

**Minnesota  
Easy-to-Read  
Driver's  
Manual**

**2011 Edition**

**Fred Schreiber**

Published by the  
Minnesota Driver  
and Traffic Safety  
Education Association

High School Driver Education



The Key to Safer Drivers

The Minnesota Easy-to-Read Driver's Manual, 2011 edition, provides in simpler language the most pertinent information found in the official state driver's manual.

Published by the Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (MDTSEA).  
Graphics on pages 54 and 85 courtesy of MnDOT.

**The cost of the manual is \$16 per copy.  
This includes shipping.**

Send orders for the manual to

Fred Schreiber  
1932 E. Nevada Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55119.

**Make checks payable to MDTSEA.**

You can also contact Fred by phone: **(651) 771-8483**  
or e-mail: **fschreib@ties2.net**

**About forty percent of deaths of young people are caused by traffic crashes. It is the goal of the Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (MDTSEA) to reduce this horrible and unacceptable statistic.**

MDTSEA is an organization of professional educators who teach driver education and traffic safety in the secondary schools of Minnesota.

**In Minnesota in the year 2010:  
411 traffic fatalities  
31,176 injuries  
74,073 crashes**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 1	1
CHAPTER 1 YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE	2
Quiz on Chapter 1	10
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 2	12
CHAPTER 2 YOU MAY LOSE YOUR LICENSE	12
Quiz on Chapter 2	14
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 3	15
CHAPTER 3 THE DRIVING TASK	15
Quiz on Chapter 3	30
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 4	32
CHAPTER 4 THE DRIVER	33
Quiz on Chapter 4	43
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 5	45
CHAPTER 5 SIGNS, SIGNALS, PAVEMENT MARKINGS	46
Quiz on Chapter 5	55
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 6	58
CHAPTER 6 TRAFFIC LAWS	59
Quiz on Chapter 6	68
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 7	71
CHAPTER 7 ADJUST TO DRIVING CONDITIONS	71
Quiz on Chapter 7	80
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 8	82
CHAPTER 8 DRIVING THE FREEWAYS	83
Quiz on Chapter 8	89
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 9	91
CHAPTER 9 YOUR VEHICLE	91
Quiz on Chapter 9	94
Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 10	95
CHAPTER 10 INSURANCE AND ORGAN DONATION	96
Quiz on Chapter 10	97

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 1

1. **resident** — person who lives in the state.
2. **except** — left out, or not included.
3. **expire** — run out. After a license expires it is no longer good.
4. **permit** — a paper or plastic card which you receive after passing your written test on laws and signs.
5. **examiner** — person who gives the test.
6. **licensed driver** — one who has a license.
7. **non-resident** — person who lives in another state.
8. **applicant** — one who has applied and is trying to pass his road test.
9. **farm work license** — a limited license given to 15 year olds who have completed driver education, who live on a farm, for the purpose of helping on the farm. It is good only within 20 miles from home and during daylight hours.
10. **family medical needs license** — a limited license which may be given to a 15 year old who has completed driver education, and who has proven that he must drive for family medical reasons. (For example, if both parents are sick or disabled.)
11. **suspended** — taken away for a period of time.
12. **revoked** — taken away for a period of time. After a license has been revoked, the person must take his written and road tests over.
13. **canceled** — taken away, maybe for the rest of your life.
14. **guardian** — one who takes the place of a parent.
15. **vision** — how well you see. If you wear glasses, be sure to use them for this test.
16. **visual acuity** — how sharp and crisp things look.
17. **field of vision** — everything you see when you look straight ahead. It includes central and peripheral vision<sup>19</sup>.
18. **contacts** — tiny lenses which fit directly over the eyeball.
19. **peripheral vision** — seeing things off to the side.

20. **identification** — proof of who you are.
21. **enrollment** — card that says you are enrolled in a behind-the-wheel driver education program.
22. **certified** — official; the state will accept it.
23. **birth certificate** — official paper proving where and when you were born.
24. **approves** — says it is all right.
25. **renewed** — done over again. You do not have to take your test over to have your permit renewed.
26. **at-fault crash** — a crash that is your fault.
27. **restricted** — limited in some way.
28. **illegally** — against the law.
29. **privilege** — a special advantage.
30. **duplicate** — an exact copy.
31. **permanent address** — where you live. A college student may leave home to go to college, but his permanent address would stay the same.
32. **endorsement** — a special stamp that a person earns by taking extra training in motorcycle or school bus safety.

## Chapter 1

# Your License to Drive

Any Minnesota resident<sup>1</sup> who wishes to drive a motor vehicle of any kind, except<sup>2</sup> a farm tractor, must have a license. If a person has a license, but allows it to expire<sup>3</sup>, that person must take the written and road tests over.

When you are ready for your permit<sup>4</sup> or road test, call 651-297-2005 for help in locating the nearest exam station and its hours of service. You can also go to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division Web site at [www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org) to get this information. Here are three other very helpful telephone numbers:

**To schedule a road test,  
call 651-284-1000.**

**For information about your  
driver's permit or license,  
call 651-297-3298.**

**For information about road conditions  
and construction projects,  
just call 511.**

You may have a license from only one state at a time. If you move to Minnesota from another state and have a license from that state, you must give it to the examiner<sup>5</sup> before taking your Minnesota Permit Test.

Any person who wishes to practice driving on the public roads must have a permit. There must also be a licensed driver<sup>6</sup> in the front seat with the person when he/she practices. If the learner is under 18, the supervising driver must be at least 21 years old; if the learner is 18 or older, the supervising driver must be at least 18 years old. If you practice without having a permit, both you and the licensed driver could be arrested.

#### **IMPORTANT!! "VANESSA'S LAW"**

A **young driver** who has a permit or provisional license whose driving privilege **is revoked due to a crash-related moving violation or an alcohol/drug violation cannot get the permit or license back until age 18.**

At that time, the person must:

- Fulfill all reinstatement requirements, including payment of fees which can be up to \$680;
- Complete classroom driver education again;
- Pass the permit test again; have it for at least three months;
- Complete behind-the-wheel driver ed again.

### **These People Do Not Need a Minnesota License to Drive:**

- Any person who works for the United States government and is driving a vehicle owned by the United States government.
- Any adult while driving a farm tractor or other farm machinery.
- Any non-resident<sup>7</sup> who is at least 15 years old, who has a license from another state or country.
- A non-resident, 18 years or older, whose home state or country does not require a license. This person can drive up to 90 days a year in Minnesota.
- A new resident who has a license from another state must get his Minnesota license within 60 days after moving into the state.
- An applicant<sup>8</sup> while taking the road test.
- Any adult while driving a snowmobile. Persons under 18 years of age must check with the Minn. Dept. of Natural Resources before driving a snowmobile.

## These People Cannot Get a Minnesota License:

- Anyone under 16 years, except those who may qualify for a farm work license<sup>9</sup> or a family medical needs license<sup>10</sup>.
- Anyone under 18 years who has not taken a driver education course.
- Anyone who has not passed the road test.
- Anyone whose license has been suspended<sup>11</sup>.
- Anyone whose license has been revoked<sup>12</sup>.
- Anyone whose license has been canceled<sup>13</sup>.
- Anyone who is insane.
- Anyone who has physical or mental problems which would not allow him to be able to control a vehicle.
- Anyone who cannot read well enough to understand the laws and signs.

