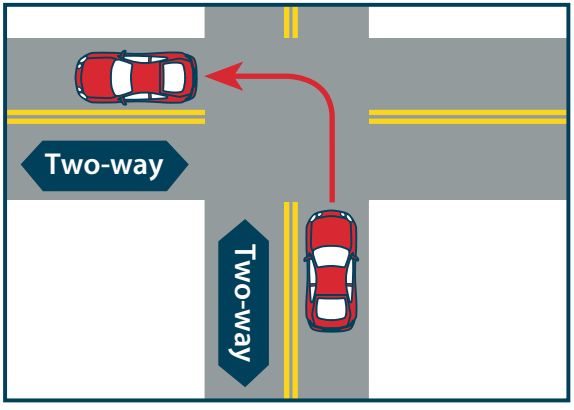


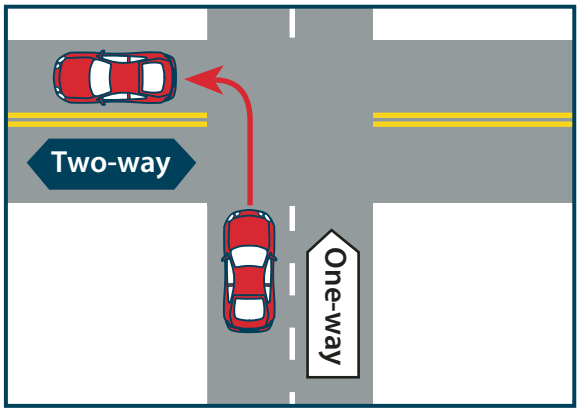
Turns

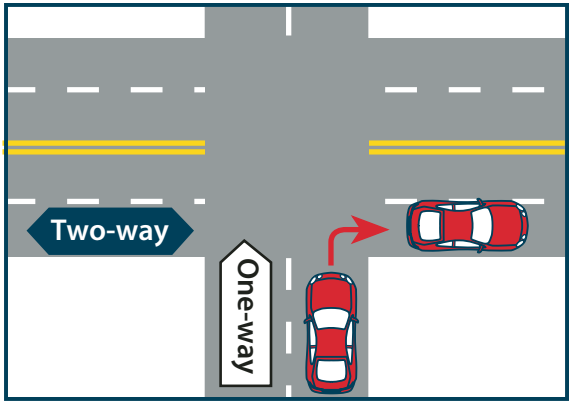
Proper turning rules

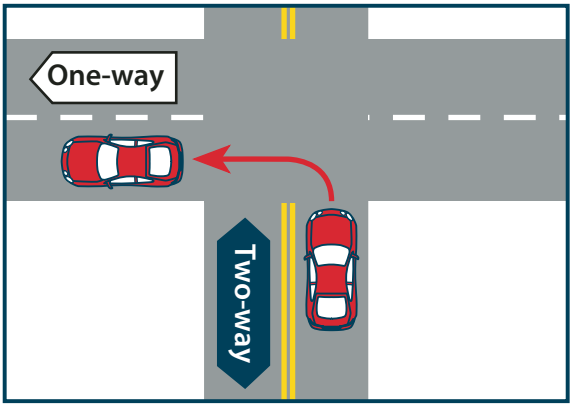
- Plan ahead.
- Be in the proper lane well before the turn (follow proper steps to change lanes).
- Signal the direction you plan to turn.
- Slow and check for persons and vehicles in your turning path.
- Turn into the proper lane (see turning diagrams).
- Adjust speed to flow of traffic.

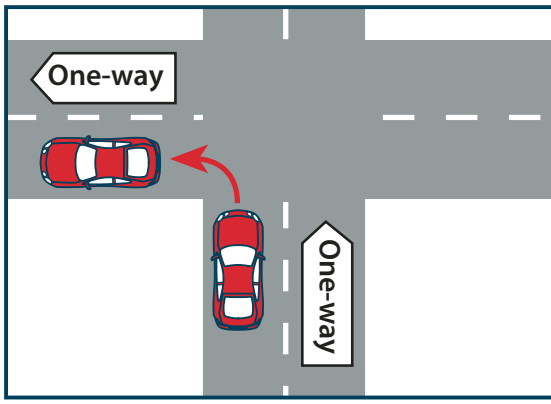





Two-way
One-way


Two-way
One-way


One-way
Two-way



Backing

Check behind your vehicle by walking behind it before you back up. When you back up, do not depend upon your mirrors. Turn your head and body so that you can see where you are backing. Place your hand at the top of the steering wheel and back up slowly. Always be prepared to stop.

Passing

Decide if it is safe to pass

- Do not pass if signs or pavement markings prohibit passing. If you see any vehicles, pedestrians, bridges, curves, hills, intersections or railroad crossings just ahead, do not pass; WAIT.
- Do not try to pass more than one vehicle at a time on a two-lane road.
- Do not follow another vehicle that is passing a car in front of you.
- DO NOT pass a school bus with flashing red lights, unless there is a physical barrier or separate roadways between you and the bus.

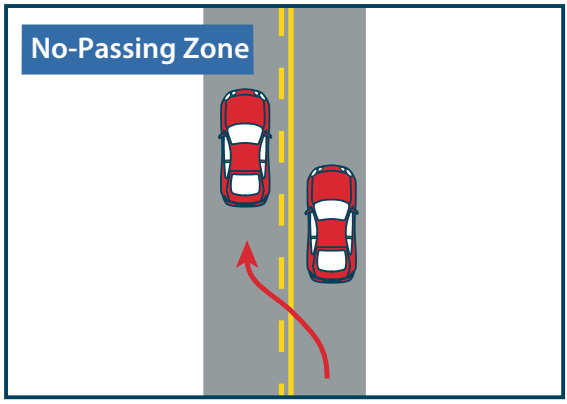
How to pass

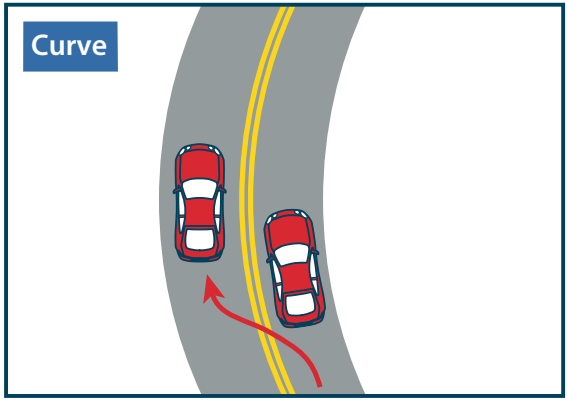
DECIDE if it is necessary to pass, then:

- START at least two seconds behind the vehicle ahead.
- MAKE SURE you have time and space to pass safely.
- SIGNAL AND CHECK all around your vehicle before passing.
- INCREASE SPEED and pull into the passing lane.
- MOVE BACK into the right lane when you see the front of the vehicle in your rear view mirror. A driver may exceed the speed limit by up to 10 miles an hour

while passing another vehicle that is traveling at ***less*** than the legal maximum speed.

Passing vehicle is breaking the law





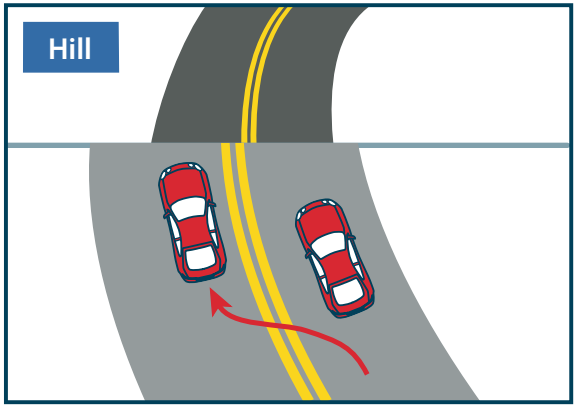
Passing on the right

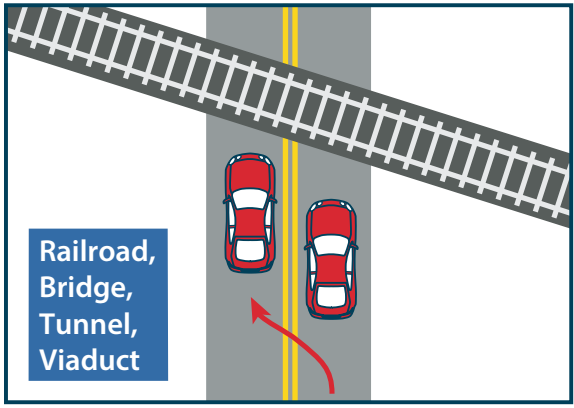
Never try to pass on the right unless you are sure you can do it safely.

You may pass on the right:

- When the vehicle you are overtaking is making a left turn (It is not legal to leave the pavement to pass on the right.); or
- When two or more lanes of heavy traffic are moving in the same direction. However this can be very dangerous if the other driver does not see you and decides to change lanes.