## Getting Your Driver's Permit

If you are under 18 years of age, you must do these things in order to get your driver's permit:

- complete a state-approved driver education class;
- enroll in behind-the-wheel driver education;
- pass a test on Minnesota traffic laws and signs;

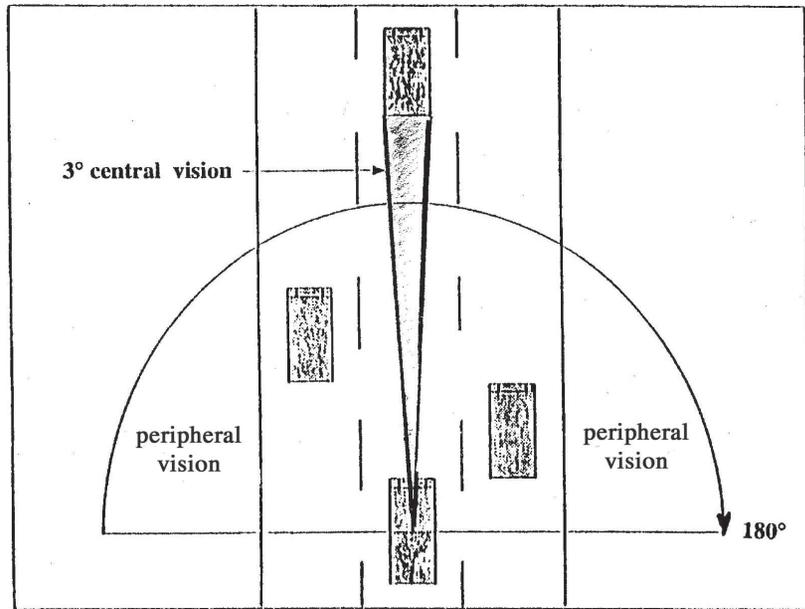
If you fail this test twice, you will have to pay a \$10 fee to take the test a third time.

- pass a vision screening test;
- have the approval of a parent or guardian.<sup>14</sup>

## The Vision<sup>15</sup> Test

Before taking your permit test you must pass a vision test that checks two things—your visual acuity must be at least 20/40 in one or both eyes; and your field of vision must be at least 105 degrees wide. Note the pictures to the right. If you cannot pass this test, you will have to see your eye doctor for another test. If your doctor finds that you can see well enough to drive safely, he will send a written report to the examiner. You will then be able to take your written test and get your permit. If you can't see well enough, you will have to get corrective lenses—eye-glasses or contacts<sup>18</sup>. If you need corrective lenses to drive, you must wear them every time you drive.

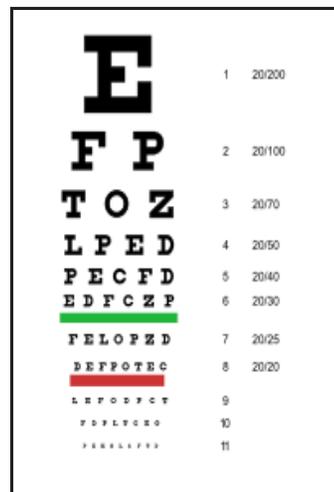
## Field of Vision



Your field of vision is everything in your sight. For most people that field is about 180 degrees wide. However, your eyes can focus only on a narrow, 3-degree cone of central vision at any one moment. Off to the sides is your peripheral vision<sup>19</sup>. To pass the eye test your field of vision must be at least 105 degrees wide.

## Visual Acuity

This is one type of eye-chart that tests visual acuity. You must have at least 20/40 in one or both eyes to pass this test.



## Identification<sup>20</sup>

If you are under 18 years of age, you must do these things in order to get your driving permit:

- 1) Complete a state-approved 30-hour driver education classroom course; then
- 2) Enroll in a behind-the-wheel program; then
- 3) Pass the state permit exam and the vision screening test.

When you go to the exam station for your permit, you must have with you the blue enrollment<sup>21</sup> card that shows you are enrolled in a behind-the-wheel program AND you must also have **two** forms of identification:

- 1) A certified<sup>22</sup> copy of your birth certificate<sup>23</sup>

Certified copies of birth certificates are available from  
Minnesota Dept. of Health  
Vital Statistics

717 SE Delaware St., PO Box 9441  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
telephone number: 612 - 676 - 5120

AND

- 2) Your school student ID card is acceptable if it has your name, picture, and either your birthdate or your school ID number. OR you could use your non-metal social security card.

If you come from another state or country, check the ID information sheet on page 11. If the information is too confusing, talk to someone at any driver exam station.

## Parent's Approval

If you are under 18 years of age, you cannot get a permit or license unless a parent or guardian approves your application.

## Driving with Your Permit

As soon as you have your permit, you may drive under the supervision of your driving instructor or any licensed driver who is at least 21 years old. The supervising driver must be in the front seat with you; and everyone in the car must be buckled up.

**Also, it is illegal for drivers under age 18 to use any cell phone while driving, even if it is a "hands-free" cell phone.**

Your permit will cost \$12. It is good for two years and can be renewed.<sup>25</sup> You must have your permit with you whenever you practice driving.

## The Next Step

**When you are 16 years old and have had your permit at least six months, you are eligible**

### **for a Provisional License IF:**

- you have completed your behind-the-wheel driver education;
- you have had at least 10 hours of supervised night time driving practice and a total of at least 30 hours of supervised driving practice;
- you have had at least six consecutive months of driving with **no** moving violations, **no** at-fault<sup>26</sup> crashes, **no** drug or alcohol violations;
- you pass the road test.

## The Road Test

When you are 16 and have completed behind the wheel driver education and have had your permit for at least six months, you are eligible to take your test for a Provisional License. You must furnish a vehicle for the road test. The vehicle will be checked by an examiner before the test to make sure that it has all the necessary equipment, and that all is in working order. Before you take your road test, **be sure all of the vehicle's turn signals are working; you cannot use arm signals in the test.**

### **The equipment needed includes:**

- ✓ rear view mirror
- ✓ horn
- ✓ windshield wipers
- ✓ 2 methods of applying brakes
- ✓ muffler

- ✓ headlights
- ✓ rear tail lights
- ✓ license plate light
- ✓ stop light
- ✓ directional signals
- ✓ seat belts in front and back seats

**If the examiner finds equipment that does not work, he may not let you take your test until it is fixed.**

**The test will include the following:**

### **1) Equipment Demonstration**

You should be able to locate and show how to use or check these items:

- Seatbelt
- Brake pedal
- Parking/Emergency brake
- Headlights - high and low beams
- Four-way flashers (hazard lights)
- Windshield wipers

- Defroster/fan
- Horn
- Mirrors/windows
- Proof of insurance (have this with you)

### **2) Skills**

- General control of the vehicle
- Parallel parking
- Backing (straight and/or around a corner)
- Parking and starting on a hill

### **3) Driving Performance**

- Watching and reacting correctly to traffic and road conditions
- Seeing and obeying traffic signs and signals
- Right and left turns and proper signaling
- Using both marked and unmarked traffic lanes
- Consideration of other drivers and pedestrians

Throughout the test the examiner will evaluate your attitude, your awareness of the risks present in the driving scene, and your actions to compensate or make up for those risks. No one else beside the examiner can be in the car with you.

**If you fail the road test twice, you will have to pay a \$20 fee to take the road test again.**

**The examiner will stop the test and fail you, if you do any of the following:**

- break any traffic law.
- do any dangerous act.
- refuse to do what the examiner asks you to do.
- have a crash.

## **Driving with Your Provisional License**

When you have your Provisional License, you may drive without supervision; but at all times, everyone must be properly buckled up or be in a properly fastened approved car safety seat.

**And, for the first six months of driving with your provisional license, you cannot have more than one passenger under age 20 unless your parent or guardian is with you;**

**for the next six months you cannot have more than three passengers under age 20 unless your parent or guardian is with you.**

**Passengers under age 20 who are members of your immediate family are permitted.**

**Also, you cannot drive between midnight and 5 A.M. unless you have with you a licensed driver age 25 or older. However, you may drive alone —**

**IF driving between your home and your job;  
IF driving to or from a school event if the school does not provide transportation;  
IF driving for employment purposes.**

You will be eligible for a full “Under-21” License when:

- you have had 10 more hours of supervised driving practice; AND
- you have had 12 consecutive months of provisional-license driving with  
NO drug or alcohol violations,  
NO at-fault crashes,  
and not more than one moving violation that is not crash-related.

## **License Types and Fees**

A Class D under 21 license is given to a person under 21 years who qualifies for a driver’s license. It is good until your 21st birthday. At that time you must apply for a regular Class D license which will be good for four years.

<b>Class D instruction permit</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b>Provisional license</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Class D license, regular or under 21</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>
<b>Class D provisional license upgrade to under 21 license, no violation on record (\$3.50 credit)</b>	<b>\$20.50</b>

## Exceptions to Age Limit

The youngest driving age for a Class D under 21 license is 17 years, except for those 15 year olds who qualify for a farm work license or a family medical needs license. A 15 year old who lives on a farm and who has completed driver education, may be given a farm work license for the purpose of helping on the farm. It is good only within 20 miles of home and only during daylight hours.

A personal or family medical needs license may be given to a 15 year old who has completed driver education, for the purpose of driving for ill or disabled parents. The parents and doctor must swear that the license is needed.

## Restricted<sup>27</sup> Permit or License

Your permit or license may be restricted. A restriction is a limit set for you, to make sure that you can be a safe driver. A common restriction is wearing corrective lenses. If you cannot see well enough to drive safely without glasses or contacts, the examiner will have this information printed on your permit or license. Another common restriction is “hand controls” for those people who cannot use their feet and legs.

Any time you have a restriction shown on your permit or license, you must obey this limit. For example, you must wear your glasses while driving if this restriction is shown on your permit or license. If you drive without your glasses, you are driving illegally<sup>28</sup> and may lose your driving privilege<sup>29</sup>.

## Lost or Destroyed Permit or License

If you lose your permit or license or if it can no longer be read easily, you must apply for a duplicate<sup>30</sup>. No test is needed for this.

## Change of Name or Address

If you change your name or permanent address<sup>31</sup>, you have 30 days in which to change this information on your license.

## Re-Examination

If you have some physical or mental problem which might affect your driving ability, you may need a doctor’s statement which says that he feels you can drive safely. You may have to be tested by an examiner at regular times to prove your driving ability. If you are called in for a re-examination and do not go, your license could be canceled.

## Identification Card

A Minnesota identification card can be given to an applicant 16 years or older who cannot have a driver's license or does not want one. This card looks like a driver's license because it has a number, the person's name, birthdate, description, and colored photo. It costs \$18.00 and must be renewed every four years until age 65; then the card becomes good for the rest of the person's life.

## Truck Drivers, Bus Drivers, and Motorcycle Operators

This manual does not have information on how to get Class C, Class B, Class A licenses, or school bus or motorcycle endorsements<sup>32</sup>. Any exam station can give you information on these licenses.

### QUIZ ON CHAPTER 1 True or False:

1. \_\_\_ A permit in Minnesota is good for a period of one year.
2. \_\_\_ You must have a permit to practice driving on public streets.
3. \_\_\_ You take a test on Minnesota traffic laws and signs when you apply for your driver's license.
4. \_\_\_ Your permit will cost \$8.00
5. \_\_\_ A 15 or 16 year old driving on a permit may be supervised by any licensed adult at least 18 years old.
6. \_\_\_ The blue behind-the-wheel enrollment card and a certified copy of the birth certificate are two of the necessary forms of ID for young drivers.
7. \_\_\_ The farm work license is one type of restricted license.
8. \_\_\_ A farm work license allows the 15 year old driver all the privileges of an adult driver.
9. \_\_\_ A personal or family medical needs license may be issued to a 15 year old who has proven that some member of his family needs his help as a driver.
10. \_\_\_ Ordinarily, driver education cars are used by students to take their road tests.
11. \_\_\_ As soon as you get your permit you may drive with your licensed parent or guardian.
12. \_\_\_ You must have a license to drive a farm tractor in Minnesota.
13. \_\_\_ Your baptismal certificate is a good form of ID to take to the exam station.
14. \_\_\_ A regular driver license expires on your birthday every 2 years.
15. \_\_\_ Your vision will be checked and a new photo taken each time you renew your license.
16. \_\_\_ When you change your name or address within Minnesota, you must apply for a renewal or duplicate license within 15 days.
17. \_\_\_ A resident of Canada does not need a Minnesota license in order to drive in Minnesota.
18. \_\_\_ Before getting a provisional license you must have your permit for at least six months.

**Answers to quiz are on page 12.**



## DO YOU HAVE PROPER IDENTIFICATION? Identification Requirements

Minnesota Rules Parts 7410.0100 to 7410.0600



*o apply for a Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or permit, you must present either:*

- A Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or permit that is current or expired for five years or less if it has a photo or one year or less if it does not have a photo.
- you do not have one of the items listed above, you must present one primary and one secondary document.* The primary document must contain your full name and the month, day, and year of your birth. Any document not in English must be accompanied by a qualified English translation.
- the name on your Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or permit has changed or the names on your primary and secondary documents do not match, you must also present proof of your legal name change(s).* Acceptable proof consists of certified marriage certificates, certified divorce decrees, or other certified court orders. Divorce decrees or other court orders must specify the name change. Your identity and name change documents need to show a clear link between your primary and secondary documents.
- the name on the Minnesota driver's license, identification card, or permit that is issued to you will be the name on the primary document or legal name change document.*
- you are a temporary United States resident, you may need to show additional proof of your lawful admission period, such as a Form I-20, DS-2019, I-797, or other official immigration document or receipt.*

Documents are subject to verification and may not be accepted if laminated or otherwise altered.