Passing vehicle is breaking the law





Passing bicyclists

Drivers have a responsibility to avoid crashes whenever possible. Because bicyclists have the right to access all public roads, there are some practices that will aid drivers of motor vehicles when sharing the road:

- When approaching a bicyclist, unless you have a clear and empty lane, do not attempt to pass.
- If you do not have adequate space to pass a bicyclist, slow to the speed of the cyclist and follow him or her until you do have the room needed to pass.
- Avoid prolonged driving next to a bicyclist when sharing a single lane of traffic.
- When passing a bicyclist, reduce your speed to reduce the danger of a crash.
- When space allows, maintain at least 3 feet of separation between your vehicle and the bicyclist.

Passing parked cars

When driving past parked cars, watch for cars pulling out in front of you. Check for clues such as:

- Exhaust coming from the tail pipe;
- Brake lights on, a turn signal flashing, or white back-up lights on;
- Front wheels turning out; or
- A person sitting behind the wheel.

Also, check for pedestrians or bicyclists trying to cross the road from between parked cars.

Passing heavy vehicles

When a passenger vehicle cuts in too soon after passing a heavy vehicle, then abruptly slows down, truck drivers are forced to compensate with little time or room to spare.

Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should maintain a consistent speed when passing and be sure you can see both headlights *and* the entire cab of the truck in your rearview mirror before pulling back into your lane. Take into account the vehicle's total length, particularly rigs with double trailers. Some can be as much as 100 feet long.

Be sure to pass with sufficient speed to avoid loitering in the truck driver's blind spot (*No-Zone*) and simply taking too long to pass. The passenger vehicle's position while passing makes it *impossible* for the truck driver to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead. When your car loiters in the truck's blind spot, perhaps because your set cruise-control speed is only slightly faster than the truck's, or when you are passing on the right, the driver cannot take evasive action without striking your car - *which he cannot see*.

Passing emergency vehicles

When approaching emergency vehicles parked by the road, you must move over or slow down. *See page 69.*

Blind spots

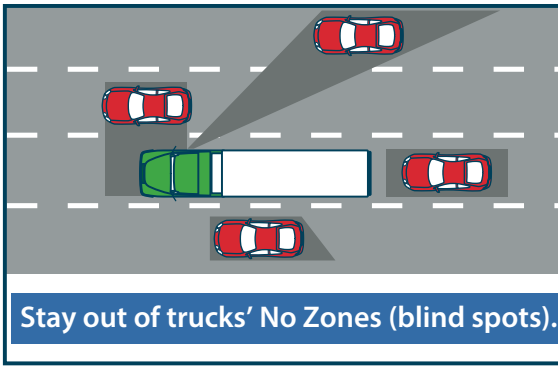
One of the most serious misjudgments made about trucks concerns the truck driver's field of vision. Many motorists believe that because a truck driver sits twice as high as the driver of a passenger vehicle, he can see further ahead and can react sooner.

True, the truck driver has a better view over the top of any cars ahead of him, but heavy vehicles also have sizeable blind spots that passenger vehicles do not have.

Unlike cars, heavy vehicles have large blind spots directly behind them. Avoid tailgating in this *No-Zone* area. The truck driver can't see your car in this position and your view of the traffic flow ahead is severely reduced.

Following too closely not only greatly increases your chances of a rear-end collision with the truck (or any other vehicle) in front of you, but creates a hazardous situation if debris, such as ice, rocks or tire recapping material, ends up in your path or strikes your vehicle through no fault of the other driver.

Heavy vehicles also have much larger blind spots on both sides. When you drive in these blind spots (*No-Zones*) for any length of time, you cannot be seen by the truck driver. If the truck driver needs to change lanes quickly for any reason, a serious crash could occur when a passenger vehicle is located in a *No-Zone*.



Stay out of trucks' No Zones (blind spots).

A "right-turn squeeze" occurs when the driver of a passenger vehicle finds himself in the blind spot located on the right side of a heavy vehicle that is in the process of turning right. Motorists who are aware of *No-Zone* areas when sharing the road with heavy vehicles are better prepared to avoid such potentially dangerous situations.

Parking

Parking restrictions

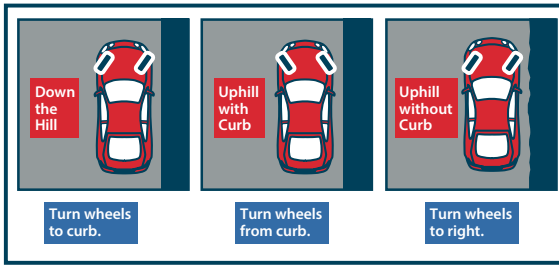
It is not legal to park in the following places:

- On the roadway side of any stopped or parked vehicle;
- On a sidewalk, within an intersection, or in a crosswalk;

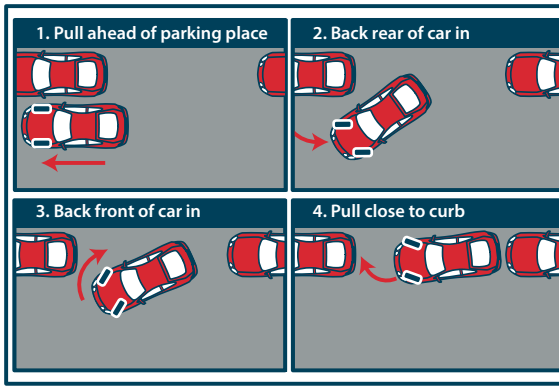
- Where the curb is painted yellow near intersections or driveways;
- Alongside or opposite any street construction sites.
- On any bridge or within a highway tunnel;
- At any place where official signs prohibit standing, stopping or parking;
- In front of a public or private driveway;
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant; or
- In a parking space designated for the "disabled," unless your vehicle displays a disabled parking placard or bears disabled license plates.

Parking on hills

If you park facing uphill where there is a curb, you should set the parking brake and turn the wheels away from the curb. In any other situation, turn the wheels towards the curb or edge of the road. Turn off the engine, take the keys and lock the car.



Parking between cars



Emergency parking

When you have to make an emergency stop, park with all four wheels off the pavement, if possible. Do not stop on a hill or curve where your car cannot be easily seen. Turn on your emergency flashers.

Leaving a parking space

To leave a parking space:

- CHECK to see if anyone is coming. Be especially watchful for bicyclists or motorcyclists;
- SIGNAL before you start to move;
- YIELD the right of way to oncoming vehicles and motorcycles; and
- ENTER traffic. Do not dart out into traffic.

Interstate driving

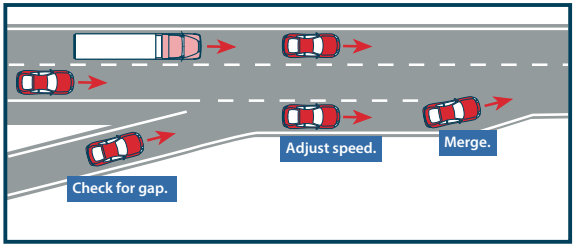
Entering the Interstate

You get on the Interstate by using an entrance ramp, but be alert for "DO NOT ENTER" and "WRONG WAY" signs that might indicate that you are about to begin going the wrong way on an exit ramp instead. If you find yourself going the wrong way on a ramp, you should pull onto the shoulder, stop and only turn around when there is no oncoming traffic.

The entrance ramp usually takes you to an acceleration lane. Its purpose is to let you match your speed to that of Interstate traffic.

As you approach the Interstate:

- CHECK over your shoulder for a gap in the traffic on the Interstate;
- ADJUST your speed to meet that gap and signal;
- DO NOT STOP unless there is no gap in traffic; and
- As you MERGE, make sure you are driving about the same speed as other traffic.



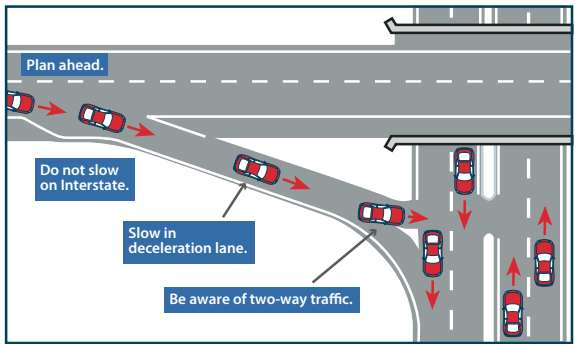
If another vehicle is ahead of you on the entrance ramp, be ready in case it slows or stops without warning. Do not forget that traffic on the Interstate has the right of way. You cannot always count on other drivers seeing you or moving over to give you room to enter.

Proper driving techniques on Interstates

Once you are on the Interstate, you should:

- MAINTAIN a steady speed, keeping pace with other traffic.
- OBEY posted speed limits.
- DO NOT follow too closely to the vehicle in front of you. Always leave at least two seconds space cushion between you and the vehicle ahead. When the weather is bad or the pavement is slick, double or triple your following time. Rear-end collisions are the most frequent type of crashes on the Interstate.
- WATCH for vehicles entering the Interstate. If it is safe, move left to allow them a smooth, safe entry.
- AVOID unnecessary lane changing. Stay in the right lane unless overtaking and passing another vehicle.
- SIGNAL lane changes.
- PASS with caution. Check your blind spots when making lane changes. Make sure you can see the vehicle you are passing in your rear view mirror before pulling back in.
- If you MISS your exit, go on to the next exit. Backing up on the Interstate is dangerous.
- DO NOT cross the median of an Interstate highway.
- To AVOID drowsiness, open the windows to get fresh air, sing along with the radio, keep your eyes moving and do not stare in one direction.
- If you become DROWSY, stop and take a break. Drowsiness is one of the greatest dangers in driving.
- If you are really SLEEPY, pull off the highway, check into a motel and get some sleep.