Primary Documents	Secondary Documents
<p>Certified birth record issued by a government bureau of vital statistics or board of health in the United States, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands.</p> <p>Certificate of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350) issued by the U.S. Department of State.</p> <p>Report of Birth Abroad of a United States Citizen (FS-240) issued by a U.S. embassy.</p> <p>Certified adoption certificate from a U.S. court.</p> <p>Valid, unexpired U.S. passport book or card.</p> <p>Secure, unexpired Minnesota tribal identification card.</p> <p>Unexpired active duty, reserve or retired U.S. military identification card (DD-2 or Geneva Conventions Common Access Card).</p> <p>Valid, unexpired passport from a country other than the U.S. with an unexpired I-94 form or with an unexpired I-551 stamp.</p> <p>Canadian birth or naturalization certificate with an unexpired I-94 form attached. (Must be presented with a <u>photo</u> Secondary Document issued by a Canadian government agency.)</p> <p>One of the following valid, unexpired documents issued by the U.S. Department of Justice or U.S. Department of Homeland Security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment Authorization card with photo (I-688 or I-766 series)</li> <li>- Permanent Resident or Resident Alien card (I-551 or I-151)*</li> <li>* Federal regulations (8 CFR Sec. 264.5) state that cards issued before age 14 are not valid if the cardholder is age 14 or older (unless the card expires before age 16).</li> <li>- Re-entry Permit/Refuge Travel Document (I-327, I-571)</li> <li>- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550, N-570, or N-578)</li> <li>- Certificate of Citizenship (N-560, N-561, or N-645)</li> <li>- United States Citizen Identification card (I-179 or I-197)</li> <li>- Northern Mariana Card (I-873)</li> <li>- American Indian Card (I-872)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another primary document.</li> <li>• Photo driver's license, state identification card, or permit, issued by a U.S. state other than Minnesota, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or a Canadian province or territory, that is current or expired for five years or less.</li> <li>• U.S. social security card (nonmetal) or Canadian social insurance card.</li> <li>• Certified birth certificate from a government jurisdiction other than the U.S., the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.</li> <li>• Certified government-issued marriage certificate.</li> <li>• Certified U.S. or Canadian court order with full name and date of birth.</li> <li>• Certified secondary or post-secondary school transcript containing legal full name and date of birth.</li> <li>• Current secondary school (grades 7-12) student identification card with student's name, photograph, and date of birth or unique identification number.</li> <li>• Government employee photo identification card from a jurisdiction in the U.S. or Canada.</li> <li>• Current identification card (DD-1173 or DD-214) issued by the U.S. Department of Defense.</li> <li>• Unexpired color-photo permit to carry a firearm or concealed weapon, issued by a U.S. police department or sheriff.</li> <li>• Current pilot's license issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.</li> </ul>

6 - true	12 - false	18 - true
5 - false	11 - true	17 - true
4 - false	10 - false	16 - false
3 - false	9 - true	15 - true
2 - true	8 - false	14 - false
1 - false	7 - true	13 - false

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 2

1. **cancellation** — loss of license in such a way that you may never get it back.
2. **revocation** — loss of license for a period of time after which you must pay for and take your written and road tests over in order to get the license back.
3. **suspension** — loss of license for a period of time after which you get it back.
4. **permanent** — lasting for the rest of one’s life.
5. **under oath** — you have sworn to tell the truth.
6. **juvenile court** — the court which hears cases of persons under 18 years.
7. **automatically** — happening without your doing anything.

# Chapter 2 You May Lose Your License

If you do not obey Minnesota traffic laws, your privilege to drive may be lost through cancellation<sup>1</sup>, revocation<sup>2</sup>, or suspension<sup>3</sup>.

Your license may be canceled if you do not obey requests or rules of the Department of Public Safety. License cancellation has no time limit; it could be permanent<sup>4</sup>.

### Reasons for cancellation are:

- If you can no longer pass the license tests.
- If you have some illness that would keep you from being a safe driver.
- If a license should not have been given to you in the first place.
- If you gave false answers when you applied.
- If you cannot have a license according to Minnesota law.

Your license may be revoked or taken away for a certain length of time if you are found guilty of certain wrong actions. After the period of time is over, you must apply for a new license. You must take all the tests over again.

If your license is revoked, the reinstatement fee is \$30. **But if your license is revoked because of an alcohol or other drug-related offense, the reinstatement fee is \$680.**

**Reasons for revocation are:**

- If you are found guilty of killing someone with your car through carelessness.
- If you are found guilty of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- If you are found guilty of any crime such as robbing a bank, in which a motor vehicle was used.
- If you are found guilty of not stopping at an accident where someone was killed or hurt.
- If you are found guilty of lying under oath<sup>5</sup> about who owns the car you are driving.
- If you are found guilty of 3 wrong actions within a 12 month period which would result in your being jailed.
- If you are found guilty of a crime in another state, which if done in this state, would be grounds for loss of license.
- If you are found guilty of driving a car which is not covered by insurance.

When any judge of a juvenile court<sup>6</sup> decides that a person under 18 years has broken any of the above laws, the judge must report his decision to the Department of Public Safety. The person's license will be revoked right away.

A license may be suspended or taken away for a period of time if a driver has broken certain laws or is judged not able to drive a motor vehicle. After the period of time, the license will be returned to the person.

**Reasons for suspension are:**

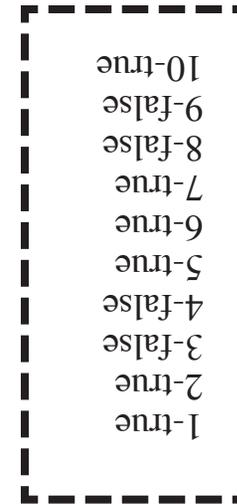
- If you are found guilty of breaking a law which has losing the privilege to drive as a punishment.
- If you are found guilty of breaking a traffic law, causing an accident and injury or death to another person.
- If you are known by lawmen as being reckless or careless most of the time.
- If you are found guilty of breaking traffic laws whenever you feel like it.
- If you become so ill that a court of law has ruled that you can no longer drive.
- If you have allowed your license to be used by someone else or in an unlawful way.
- If you are found guilty of breaking a law in another state which, if done in Minnesota, would be reason for having your license suspended.

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 2

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ Of the three ways of losing your license — cancellation, revocation, and suspension — the most permanent is cancellation.
2. \_\_\_ If your license is canceled, it is possible that you may never get it back.
3. \_\_\_ If your license is revoked, it will be given back to you automatically<sup>7</sup> after the period of revocation is over.
4. \_\_\_ If you kill someone with your car through carelessness, your license will be canceled.
5. \_\_\_ Careless or reckless driving may result in the suspension of your license.
6. \_\_\_ If your license is suspended, it will be returned to you after the period of suspension is over.
7. \_\_\_ If your license is revoked, you must take the written and road tests in order to get it back.
8. \_\_\_ If your license is canceled, all you have to do is pay the fee to get your license back.
9. \_\_\_ If your license is suspended, you must take the written and road tests in order to get it back.

10. \_\_\_ The least serious of the 3 ways of losing your license is by suspension.



## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 3

1. **respect** — be thoughtful of or show concern for.
2. **courtesy** — good manners.
3. **blind spot** — the area to the right and to the left of your car that you can't see while looking ahead or looking in your rearview and side mirrors. You check the blind spot by turning your head and looking over your shoulder.
4. **clutch** — part of a car with standard transmission that disconnects the gears. It must be pressed to the floor to change gears.
5. **automatic transmission** — one in which you do not have to change the gears by shifting. As you gain speed, the gears shift automatically.
6. **posture** — how you hold your body.
7. **“9 and 3 o'clock or 8 and 4 o'clock position”** — Think of the steering wheel as the face of a clock. Place your left hand where 9 or 8 would be and your right hand where 3 or 4 would be.
8. **amber** — yellow.
9. **intersection** — place where two or more roads meet or cross each other.
10. **registered** — officially recorded with the Division of Motor Vehicles.

11. **gear** — equipment.

12. **techniques** — ways of doing things.

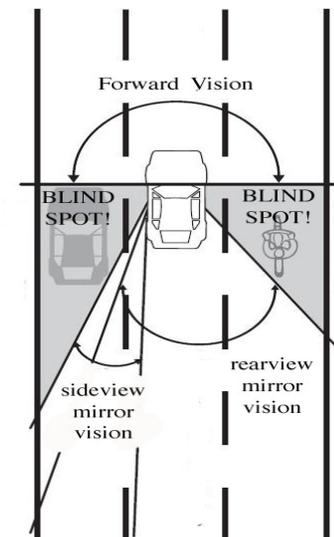
## Chapter 3 The Driving Task

Driving a car is a serious job. You must know and obey the rules. Respect<sup>1</sup> for the laws and courtesy<sup>2</sup> towards others on the road are most important.

### Good Driving Habits

Good and defensive driving consists of a great many small things done smoothly and consistently. These small things—for example, checking your rear view mirrors often, or checking your blind spot<sup>3</sup> every time you plan to make a lane change—must become habits.

**Blind spots — the areas to left and right that you can't see unless you turn your head and check over your shoulder.**



It is just as easy to form good habits as bad ones. Develop a safe way of entering and leaving the vehicle. Realize that using the traffic side can be dangerous.

- Adjust the seat so that you can reach the pedals easily. There should be at least 10 inches between you and the steering wheel.
- Adjust the mirrors so that you can see to the sides and to the rear. Make sure that you can see around other people in the vehicle.
- Lock your doors.
- Fasten your seat belt and make sure that others in the car fasten their seat belts. Even if your car is equipped with air bags, always use your seat belts.

***Children under 13 years of age should NOT ride in the front seat of any car that has air bags.***

If the vehicle has a clutch<sup>4</sup>, hold the clutch pedal to the floor when starting the engine. With an automatic transmission<sup>5</sup>, the shift lever must be in PARK or NEUTRAL when starting the engine.

**Be very careful when entering or leaving the car on the traffic side.**



## Posture<sup>6</sup> and Steering

Sitting up straight will help you see better. It will also help you to control the car. Both hands should hold the outside rim of the steering wheel firmly, with the hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock position<sup>7</sup> or the 8 and 4 o'clock position. This gives you the greatest car control. Do not grip the wheel too tightly. Keep both hands on the wheel except when one is needed for signaling or turning on other equipment. When turning a corner, use hand-over-hand steering or "push-pull" steering.

## Starting from a Parking Place

When you are ready to leave a parking spot, look in your mirrors, signal, look over your shoulder, and wait until the way is clear before pulling into traffic. Enter traffic in the nearest lane and stay in that lane until it is safe to change to another lane.

## On the Road

A traffic lane is the part of a street or highway wide enough to permit safe driving. You are in a traffic lane whenever driving on any street or highway, whether the lane is marked or not.

Always drive within a single traffic lane. Do not drift from one edge of the lane to the other. Do not weave from one lane to another. Do not drive on the lane marking.

When you are driving on a highway that has two or more lanes going in the same direction, you should

drive in the right hand lane **unless**

- you are passing another vehicle
- you are going to turn left at an intersection or driveway up ahead
- you are going to enter or exit a freeway or driveway up that requires a left-lane approach.

## Changing Lanes: Blind-Spot Check

**In all your driving, before you make a lane change to the right or left, check your blind-spot just before you move.**

**Lane change to the left:  
Look over your left  
shoulder to check your  
blind spot.**



**Lane change to the right:  
Look over your right  
shoulder to check your  
blind spot.**

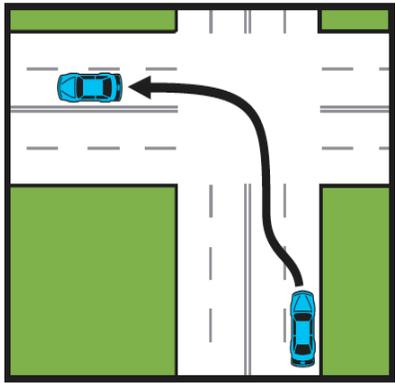


***Before you move the car to the left or to the right ,  
check the blind spot EVERY TIME.***

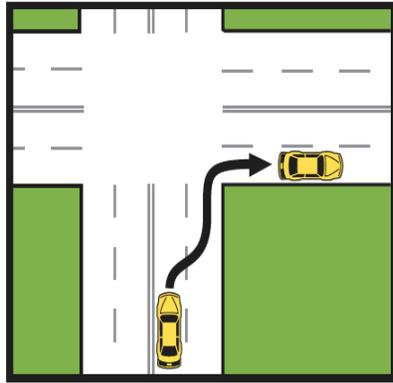
## Rules for Turns

1. Get ready for the turn before you get there. Do not decide to turn at the last moment.
2. Get into the proper lane for your turn well ahead of the place where you will make your turn. Be sure that it is safe to make the change. For a right turn, you should be as far right as you can reasonably be. For a left turn, get as far left as you reasonably can.
3. Signal **at least 100 feet** before the turn. This will tell other drivers and pedestrians (people on foot) what you are going to do. Both hands should be on the wheel when actually turning. Look carefully for pedestrians. If there is a person in the marked or unmarked crosswalk, you must stop and wait for him to get out of your way. **Remember that you must stop for any pedestrian in any marked or unmarked crosswalk.**
4. Slow down before making turns. You should not have to use brakes or clutch while turning.
5. Finish your turn in the proper lane.
6. Be sure that it is safe to turn. Check to the front, sides, and rear, and double check for pedestrians. Be sure that the street you will enter is clear.