Leaving the Interstate



When you wish to leave the Interstate you should:

- PLAN ahead. Look for signs telling you about your

exit and the lane you must use. Signal and move into the proper lane a mile or more before the exit.

- NEVER slow on the Interstate.
- SLOW after turning into the deceleration lane.
- Once off the Interstate, be aware of two-way traffic and check your speed.

Emergency stopping on the Interstate

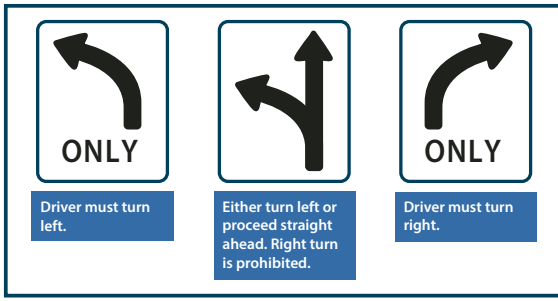
In the event of a breakdown or other emergency, drive the vehicle as far onto the right shoulder as possible. Make certain that all four wheels are well off the road. Even with a flat tire, a vehicle can be driven slowly to reduce the hazard of stopping on a bridge or underpass.

Turn on your four-way emergency warning lights. At night, use flares or reflectors. Do not open the doors or get out on the traffic side of your vehicle. Raise the hood and trunk lid or tie a white cloth to the antenna if you need help.

If you cannot get your vehicle off the road, remove all passengers and get them away from the area in case the vehicle is hit.

Traffic signs, signals and road markings

The different shapes and colors of signs are significant and mean different things. If fading light, fog, rain, snow or darkness makes them difficult to read, their shapes can still tell informed drivers generally what to look for or what to do. For instance, diamond-shaped signs are meant to warn drivers of such things as road hazards, while rectangular signs give regulatory information about lawful speeds and directions.



***The different shapes of signs are explained and shown in full color on the inside and outside of the back* cover.** Be sure to familiarize yourself with them. Pavement markings also provide the driver with important information about the proper position of vehicles on the road.

Overhead signs

Overhead lane signs tell you what direction you must go. When the word "ONLY" is used, you must go in the direction the arrow points; there is no other option. Arrows painted on the roadway and arrows on the overhead signs have the same meaning.

Use of lanes

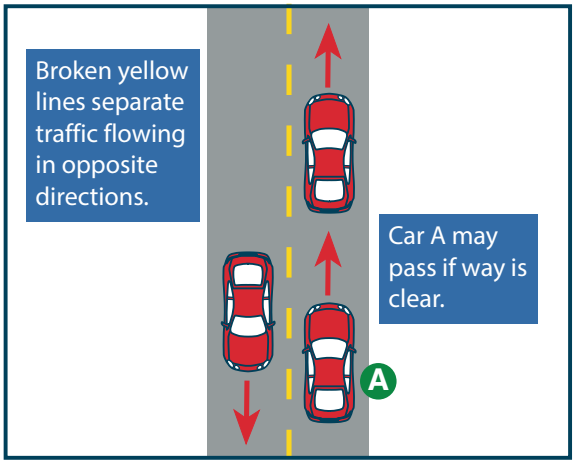
On a two-lane road (one lane going in each direction) you are required to drive on the right side and to yield the left half of the roadway to oncoming traffic.

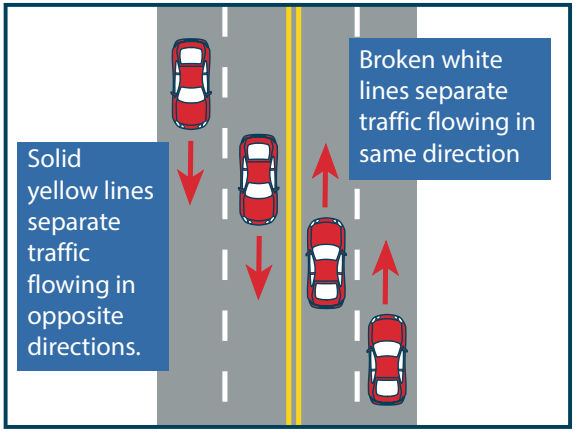
On multilane roads, drive in the lane that has the smoothest flow of traffic. It helps you keep a safe space cushion and saves gas. When there are three or more lanes going in one direction, the middle lane or lanes are usually the smoothest. The left lane is for drivers who want to go faster, pass or turn left. Slower drivers and those turning right use the right lane.

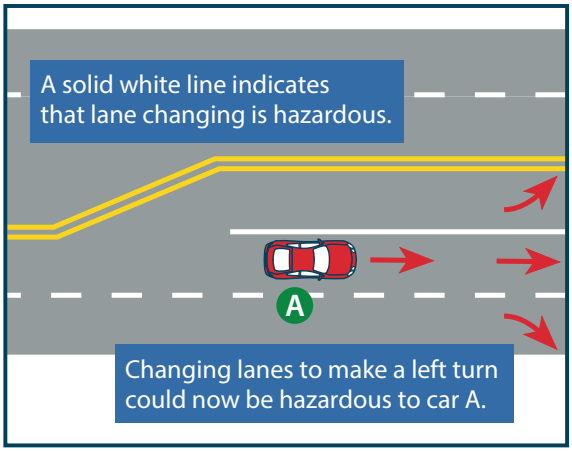
If the road has two lanes going in one direction, the right lane usually has the smoothest flow of traffic. On roads that have special left-turn lanes, the left lane may have the smoothest flow of traffic.

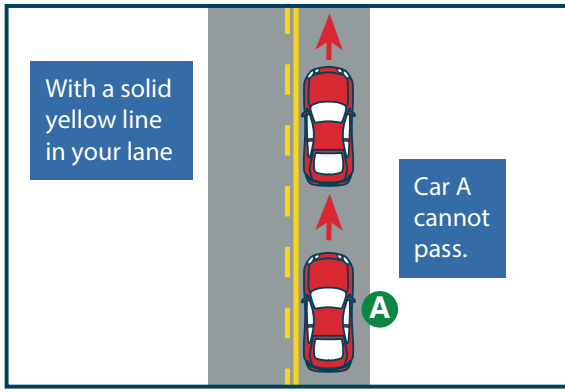
Pavement markings (Yellow shown as red)

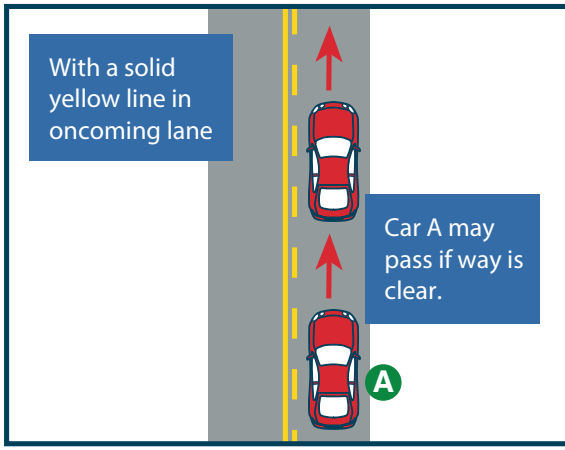
White lines separate traffic going the same direction.
Yellow lines separate traffic flowing in opposite directions.
Broken lines indicate passing or lane changing is permitted if the way is clear.
Solid white lines indicate that passing or lane changing is hazardous.
Solid yellow lines indicate no passing or lane changing — unless making a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

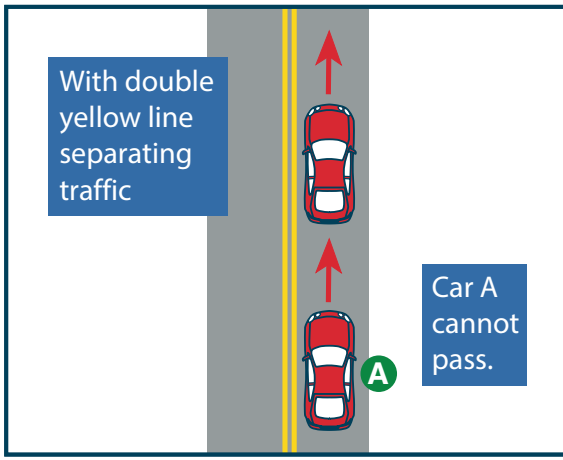

Broken yellow lines separate traffic flowing in opposite directions.
Car A may pass if way is clear.
A


Broken white lines separate traffic flowing in same direction
Solid yellow lines separate traffic flowing in opposite directions.


A solid white line indicates that lane changing is hazardous.
A
Changing lanes to make a left turn could now be hazardous to car A.


With a solid yellow line in your lane
Car A cannot pass.
A


With a solid yellow line in oncoming lane
Car A may pass if way is clear.
A


With double yellow line separating traffic
Car A cannot pass.
A

Railroad crossings

Where public highways and railways intersect, one or more of the following warning devices mark the crossing for your safety.