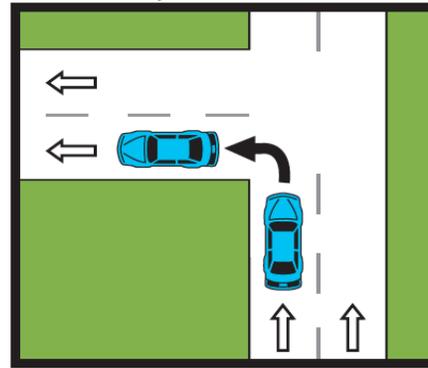
# Turning



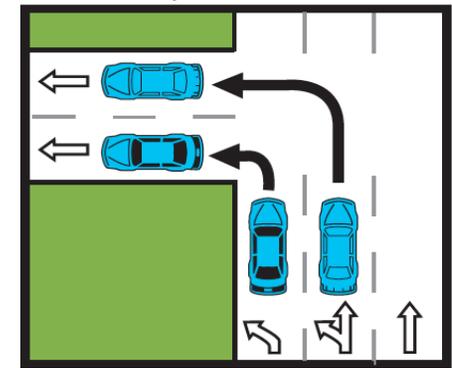
**Left Turn:** After checking with traffic to the rear and signaling, move into the lane closest to the center line. Look right and left before starting the turn and **YIELD RIGHT OF WAY IF NECESSARY**. Turning the steering wheel hand-over-hand, finish the turn in the first lane right of the center line.



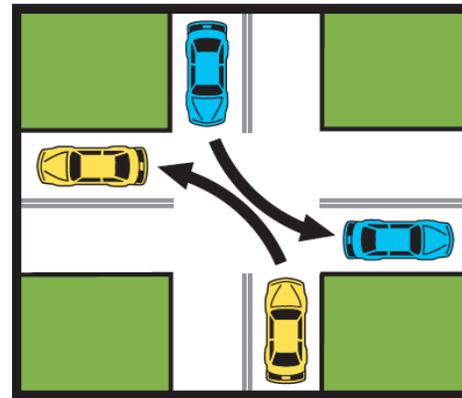
**Right Turn:** After checking with traffic to the rear and signaling, move close to the right curb. Look right and left before starting the turn and **YIELD RIGHT OF WAY IF NECESSARY**. Turning the steering wheel hand-over-hand, move the car around the corner and into the lane next to the curb.



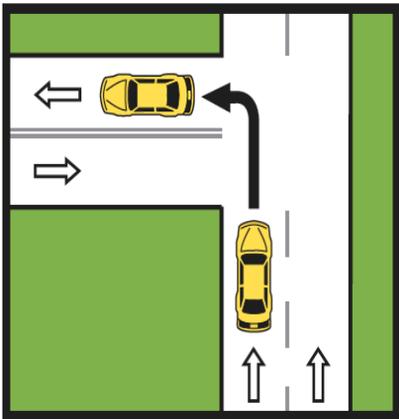
One way onto one way



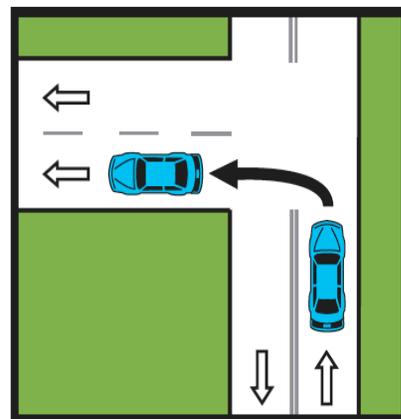
One way with multiple turn lanes onto one way



Two approaching left turns



One way onto two way



Two way onto one way

## Turning while the light is red:

*You may turn right on a red light if:*

- There is no sign saying that you can't turn on red.
- You stop first.
- You see that you can turn safely and that your path is clear.
- You turn into the proper lane.

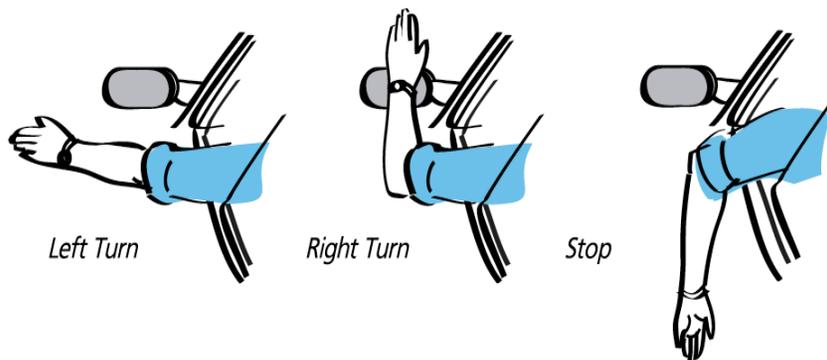
*You may turn left on a red light only if you are on a one-way street turning into a one-way street and:*

- There is no sign saying you can't turn on red.
- You stop first.
- You check carefully to see that your path is clear and that you can make the turn safely.
- You turn into the proper lane.

**Remember: You must make a complete stop before turning at a red light.**

## Hand and Arm Signals

If your car's signals are not working, or if you want to be certain that other traffic knows what you plan



## Turning from Four-lane Highways

To turn right from a four-lane or divided highway, get into the right lane well before the turn and make a tight turn into the right lane of the cross street.

To turn left from a four-lane or divided highway, move to the lane nearest the center line or divider. Do not swing wide. Enter the cross street just to the right of the center line. If there are arrows or pavement markings allowing turns to be made from more than one lane, you may make your turn according to the signs and markings.

## Curves

Slow down BEFORE entering a curve so as not to go over the center line or leave the roadway. You should NOT have to use brakes on a curve.

## U-Turns

Do not make a U-turn at any place you cannot be seen for at least 1,000 feet.

Watch for NO U-TURN signs. U-turns are NOT allowed on freeways.

## Parking

When properly parked at a curb in a city or town, the wheels must be within 12 inches of the curb.

Whenever a vehicle is parked on any roadway, the front wheels must be turned toward the curb or road shoulder, and the parking brake must be set.

No vehicle should be left standing on a highway for any reason. It should be moved off the pavement. However, if it cannot be moved, it must be marked with lights or flares to warn other drivers of the danger.

A vehicle parked on a highway at night or any other time when lights are required must have at least one white or amber<sup>8</sup> light showing on the front, and at least one red light showing from the rear. Both lights must be able to be seen from at least 500 feet away.

If headlights are left on, they must be on low-beam. Four-way flashers should be used if the car has them. Turn signals can be used if the car does not have four-way flashers.

### Parking is NOT allowed:

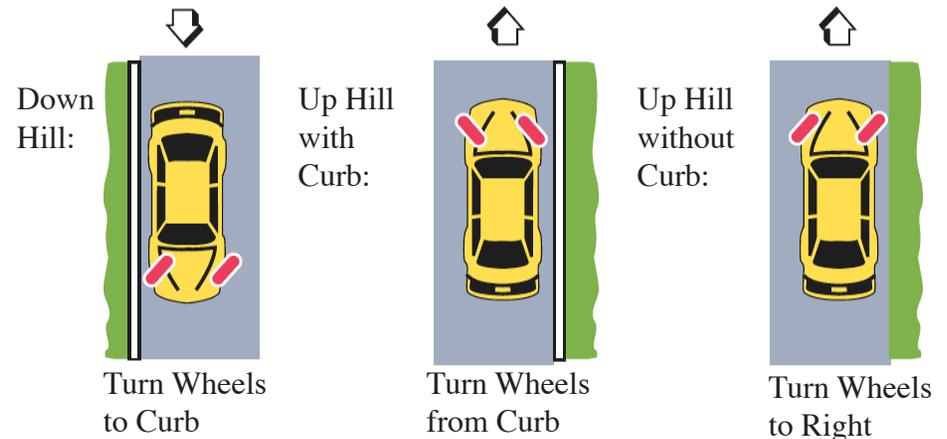
- within intersections<sup>9</sup>.
- on a crosswalk or sidewalk.
- within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection where there are no traffic signs.
- within 30 feet of any flashing red light, stop sign, or traffic control signal.
- within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.