Advance warning signs advise you to slow down, look and listen for the train, and be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



Advance Warning

Pavement markings consist of an R-X-R followed by a stop line closer to the tracks. They may be painted on the paved approach to a crossing. Stay behind the stop line while waiting for a train to pass.



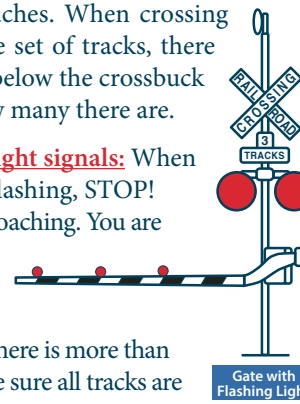
Railroad Crossing

Crossbuck signs are yield signs. You are legally required to yield the right of way to trains. Slow down, look and listen for the train, and stop if a train approaches. When crossing more than one set of tracks, there will be a sign below the crossbuck indicating how many there are.



Flashing Light

Flashing red light signals: When the lights are flashing, STOP! A train is approaching. You are legally required to yield the right of way to the train. If there is more than one track, make sure all tracks are clear before crossing.



Gate with Flashing Light

Flashing-light signals with gates: Stop when the lights begin to flash and before the area where the gate will lower across your road lane. Remain stopped until the gates go up and the lights have stopped flashing. Proceed when it is safe.

PREVENTING RAILROAD CROSSING CRASHES IS UP TO YOU!

Traffic crashes

If you're involved in a crash

If you are involved in a crash you must:

- Stop your vehicle at or near the crash scene, and stay there until the police have arrived and questioned everyone involved;
- Give aid to any injured persons and send for an ambulance. DO NOT MOVE AN INJURED PERSON unless there is danger of another crash;
- Warn passing traffic (Have someone warn approaching traffic to prevent further damage.);
- Get the names and addresses of all witnesses as well as persons involved in the crash;
- Record the other driver's name and address, driver license number, make of vehicle, insurance company name, model and year of vehicle, damage to the vehicle, and license plate number; and
- Contact the police if there is an injury, death or property damage amounting to $1,000 or more. The law requires you to give the police information on the crash at the time of the crash. The police will fill out and submit an accident report to the Accident Records Section of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Damaging unattended vehicles

If you damage an unattended vehicle or other property and cannot locate the owner, leave the following information on a piece of paper where the owner can find it:

- Your name, address and telephone number;
- Driver license number;
- License plate number;
- Date and time of crash; and
- Damage to the vehicle.

Then you must also contact the nearest law enforcement agency.

Sharing the road safely

Sharing the road

Drivers of cars and trucks share the road with others. You must know laws that apply to other road users.

Your vehicle and its equipment

You can't share the road safely without a safe vehicle. Therefore, a police officer has the right to stop you and inspect the equipment on your vehicle. If any equipment is defective, you will be directed to have it repaired immediately. If your vehicle is found to be unsafe you could be fined.



Tire safety

Check tire pressure using the recommended psi (pounds per square inch) found in the vehicle owner's manual or the driver's side door jamb of the vehicle. Use a tire pressure gauge to check your psi. If your psi is above the number listed on your door jamb, let air out until it matches. If below, add air (or have a tire professional help you) until it reaches the proper number.

Once a month, or before you embark on a long road trip, check your tires for wear and damage problems. One easy way to check for wear is by using the penny test.

1. Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.

2. Select a point on your tire where the tread appears to be lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.

3. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that, your car's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.

Motorcycles

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on public roads as other users. As a defensive driver, you need to be aware of some special situations and conditions so you can share the road safely with cyclists.

Motorcycles are not easily identified in traffic. Even when seen it's difficult for some drivers to judge how far away the cyclists are or how fast they are traveling. Be aware of this problem.

Drivers turning left in front of an oncoming cyclist cause a large percentage of car-cycle crashes. These drivers fail to see the cyclist in traffic or they fail to judge the speed of the cyclist. The correct procedure is to **look and look again.** *Make sure you identify the motorcycle as a critical object and know its speed before you make a left turn.*

Turn signals do not turn off automatically on most motorcycles. Before pulling into an intersection in front of a motorcycle, *be sure the rider is turning* and not continuing straight ahead.

Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as all other vehicles. A skilled motorcycle operator is constantly changing positions within that lane to increase his ability to see and be seen and because of objects in or near the road. Never move into the same lane alongside a motorcycle, even if the lane is wide and the cyclist is riding far to one side. It is not only illegal, but it boxes both of you in and does not permit you a way out.

No more than two motorcycles may be driven abreast in the same lane and must be by consent of both motorcycle drivers. A motorcycle shall not overtake and pass any vehicle in the same lane, except another motorcycle.

Bad weather, slippery surfaces, crosswinds, road conditions, railroad grade crossings, metal or grated bridges, and grooved pavement can be hazardous to motorcyclists. Be alert for these conditions so you can prepare yourself for the possible quick change in speed or direction of the motorcycle.

Be aware of motorcycles on the road. Regardless of who is legally at fault in car-cycle crashes, the motorcyclist usually is the loser.

Wyoming offers both Basic Rider Course (BRC) and Advanced Basic Rider Course (BRC2) Motorcycle Safety Education for a nominal fee. Applications and information on courses offered in your area are available at your local driver exam office, on the WYDOT Website at *www.dot.state.wy.us* or by calling 307-777-4874.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians account for nearly 20 percent of all traffic deaths. You are required to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk area, whether there are pavement markings or not.

Residential and school areas are especially dangerous. Children are fun loving. All too often they forget the dangers of playing near traffic. They can run in front of your vehicle before you realize it has happened. It's a good idea to slow down and create a larger space cushion when you see pedestrians near a school.

If your vehicle is disabled and you must walk where there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. At night, wear light-colored clothing to help others see you.

Bicycles

Bicyclists have the right to use all public roadways, and share rights and duties applicable to all drivers of any vehicle. But, unlike motor vehicles, bicyclists must share their lane of traffic. They must ride as close to the right side of pavement as is practical and safe.

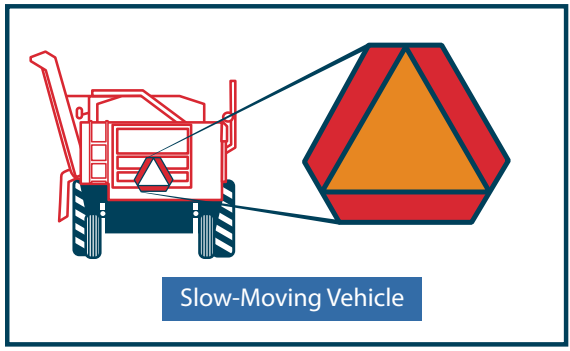
While it is legal to drive beside a bicyclist in the same lane, you are safer if you do not. A bicyclist might turn sharply to avoid a sewer grate, something in the road, or a door being opened from a parked car. When you are following or passing a bicyclist, the best advice is: LEAVE PLENTY OF ROOM.

Any bicycle used after dark must have a front light and rear reflectors, but these may be very hard to see. You must watch the side of the road and be alert for them.

Farm and slow-moving vehicles

When you see this symbol on the back of a vehicle ahead, it is a warning to slow down. It means the vehicle cannot travel faster than 25 miles per hour.

Don't be impatient if you find yourself behind one of these slow vehicles. They have the legal right to be there.



Slow-Moving Vehicle

Heavy vehicles (trucks)

Trucks are *not* large cars. Whether accelerating, braking, climbing a hill, switching lanes or turning onto a side street, tractor-trailer rigs must perform certain maneuvers that drivers of passenger vehicles are generally not familiar with. The motorist is often unprepared to share the road safely with heavy-vehicle traffic. National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration statistics indicate most fatal crashes involving a heavy vehicle and one or more other vehicles are caused by the passenger vehicle.

Move Over Law

Effective July 2018, the Wyoming Statute states that when an emergency vehicle or an authorized municipal, public utility or highway construction or maintenance vehicle is stopped or is moving at less than twenty (20) miles per hour on or within three (3) feet of a roadway with lights or other emergency signals activated, the driver of every other vehicle should be sure to do one of the following, as soon as it is safe:

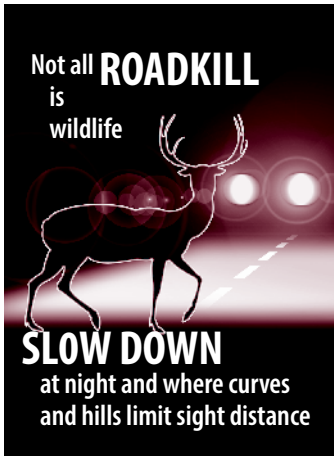
• When driving on an interstate highway or other highway with two (2) or more lanes traveling in the same direction of the emergency vehicle or other municipal vehicle, the driver shall merge into the lane farthest from the vehicle or at least one (1) lane of traffic apart

from the vehicle except when otherwise directed by a police officer;

• When driving on a two (2) lane road with a posted speed limit of forty-five (45) miles per hour or greater, the driver shall slow to a speed that is twenty (20) miles per hour less than the posted speed limit, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

Share with animals

Because of Wyoming's abundant wildlife population, collisions with animals, and particularly with deer and other "big-game" animals, are real dangers on Wyoming's rural highways.



Too often they have very negative consequences for the vehicle and its occupants and the wildlife. The animals are often killed, but drivers and passengers can die too. In addition, vehicles can be damaged beyond repair.

While such crashes can occur at any time of the year, they are most prevalent during the fall and spring, while animals are migrating between their summer and winter habitats.

Although there is no fool-proof way to avoid a vehicle-animal collision, there are steps you can take to minimize the likelihood of such a crash and lessen the severity of one if it does happen.

Drive cautiously and stay aware and alert by:

- Reducing your speed and being particularly cautious in areas where "deer crossing" signs are posted;
- Constantly scanning not only the upcoming highway as you drive but the roadside as well;
- Using your high-beam lights as often at night as possible in order to better illuminate both the highway and the roadside;
- Being very watchful in areas near forests and water;

- Staying particularly alert at dusk and dawn, times when animals venture out to feed and also when your visibility is limited; and
- Watching for the reflection of your headlights in the eyes of animals ahead.

When you see an animal on or near the roadway, reduce your speed and tap your brakes, to warn other drivers, and sound your horn. Of course, you can brake harder if no one is behind you, but be careful about flashing your headlights because one unintended effect may be to "freeze" the deer or other animal on the road directly ahead.

If a collision seems inevitable, don't swerve suddenly to avoid the animal. Your risk of personal injury may be greater if you do. Brake as quickly as you safely can, but keep your vehicle under control and on the road.

If a crash occurs, report it to local law enforcement, particularly if the carcass of the struck animal is still on the highway and thus a danger to other vehicles.

Safe driving tips (IPDE)

IDENTIFY: Defensive drivers scan for any person, vehicle, animal or anything else that could cause them to slow down, speed up or turn. They identify any of these things as CRITICAL OBJECTS.

PREDICT: When defensive drivers identify a critical object, they predict what could happen. They predict the worst. For example: if they identify a person entering a parked car 10 to 15 seconds ahead, they predict that the driver will pull out in front of them without looking.

DECIDE: Decisions are based on what can be done to prevent a crash, and not who is right or who is wrong. Defensive driving means that all responses to a critical object are the result of a decision and not a reaction to an unexpected danger.

EXECUTE: The final step in the IPDE Method of defensive driving is to execute the decision in a smooth, predictable manner and in time to avoid a crash.

Driving defensively with IPDE requires that you:

- Scan ahead and to the sides;
- Communicate with other drivers;

- Isolate your vehicle in traffic; and
- Separate risks and compromise space when necessary.

Scan ahead

Most of what you do as a driver is in response to what you see. Defensive drivers scan at least 10 to 15 seconds ahead. It is easy to check how far ahead you normally look. Just pick some fixed object beside the road and count "one thousand and one, one thousand and two," etc., until you reach the object. If you're watching far enough ahead, you will count past one thousand and ten before passing the object.

You should also check for weather, traffic and road conditions. Check signs, signals and road markings, as well as vehicles and pedestrians. Check for all objects that are critical and could cause you to slow down, speed up or turn. Drivers who have to react to unexpected traffic situations may not be checking far enough ahead to identify critical objects.

Scan the roadsides

Identify as critical objects persons, vehicles, and animals that could move into your path or that could cause you to change your speed or lane position. For example: if you see a school sign, check for children and identify as critical any child who could run into your path.

Communicate

To communicate means letting other drivers know what you plan to do early enough to prevent a collision. Many collisions happen because a driver fails to identify critical objects or to communicate what he plans to do. You can communicate with other drivers by:

- Making eye contact with pedestrians and other drivers at intersections and places where there may be a question of right of way;
- Using hand motions to give pedestrians and other drivers the right of way;
- Using lane position to let others know what you intend to do;
- Giving hand or electrical signals at least four to five seconds before turning;
- Touching your brake to turn on your brake lights and to start slowing well in advance of stopping;
- Being in the correct lane well in advance of a turn;

- Tapping your horn to alert others that you're there; and
- By avoiding other drivers' "blind spots" by placing your vehicle where you can be seen.

Isolate your vehicle in traffic

Space cushion: A proven method of defensive driving is to isolate your vehicle from other vehicles with a cushion of space ahead, behind, and to the sides to give you the distance to avoid the mistakes of others.

Following distance: Rear-end collisions caused by following too close are a very common type of crash. One of the easiest ways to tell if you have a large enough space cushion ahead is to use the two-second following distance rule. All you need to do is count off seconds. It is easier to use and is more accurate than trying to judge vehicle lengths.

To use the two-second following distance rule:

- Scan ahead for a fixed point such as a pole, shadow, or pavement marking; and
- When the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead passes the fixed point, start counting the number of seconds it takes you to reach the same point. Count, "one thousand and one, one thousand and two."

If the front of your vehicle passes the fixed point before you count off two seconds, you are too close to the vehicle ahead.

YOU MUST ALLOW AT LEAST TWO SECONDS FOLLOWING DISTANCE FOR EACH 20 FEET OF VEHICLE LENGTH.

If you are driving a car, stay at least two seconds back from the vehicle ahead. Bus drivers should stay at least four seconds back and tractor-trailer drivers at least six seconds back. Towing boats or trailers adds length and weight to your vehicle and therefore requires more following distance. The two-second following distance rule is simple to use and works at all speeds.

It makes sense to INCREASE your following distance by:

- Doubling the number of seconds when the roads are wet, when you are carrying a heavier than normal load, or at night (cars, four seconds).

- Tripling the number of seconds when the roads are covered with snow and slush (cars, six seconds); and
- Quadrupling the number of seconds when ice covers the road (cars, eight seconds).

Tailgaters

The space cushion behind is as important as the space cushion ahead. A driver who tailgates you limits your ability to slow rapidly in case of an emergency ahead. Although the driver behind has more control over the space than you, there are things you can do. You can:

- Communicate with the driver behind by using your turn signals, brake lights, and by placing your vehicle in the proper lane well in advance of turns;
- Provide more time and space ahead to react to emergencies (Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.);
- Move to the right lane of a multilane highway; and
- Reduce your speed to encourage the driver behind to pass.

Space to the sides

You also need a space cushion to the sides. If there are other motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians or objects in the space on both sides, you are "boxed in." Your ability to respond to a situation ahead is limited to speeding up or slowing down. To keep a space cushion to your sides, you can:

- Avoid driving next to a bicyclist for prolonged periods of time;
- Avoid driving alongside other vehicles on multilaned streets;
- Keep as much space between yourself and oncoming traffic as possible;
- Avoid driving in other drivers' blind spots;
- Avoid keeping others in your blind spots; and
- Keep a space between yourself and parked vehicles.

Separate risks

Another defensive driving technique is to separate risks. Take risks one at a time whenever possible. For example, suppose that you identified some joggers running on the edge of the road and an oncoming truck. You PREDICT that you, the oncoming vehicle and the joggers will all meet at about the same time. To separate risks, make a

DECISION to speed up or slow down in order to pass the joggers before or after the truck. EXECUTE your decision, and pass the truck and the joggers one at a time. You control the space to the sides by separating the risks. This gives you space to move in case of an emergency.

Compromise space

A final defensive driving technique is compromise. When you cannot separate risks and must deal with two or more at the same time, compromise by giving the most room to the worst danger. For example: if you are on a two-lane street and there are oncoming cars to your left and a child riding a bike to your right. The child is more likely to move suddenly than the oncoming cars, so the child is the greatest danger and you need a larger space cushion to the right. Move closer to the center line to create a bigger space cushion to the right.

Special driving conditions

Reduced light

To the defensive driver, darkness requires even greater alertness. Reduced visibility, glare from oncoming headlights, animals crossing the road, and eye strain all combine to make night driving hazardous.

Laws and guidelines for driving in reduced light include:

- Headlights must be used from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable weather conditions, persons and vehicles on the road are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet ahead.
- Turn on low beams whenever the light begins to fade. It helps others identify you and judge what you're doing.
- Never use parking lights while driving. They cannot be seen until after your vehicle is clearly visible. It is not legal to drive with only parking lights when headlights are required.
- If you cannot see clearly, it makes sense to increase your following distance at least three or four seconds.
- At night your headlights give you a clear view for only a very limited distance ahead. If you go faster than 55 mph at night, you cannot stop in the distance that you can see ahead.

- Use high beams on rural highways. Use low beams when following other vehicles, when meeting oncoming vehicles, and when driving in town. You should dim at least 500 feet (about four to five seconds) before meeting an oncoming vehicle.
- If the oncoming driver fails to dim, and you are more than 500 feet from the vehicle, use a distribution of light or composite beam high of sufficient intensity and aimed so that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The low beam shall be aimed to avoid glare at all times. If you are within 300 feet from the rear of a vehicle you are approaching, dim your lights to their lowest beam.
- A clean windshield, inside and out, will help reduce the amount of glare from oncoming vehicles. Clean headlights will naturally give more light and help you to see better.
- Eyestrain, fatigue and lack of concentration can be the result of staring at the spot created by your headlights. It may be difficult, but keep your eyes moving, especially at night. Scan for animals, pedestrians and bicycle riders. Check to the sides for lights from other vehicles that might be crossing or entering the road ahead. Constantly check the lights of vehicles ahead for any indication that they are changing speed or lane position.