- within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- in front of a driveway.
- on any bridge.
- on the roadway side of any vehicle parked at the curb or edge of a highway (often called double parking).
- beside a curb that is painted yellow or where there are **NO PARKING** signs.

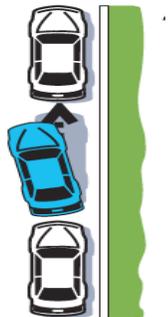
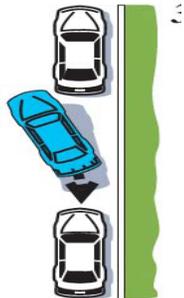
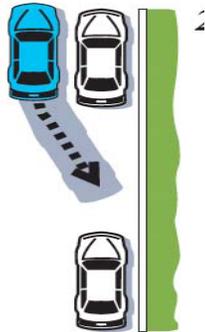
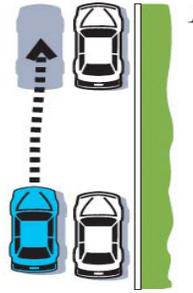
## Parking on a Hill

Any time you park on the down side of a hill, turn your wheels toward the curb or road shoulder. When you park on the up side of a hill, turn your wheels toward the side of the road if there is no curb. **But if you park on the up side of a hill and there is a curb, turn your wheels away from the curb.** And wherever you park, remember to set your parking brake.



## Steps in Parallel Parking

1. Signal so that people behind you know that you are going to stop.
2. Stop even with the car ahead and about a foot and a half away from it.
3. Turn wheel sharp right and back slowly straight toward the car behind.
4. When clear of the car ahead, turn wheels sharp left and back slowly toward the car behind. Stop.
5. Turn wheel sharp right and pull toward curb in center of the parking space.
6. When leaving the parking space be sure to signal, yield to all other traffic, and check over your shoulder before you pull into the driving lane.



## Motorcycles

Riders of any two-wheeled vehicle must know and follow traffic laws.



**In 2010 there were 1,377 motorcycle crashes in Minnesota. There were 45 motorcyclist fatalities and 1,296 injuries.** Because motorcycles are smaller than cars, other motorists have trouble seeing them. When a cycle runs into a car or a car runs into a cycle, the cycle rider is almost always hurt or killed. So ALL motorists should be careful when sharing a roadway to give the cyclist the full rights granted to him by law. Be kind! Pay special attention to cycles at these times and places:

- **Left turns.** Because of its small size, it is hard to pick a cycle out of the traffic scene; and because it is hard to judge how fast a cycle is moving, many injuries take place where one vehicle or the other is making a left turn. The correct thing to do is—look and look again.
- **When a cyclist has turn signals flashing.** Most turn signals on cycles do not turn off by themselves. Sometimes a rider forgets to turn off the signal.
- **When following a cycle.** Use a following distance of **at least 3 seconds.**

- **Lane usage.** By law the cyclist has use of the full traffic lane. Cycle riders often change their lane position in order to see the roadway better; so you, as the driver of a car, must not crowd into the same lane as a cycle.

- **Bad weather and slippery surfaces.** Drivers should allow even more following distance for cyclists when it is dark, rainy, or the road surface is wet and slippery. Rain, wind, dust, and smog affect the cyclist's vision more than the driver's.

- **Cross winds.** Wind blowing in wide open spaces, or wind gusts made by large trucks, can move a cycle out of its lane of travel. Drivers need to be aware that winds may cause a cycle to change speed or direction suddenly.

- **Road surfaces.** Gravel, trash, pavement seams, small animals, even manhole covers may cause a cyclist to change speed or direction suddenly.

- **Bridges.** Metal or grated surfaces, or grooved areas of pavement may cause the front tire of a cycle to wobble. This can cause the rider to change speed or direction suddenly.

## Motorized Bicycles

Motorized bicycles are pedal bicycles which may be moved by human power or by motor power or by both.

Motorized bicycles are not allowed on lanes and trails set aside for bicycles. They may not be ridden on sidewalks. They are not allowed on freeways.

Anyone with a valid driver license or a motorized bicycle permit may ride a motorized bicycle. The person must be at least 15 years old and must have passed an eye exam, a written exam, and a skill test. Anyone under 18 must have a parent's permission for such a permit.

## Bicycles

**Drivers must be aware of bicycle laws.**



- When riding a bicycle on a roadway, the rider must remain as close as possible to the right curb or edge of the roadway, except

- a. when passing other vehicles.

- b. when getting ready for a left turn.

- c. when necessary to avoid junk on the roadway or a car door opening.

- Bicycle riders may ride two abreast unless this would slow down other traffic.

**In 2010, nine Minnesota bicycle riders were killed and 882 were injured. This is terrible!! All of us MUST BE more watchful and alert to protect cyclists.**

- Bicycle riders must signal all turns, using these signals:

- a. Left arm straight out for left turn.
- b. Left arm up for a right turn.
- c. Left arm down for slow or stop.

Another right turn signal that may be used by cyclists is to extend the right hand and arm straight out.

- At a red light, the bicycle rider **MUST STOP! After stopping, IF the intersection is clear and safe to enter, the bicyclist may cross on the red light.**

- At night, bicycle riders must be equipped with a light if their bicycle does not have one.

### **Special situations drivers need to be aware of when sharing the roadway with bicyclists:**

Drivers should not drive in bicycle lanes except for parking, entering or leaving the roadway, or for preparing to make a turn.

When turning into a bicycle lane, a driver must allow for the safety of any bicyclist using that lane.

When passing bicyclists, allow plenty of room for the cyclist. Be aware of the wind your vehicle makes which could cause control problems for the bicyclist.

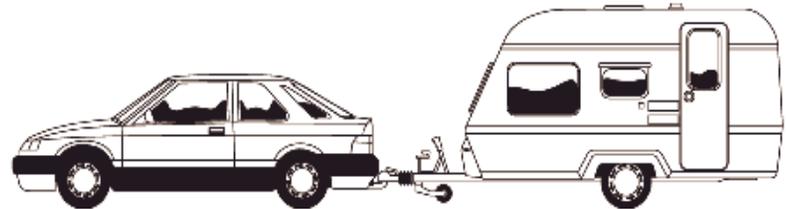
If you cannot pass a bicyclist on a narrow roadway, do not use your horn, and do not crowd the bicyclist. Remain behind at a safe distance until it is possible to pass.

Watch carefully for bicyclists at intersections, when crossing sidewalks, or when entering or leaving alleys or driveways.

Know that whenever the roadway is wet it is more difficult for a bicyclist to control the cycle; and you need more stopping distance to avoid hitting a cycle. So give the cyclist plenty of following distance.