Weather conditions

Fog

- Use low beam headlights. Front fog lights are sometimes helpful.
- Rear fog lights (red) should only be used in heavy fog or in similar hazardous weather conditions resulting in seriously reduced visibility. Switch off your rear fog lights once visibility improves. A rear fog light gives advanced warning of your vehicle in poor visibility conditions.
- Reduce your normal speed, but be careful. The chance of a crash is extremely high whenever the difference between your speed and the speed of other traffic is more than 15 mph. Stop at the nearest safe place whenever there is potential for a great difference in speed.
- When you can't see at least 10 seconds ahead, consider pulling off at the nearest safe spot and stopping.

- Scan ahead for taillights, headlights, pedestrians, and for stopped or slow-moving vehicles. Create as big a space cushion as possible.

Slippery surfaces

You MUST SLOW DOWN when the road is slippery, because stopping distances are increased.

Rain

- Increase your space. Double the time between you and the vehicle ahead (cars, four seconds).
- Use your headlights on low beam.
- Wait a short time after the rain starts before you turn your windshield wipers on. This will avoid smearing your windshield. Replace the blades if they smear or streak the windshield.
- Be careful during the first half hour after the rain begins. Dust and oil mix with the water and make the roadway slippery.
- Hydroplaning may occur during rainstorms. This is a condition where the tires ride on a thin film of water instead of the road. To prevent hydroplaning, SLOW DOWN.

Snow or ice

- Equip your car with snow tires or chains to prevent skidding and to reduce stopping distance.
- DO NOT change speed or direction suddenly.
- Watch for ice on bridges and in shady areas.
- Triple your space cushion ahead on snow (cars, six seconds). Quadruple the distance on ice (cars, eight seconds).
- Keep your windows clear so that you can see and communicate with others.
- Slow gradually and smoothly before stopping or turning.
- Never lock your brakes. You have no steering control unless the wheels are turning.
- DO NOT use cruise control.

Wind

- Wind can be a problem for all drivers, and is especially hazardous for trucks, recreational vehicles, campers, and drivers towing trailers. Driving at slower speeds is the best defense.

- Watch for open spaces after driving in a protected area. Be ready to make steering corrections because of changes in the wind.
- When meeting large trucks and buses, be prepared to make steering corrections for sudden changes in the wind.
- Be very alert and careful on wet or slippery surfaces.

Blizzards

A blizzard is perhaps the worst of all possible conditions for driving. It combines the limited visibility of fog, the slippery roads found with ice and snow, and unexpected steering corrections. Because of this, a defensive driver simply avoids driving in a blizzard, if at all possible. Listen to your local radio station for severe weather information. If you are caught driving in a blizzard and end up in a ditch, or are stranded on the road, use the following rules:

- Do not panic. Stay with the car so you can be found more easily.
- Keep a window open for a bit of fresh air. Freezing wet snow can completely seal out oxygen.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide. Run the engine and heater sparingly, and only with a window open for ventilation. Make sure that snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe.
- Do not remain in one position. Clap your hands and move your arms and legs vigorously periodically.
- Use your emergency flashers to make your car more visible to working crews. Turn on your dome light at night.
- Take turns keeping watch. If more than one person is in the car, do not all sleep at one time.
- Beware of over-exertion and over-exposure.

Emergency situations

When a crash seems imminent

Crash situations do arise. Remember these three things to make an inevitable collision less dangerous. First, slow as fast as possible and, second, turn away. Third, when appropriate, speed up.

Slow quickly to minimize impact

Pump conventional brakes for better control and steering. Pushing the brake pedal too hard and steadily can cause a skid.

Anti-lock brakes adjust automatically so apply hard, steady brake pressure when using this type of braking system.

Turn away quickly

If it is not possible to avoid a collision, make sure you do not hit the other vehicle head-on. Turn away and run off the road if necessary. The rule of thumb is to turn right. If the other driver does the same, the crash may be entirely avoided. Try not to use the brakes while turning away to lessen the chance of skidding and therefore not being able to turn away.

An alternative: speeding up

Speed up to avoid a collision from the side or from behind if there is room to do so. Push the gas pedal to the floor, but be sure to slow once the danger has passed.

In the last short seconds, remember:

- Do not panic;
- Turn away from oncoming traffic, choosing a glancing blow rather than a head-on crash; and
- If necessary, choose to hit something that will more likely give way.

Gas pedal sticks

If your gas pedal sticks:

- Concentrate on steering (Keep your eyes on the road.);
- Try to free the pedal with your foot (If this does not work, push in the clutch or shift to neutral.);
- Use your brakes, stop at the nearest safe place and turn off the ignition; and
- Find out what caused the problem and have it repaired.

Skids

The main thing to remember in a skid is to keep calm and not overreact.

- Stop doing whatever you did to start the skid:
  1. If you slammed on the brakes, ease up on them.
  2. If you accelerated too fast, ease up on the gas pedal.
- DO NOT APPLY THE BRAKES!

- Steer to keep going straight down the road.
- Be careful not to over steer. Be ready to steer in the opposite direction as your vehicle begins to come out of the skid.
- Refer to the owner's manual for special instruction about skids when operating front-wheel-drive vehicles.

NOTE: The information above pertains to vehicles with conventional brakes. Procedures for driving vehicles with ABS braking systems are different. In an emergency situation, ABS pumps the brakes for the driver — much faster than the driver can. All drivers need to do is press down hard on the brake pedal, hold it and steer out of danger. Drivers should be aware that removing steady pressure from the brake pedal or pumping the brakes will disengage or turn off the ABS system. Make sure you are aware of the type of braking system your vehicle has.

Brake failure

If your brakes fail:

- Pump the brake pedal rapidly;
- Use the parking brake, but hold the brake release so you can ease up on the brake if the rear wheels lock and you begin to skid;
- Shift to a lower gear, and look for a place to slow and stop off the roadway;
- Do not try to drive the car to a garage.

Blowout

If you have a tire blowout, you should:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly, and keep the car going straight down the road.
- Ease your foot off the gas pedal but do not hit the brakes.
- After the car is under control, brake gently, and pull off the road at the nearest safe spot.
- Use caution when changing the tire.

Oncoming car in your lane

If another vehicle is coming at you in your lane:

- Slow down and try to warn him by flashing your headlights.
- If he keeps coming, pull as far right as possible.
- If he still keeps coming, and there could be a collision, steer off the road to the right.

If an oncoming or stopped vehicle should suddenly ap-

pear in your lane of travel and there is immediate danger of a collision, STEER OFF THE ROAD TO THE RIGHT.

Be cautious with vehicles with steering-lock devices

Never turn your ignition key to the lock position while the vehicle is in motion. That will cause the steering to lock and, quite possibly, loss of control of the vehicle.

Steering lock operation

The Transmission Park System

Park. Shift the transmission into the "park" position. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Two-Hand Button System

Park. This system requires two hands. Depress button below the steering column. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Lever System

Park. Depress lever located near the ignition. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The One-Hand Button System

Park. Depress button located near the ignition. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Push-In System

Park. Turn key to OFF, push in. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Turn and Remove System

Park. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

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Wheels off the road

If you should run off the road, there are certain things you can do that could save your life:

- Do not panic.
- Grip the steering wheel tightly, and be prepared to withstand sudden shocks.
- Stay on the shoulder. Ease off the accelerator.
- Brake gently and slow gradually.
- After speed has been reduced, check behind as well as ahead for oncoming traffic.
- Turn sharply onto the pavement.

Wet brakes

Wet brakes may pull your vehicle to one side or the other, or they may not hold as well as usual. You should always test your brakes after driving through deep water. Brake gently several times until your brakes are dry and work properly.

Hazardous situations

Breakdowns

If your vehicle is not working properly and you need to stop, you should stop with all four wheels on the shoulder. Then:

- Turn on your emergency four-way flashers;
- Get out of the side of the vehicle away from the traffic;
- To indicate vehicle problems, tie a white cloth to an antenna or door handle and raise your hood or trunk lid; and
- DO NOT walk for help if you are on the Interstate.

If you are driving and see a disabled vehicle parked on the shoulder, move to the left lane if possible. The driver might not have seen you, and may open the door or pull onto the road.

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas. Signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are weariness, yawning, dizziness, nausea, headache and ringing in the ears. If you feel any of these symptoms, stop your engine and open the windows to get fresh air. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have the exhaust system checked regularly for any leakage;
- Avoid parking for long periods of time with the engine running; and
- DO NOT start your vehicle, or warm up the engine, in a closed garage.

Railroad crossings (highway-rail intersections)

Highway-rail intersections require special caution on the part of the driver. They are marked with advance warning signs and markings. When approaching or

entering a highway-rail intersection:

- Always expect a train at every highway-rail intersection;
- Do not get trapped on a highway-rail intersection. NEVER drive onto a highway-rail intersection until you are sure you can clear the tracks on the other side without stopping;
- When gates are down, realize the road is closed. Stop and wait until the gates go up and the red lights stop flashing before proceeding. NEVER drive around gates;
- Stay alert, especially when you are at a multiple-track crossing. Before crossing, look and listen carefully for another train coming from either direction;
- If your vehicle stalls on the highway-rail intersection, get everyone out of the vehicle and far away from the tracks immediately. NEVER try to start your vehicle or push it off the track with passengers inside. Call 911 to report the emergency situation;
- **NEVER** race a train to a highway-rail intersection. To do so is foolish. If you lose, you and your passengers may never have another chance; and
- **NEVER** pass another vehicle at a highway-rail intersection.

Road construction

Special care is needed whenever the normal pattern of highway traffic is changed by construction. A flag person may be stationed on the shoulder of the road near the work site to protect the lives of the traveling public and the highway workers. If the flag person directs you to stop, do not proceed until you are directed to do so. Drive slowly and keep alert for workers or equipment that may enter into the traffic stream, causing you to slow or change lanes. Extra care should be maintained through construction work zones even though there is no apparent work activity in the immediate vicinity.

When approaching a construction zone, if you pass a heavy vehicle at a high speed and then cut back in front of the truck so you won't be trapped behind it, the truck driver is forced to use emergency braking. If there is not enough braking distance between the truck and your passenger vehicle, the truck will rear end your vehicle, causing a serious or *fatal* crash.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians are people who use and cross public roadways and paths by means other than motor vehicles and bicycles. This includes, but is not limited to, walkers, joggers, skaters and people using wheelchairs.

- Expect frequent encounters with pedestrians in business districts, residential areas, school zones, park settings and shopping areas.
- In situations where encounters with pedestrians are likely to occur, slow your motor vehicle to a speed allowing adequate sight distance to respond to possible situations.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians when driving through intersections, changing lanes or passing, turning through intersections, and when entering or leaving a public roadway.

Animals

Animals, both large and small, present a hazard if the motorist takes an action that results in losing control of the vehicle. Regretfully, the safest thing for you and other drivers that may be near you, may be hitting the animal. Concentrate on keeping control of your vehicle before, during, and after the collision.

Health

Some persons have severe physical, mental or emotional problems that prevent them from driving safely. Other persons impose physical and mental problems upon themselves through the use of alcohol and other drugs. Although most drivers have some type of limitation, they can compensate and be a safe driver. It is important that all drivers recognize their limitations and compensate or simply not drive when they are impaired.

Emotions

We have degrees of emotions. For example, we can be upset, angry or enraged. A person's ability to control himself and drive safely is affected by the degree of his emotion. However, persons have different degrees of control. Some persons lose control of their emotions for very little reason. Whenever persons lose control of themselves while driving, they make more driving errors. These errors greatly increase the possibility of crashes.

IT IS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR A PERSON TO DRIVE SAFELY WHEN THEY ARE GRIEF STRICKEN, ENRAGED OR TERRIFIED. These and other deep emotions can overcome a person's power to think clearly. The ability to identify critical objects and make sound decisions is lost. Persons tend to react to a situation rather than respond to it in a reasonable manner. Deep emotions are not turned off and on easily. Whenever anyone is overcome with emotion and not in control of themselves, they should not drive.

Even mild emotional feelings can affect your driving. Driving requires your full attention. You cannot identify critical objects and make sound decisions when your mind is occupied with something other than driving.

Vision

All drivers use their eyes to search out and identify vehicles, persons and objects that could cause them to change speed or to turn. How well they do it often depends on how well they can see. Drivers with good vision can identify critical objects sooner. Therefore, they have time to predict what could happen, decide what they need to do, and still have time to execute their decision.

Good vision means:

- Seeing clearly so you can identify critical objects ahead and do something about them;
- Having good side vision to alert you to objects moving in from the sides;
- Being able to judge distances to enable you to make good decisions;
- Being able to see clearly at night; and
- Recovering your ability to see clearly after being blinded by headlights.

  Persons who cannot see clearly can compensate by wearing glasses or contact lenses. Persons with poor side vision, distance judgment, night vision and glare recovery must find ways to adjust or compensate for their poor vision or STOP DRIVING.
- Drivers with POOR SIDE VISION must look to the sides by moving their head as well as their eyes. They must be especially careful to look back over their shoulder when changing lanes.

- Drivers with POOR DISTANCE JUDGMENT must allow more following distance to compensate for their inability to accurately predict what's happening 10 to 15 seconds ahead of them. They also have to allow more distance when deciding to pass.
- POOR NIGHT VISION is a major problem. Drivers can compensate by driving at slower speeds. Driving at speeds 10 to 15 mph slower than other traffic can be extremely hazardous, however. These persons should limit their driving to slower speeds on well-lighted streets or to daytime driving only.
- Persons whose eyes do not adjust quickly after passing glaring bright lights have a very serious problem. Looking to the right side of the road, away from the glare, can help. The best solution is to limit driving to daylight hours only.

Hearing

Hearing is more important for driving than many persons realize. We identify many sounds as CRITICAL. The sound of screeching tires, trains, a siren, a tap of a horn, the sound of a motor from a car in your blind spot, all could cause you to decide to change speed or to turn.

Drivers with poor hearing can learn to compensate. Hearing aids and outside rearview mirrors are often the best way to compensate for loss of hearing. Being extra alert, looking farther to the sides and using side-view mirrors are the other ways to adjust for loss of hearing.

Drivers with normal hearing may not realize they do not hear critical sounds. Many vehicles are built for quiet rides. They keep sound out and provide radios and CD players to fill your car with music. The very things that provide enjoyment prevent you from hearing critical sounds. Drivers should limit the loudness of sounds within their vehicle.

Cell phones

Cell phones are everywhere. In emergencies they can be lifesavers, and, at other times, they can simply be a great communications tool. But using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

Federal studies have shown that using cell phones, including the hands-free variety, has precipitated many

crashes and near misses. And, in fact, using hands-free cell phones provides little safety benefit over hand-held phones, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In addition, the research shows that it is the actual process of conversing that proves to be among the greatest driver distractions.

Wyoming law prohibits reading or sending a text message from a cell phone or other device while operating a vehicle. Some cities and towns in Wyoming have ordinances against using a cell phone while operating a vehicle within city limits, so be sure to check ahead and watch for notifications banning use of cell phones. WYDOT recommends vehicle operators pull well off the highway and STOP before making a cellular call or texting.

Always remember, your first responsibility when you are driving is to pay attention to the road.

- If you must dial while driving on a road on which cell phone calls are allowed, dial a few numbers, look back at the highway and in your mirrors for any developing safety problems, and then dial the last numbers.
- Do not engage in extended, emotional or otherwise distracting conversations. Tell the person you will call back when it is safe to do so.
- **NEVER** read or send text messages on your cell phone while driving. It is illegal and dangerous and has caused numerous preventable crashes.

Illness

Some drivers have an illness, disease or a disability that may prevent them from driving safely. It is apparent that, when persons are unable to control themselves, they simply should not drive. A doctor's advice is helpful in determining if a person is capable of driving safely. However, physical, mental and emotional conditions change daily. As a driver, you must judge your condition and decide to drive only if you are FULLY able.

County registration and titling locations

(T)= titling; (R)=registration; (B)=both

County	City	Address	Phone #
Albany	Laramie	525 Grand Ave.	721-2541 (T) 721-2502 (R)
Big Horn	Basin	420 W. C St.	568-2357 (T) 568-2578 (R)
Campbell	Gillette	500 S. Gillette Ave.	682-7285 (T) 682-7268 (R)
Carbon	Rawlins	415 W. Pine	328-2668 (T) 328-2633 (R)
Converse	Douglas	107 N. 5th St.	358-2244 (T) 358-3120 (R)
Crook	Sundance	309 Cleveland	283-1323 (T) 283-1244 (R)
Fremont	Lander	450 N. 2nd St.	332-2405 (T) 332-1104 (R)
Goshen	Torrington	2125 E. A St.	532-4051 (T) 532-5151 (R)
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	415 Arapahoe	864-3515 (T) 864-3616 (R)
Johnson	Buffalo	76 N. Main St.	684-7272 (T) 684-7302 (R)
Laramie	Cheyenne	309 W. 20th	633-4247 (T) 633-4232 (R)
Lincoln	Kemmerer	925 Sage Ave.	877-9006 (B)
Natrona	Casper	200 N. Center	235-9211 (T) 235-9370 (R)
Niobrara	Lusk	424 S. Elm St.	334-2211 (T) 334-2432 (R)
Park	Cody	1002 Sheridan Ave.	527-8600 (T) 527-8630 (R)
Platte	Wheatland	800 9th St.	322-2315 (T) 322-2092 (R)
Sheridan	Sheridan	224 S. Main	674-2500 (T) 674-2520 (R)
Sublette	Pinedale	21 S. Tyler	367-4372 (T) 367-4373 (R)
Sweetwater	Green River	80 W. Flaming Gorge	872-3737 (T) 872-3720 (R)
Teton	Jackson	200 S. Willow St.	733-4433 (T) 733-4770 (R)
Uinta	Evanston	225 9th St.	783-0306 (T) 783-0333 (R)
Washakie	Worland	1001 Big Horn Ave.	347-3131 (T) 347-2031 (R)
Weston	Newcastle	1 W. Main	746-4744 (T) 746-2852 (R)

Definitions

Authorized Emergency Vehicles: fire, police or ambulance vehicles or others approved by statute.

Bicycle: any vehicle powered solely by human power, upon which any person may ride, having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and similar devices. Legally classified as vehicles, bicycles can be ridden on all public roads in Wyoming. While not legally required, a properly fitted and Consumer Product Safety Certified bicycle helmet is highly recommended for protection against serious head injury or death.

Blind Spot: the area near the right and left rear corners of the vehicle which cannot be seen through rearview mirrors. The driver must turn his/her head to view these areas.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC): the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream.

Brakes: device used to stop the vehicle.

Critical Object: any person, vehicle, animal or anything else that could cause a driver to slow down, speed up or turn.

Crosswalk: a place where people may legally cross the street or highway. The crosswalk may or may not be marked. If there are no markings, a crosswalk is considered to be where imaginary lines would connect the sidewalks on each side of the street or highway.

Driving While Under the Influence (DWUI): the operation of a vehicle by a person who is under the influence of alcohol or who is under the influence of a controlled substance.

Emancipated Minor: a person at least 17 years of age who is or was married, is in the military service of the United States, or who has been emancipated by the district court. Emancipated minors may have this status put on their Wyoming licenses by making application to the department and paying the required fee.

Gap in Traffic: an opening or space between vehicles in traffic that is large enough for a vehicle to enter safely.

Helmet: protective headgear.

Hydroplaning: when a vehicle's tires ride on a thin film of water instead of the road.

Immigrant: any person who is not a citizen of the United States of America.

Intersection: the area where highways or streets join or cross each other.

Lane: a section of roadway for a single line of vehicles.

Median: a barrier of grass, concrete or other material separating two roadways, such as the area between the two roadways on an Interstate highway. It is not legal to ride over, across or on the median.

Merging Traffic: a situation where two moving lanes of traffic come together, such as an entrance ramp on an interstate.

Moped: a vehicle equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to allow propulsion by human power, an automatic transmission and a motor with cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters, producing no more than two-brake horsepower, whose motor is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum speed of no more than 30 miles per hour on a level road surface.

Motorcycle: a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground but which may have a sidecar to transport a single passenger. For the purpose of registration and titling, "motorcycle" includes motorized bicycles, scooters and recreational vehicles primarily designed for off-road use and designed to be ridden astride upon a seat or saddle and to travel on four wheels, but excludes mopeds and off-road three-wheel recreational vehicles.

Motor Vehicle: every vehicle which is self-propelled by some power source other than muscular power and used on public highways for transporting persons or property or both. This includes motorcycles and mopeds.

Moving Violation: an act of control or lack of control by the driver of a motor vehicle while the vehicle is in motion, that results in a conviction, including a conviction for driving in violation of the restriction for corrective lenses and/or outside mirrors.

Multipurpose Vehicle: a vehicle having an identifying number, having at least four wheels, weighing 300 to 3,000 pounds and having a permanent upright seat at least 24 inches from the ground. The vehicle must be registered and plated to be operated on streets and highways, but may NOT be operated on interstate highways and is subject to slow-moving vehicle requirements. The holder of any class of driver license may drive a multipurpose vehicle. Drivers who currently hold a "motorcycle" class license with an "R" restriction for an "ATV vehicle only" will not be renewed with this class and restriction, as an ATV is considered a multipurpose vehicle and does not require the "M" or "R" on the license.

No-Zone: an area on either side or directly behind a heavy vehicle in which another vehicle is not visible to the driver.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicle: a recreational vehicle primarily designed for off-road use which is 50 inches or less in width, has an unladen weight of 900 pounds or less and is designed to be ridden astride upon a seat or saddle and to travel on at least 3 low pressure tires.

A "low pressure tire" is a pneumatic tire at least six 6 inches in width, designed for use on wheels with a rim diameter of 12 inches or less and having a manufacturer's recommended operating pressure of 10 pounds per square inch or less; any unlicensed motorcycle which has an unladen weight of six 600 pounds or less and is designed to be ridden off road with the operator astride upon a seat or saddle and travels on two 2 tires; and any multi-wheeled motorized vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed for cross-country travel on or over land, sand, ice or other natural terrain and which has an unladen weight of more than 900 pounds.

Wherever practicable, off-road recreational vehicles shall only be operated off the main traveled portion of the roadway. Crossings of main traveled roadways shall be made at right angles to the roadway or as nearly so as practicable, but, in any case, yielding the right of way to all traffic in the main traveled roadway. If the operator is a minor, or if a minor is a rider, they shall be operated in accordance with all Wyoming helmet laws and be

operated only by a person who possesses a valid driver license with a motorcycle endorsement.

Pedestrian Vehicle: any self-propelled conveyance designed, manufactured and intended for the exclusive use of persons with a physical disability. In no case shall a pedestrian vehicle exceed 48 inches in width.

Reinstatement Fee: the fee required to reinstate a person's driver license and/or driving privilege before a suspension or revocation can be lifted and the privilege to drive restored.

Resident: any person who is gainfully employed or engages in any trade, profession or occupation within this state **and** owns, leases or rents a place of residence or otherwise lives within Wyoming for the purpose of employment or remains in the jurisdiction for a period of 120 days or more; **OR** any person who is registered to vote in Wyoming; **OR** any person who has applied for public assistance from Wyoming; **OR** any person holding a valid Wyoming resident hunting or fishing license.

Revocation: termination of a person's privilege to drive.

Roadway: that portion of a street or highway ordinarily used for driving.

Shoulder: that portion of the road beside the traveled highway. It may be either hard surfaced or gravel. It is used by stopped vehicles and helps provide proper drainage of the highway.

Space Cushion: the space that isolates your vehicle from other vehicles; a cushion of space ahead, behind and to the side of your vehicle.

Suspension: the TEMPORARY REMOVAL of a person's privilege to drive. The license may be returned after a specified period of time, and/or after certain requirements have been met.

Total Stopping Distance: the distance a vehicle travels before it comes to a complete stop. It includes the complete distance traveled while deciding to stop, then reacting, and finally after brakes are then applied.

Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT): the state agency responsible for the licensing of drivers in Wyoming. WYDOT's address is: 5300 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340.

Traffic signs

The shapes and color of signs have meaning. If fading light, fog, rain, snow or darkness makes it difficult to see the letters, you should still know what to look for or what to do.

Pavement markings provide the driver with important information about the proper position of vehicles on the roadway.

Regulatory signs

These signs tell you what to do. You must **always** obey them.

Rectangles

Rectangular signs regulate traffic and direct the driver's speed and direction.



Octagon (eight sides)

This shape is reserved for stop signs. You must come to a complete stop.



Triangle pointing down

This shape requires that you yield the right of way to cross traffic or to merging traffic.

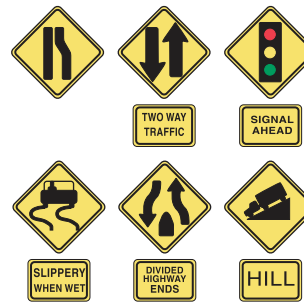


Warning signs

Warning signs alert you to conditions ahead. They are usually diamond shaped and warn you about road hazards, construction sites, schools or other situations which require your special attention. While most warning signs are yellow, construction and maintenance warning signs are orange.

Diamond

These signs are yellow with black letters. They warn of a possible danger ahead.



Pentagon

This sign warns of a school zone ahead or marks a school crossing. The absolute speed limit in a school zone is 20 mph.



Pennant

Pennant-shaped signs are located at the beginning of a no-passing zone.



Round

A round sign warns of a railroad crossing ahead. Instead, a stop line or an "X" with the letters "RR" may be painted on the pementent before a crossing. Or any combination of the above may warn of an upcoming railroad crossing.



Construction

Construction signs have black lettering on an orange background. They warn motorists of temporarily dangerous or unusual conditions on construction or maintenance projects.



Emergency Notification Sign

The ENS (Emergency Notification Sign) is for those emergencies that would require stopping train traffic due to an obstruction on the tracks, or any other problem at the crossing like if the lights or gates are not working properly.



Guide signs

Guide signs are very helpful. They tell you where you are, what road you are on and how to get where you want to go. Most guide signs are rectangular. However, guide signs for county roads and route markers on freeways are different in shape. The type of information given determines the color of the sign.



Traffic signals

Red light

You must stop behind the crosswalks or stop line. You can turn right at a RED light unless there is a sign that prohibits the turn. You may turn RIGHT only after STOPPING AND YIELDING to persons and other vehicles. You may also, after stopping and yielding, turn left from a one-way street onto a one-way street.



Amber light

If possible, you MUST stop before entering the intersection. If you cannot stop safely, you should carefully go through the intersection.

Green light

You may enter the intersection when the way is clear. You MUST yield the right of way to other vehicles and persons already in the intersection.

Flashing red light

You must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection. This light has the same meaning as a "STOP" sign.



Flashing amber light

You must use caution. This light warns of a dangerous intersection or location.



Turn arrows

1. A RED arrow prohibits turning in the direction of the arrow. It is used to remind drivers that they must turn in the direction the arrow is pointing when the light turns green.
2. An AMBER arrow may appear after a GREEN arrow and warns you to clear the intersection.
3. A GREEN arrow means that you may turn in the direction shown by the arrow without stopping if the way is clear. You MUST yield the right of way to persons and other traffic within the intersection.





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DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

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