Be especially careful when it is dark and hard to see, because some bicycles do not have lights or reflectors.

## **Trailers and Campers**



With so many people interested in camping, boating, fishing, and snowmobiling, there are many vehicles towing trailers.

### **1. Trailer requirements:**

- A trailer cannot be more than 45 feet long, 8 1/2 feet wide, and 13 1/2 feet high.

- A trailer must have 2 red tail lights, 2 red reflectors, and a license plate light on the rear. If a trailer is so high or wide that the stop lights of the towing vehicle cannot be seen, the trailer must have stop lights and turn signals on the rear.

- Any trailer over 3,000 lbs. total weight (including trailer and load) must have brakes.
- A safety chain must be permanently attached to the trailer and fastened to the towing vehicle.

Trailers must be registered<sup>10</sup> and have current license plates, just as cars do.

## 2. Loading:

- Do not overload a trailer. Consider the size and power of your towing vehicle. Ten to fifteen per cent of the trailer weight should be on the hitch. The trailer floor should remain in a level position. Strap down and cover anything that might fall off or fly away.
- If you tow a boat trailer made for the weight of a boat and motor, do not overload it with other heavy gear<sup>11</sup>.
- Carrying passengers in camper-trailers is a dangerous practice and should not be done.
- Be sure that all fixtures and equipment are fastened down in a camper before towing it. Never have a cooking stove lit when a camper is moving.
- If you want to buy a camper for your pickup, check your owner's manual to be sure the pickup can take the extra weight.

## Driving techniques<sup>12</sup> for towing a trailer:

After the first few miles, stop and re-check the hitch, tires, lights and load. Do this each time you stop.

Drive more slowly than you do when you are not pulling a trailer. The brakes on your car were not made to handle heavy trailer loads. A sudden stop at high speed could cause the trailer and car to flip.

Use extra care and drive slower in rain or wind. Both rain and wind will make your car harder to control.

Start out slowly. Make sure you have plenty of following distance so that you will not have to stop suddenly.

Be aware of your extra length and weight when passing and returning to your lane.

Allow plenty of room on turns. If you are towing a long trailer, it will swing closer to the edge of the road than your car will.

Pay special attention to your cooling system during hot weather and when driving in hilly country.

*State law says that when pulling a trailer you must stay at least 500 feet behind the vehicle ahead of you.*

## Recreational Vehicle Combinations

A pickup truck can pull a camper-semitrailer that has a boat on a trailer attached to it. The driver must be at least 18 years old. The RV combination cannot be more than 60 feet long. An RV combination cannot be driven in the seven county metro area during business rush hours — Mondays through Fridays 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

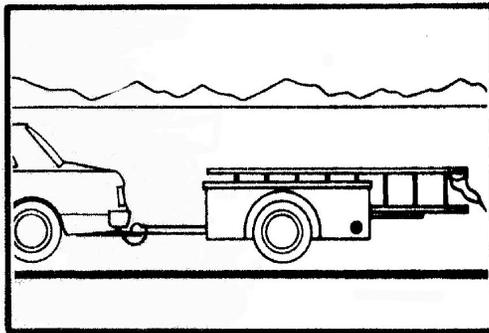
## Loads

A load must not stick out more than three feet in front of the front wheels or front bumper of a motor vehicle.

If a load sticks out four feet or more from the rear of a vehicle, a red or yellow or orange “flag” at least 16 inches square must be attached to the end of the load that sticks out. At night a red light that is visible for at least 500 feet must be attached to the end of the load.

On passenger vehicles a load must not stick out past the line of the fenders on the left side and no more than six inches beyond the fender line on the right side.

Use a red, yellow, or orange flag at the end of load if it sticks out 4 feet or more from the rear of the vehicle.



## Safety Belts Save Lives

**Of all the safety equipment put into a vehicle, the safety belt is of the greatest benefit in saving lives, and it costs the least. In 2011, the seat belt celebrated its fifty-fifth birthday.**

### This is the law:

- The driver and all passengers in the vehicle must be “buckled up.” If the police see any unbuckled person in a vehicle they can ticket the driver of that vehicle.
- A child under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches tall must also be sitting in an approved child passenger restraint seat.
- Infants must ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least one year old. If they are older and do not weigh at least 20 pounds, they must also ride in a rear-facing safety seat.

**Young children under 13 years of age should NOT ride in the front seat of any vehicle that has air bags.**

A seat belt is NOT required:

- by a person driving a passenger vehicle in reverse.

- by a person riding normally in a seat in which all seat belts are being used by other persons.
- by a person whose doctor has written a statement that the person is unable to wear a seat belt because of physical disability.
- by a person who gets in and out of the vehicle frequently while doing work where the vehicle is not driven over 25 mph.
- by rural mail carriers while on the job.
- by a person driving or riding in a vehicle made before 1965.
- by pickup truck drivers or passengers while doing normal farm work.

## Facts on seat belt use:

- Your chances of being killed or hurt if thrown out of your car are five times greater than if you are belted in.
- If you are not belted in, it is possible to be killed in a crash at speeds as low as 12 mph.
- Every sensible person agrees that you are safer when buckled up.

**“Click it . . . or ticket!”**

**More than 200,000 lives have been saved by seat belts since 1956.**

**Always insist that all of your passengers buckle up. It's the law.**

### Correct seat belt adjustment

Buckle the lap belt snugly across the hip bones, never across the abdomen or the soft part of the stomach. The shoulder belt should be adjusted so that you can put your fist between the belt and your chest. Never wear only the shoulder belt. It could cause neck and back injury in a crash.

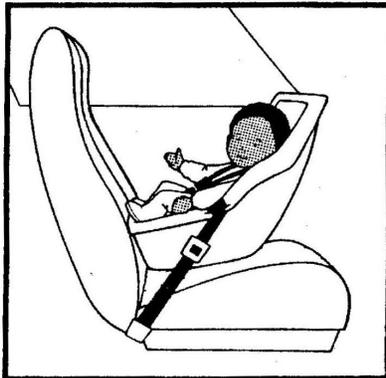
**Remember — wear both the lap and shoulder belt; and buckle up every time you get into your car. Make it a habit — for yourself and every other person in the car.**

## Infant and Child Car Safety Seats

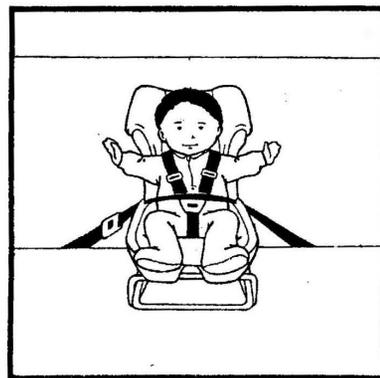
Every year in our country, nearly a thousand young children are killed in motor vehicle crashes. Many more than that are injured seriously. Using an approved car safety seat can cut down the risk of injury or death for children, **and it is the law in Minnesota that children under 8 years old and shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches must ride in an approved car safety seat.**

These seats can be bought in many stores and from car dealers. Be sure the safety seat you buy has a stamp of approval from the Department of Transportation.

### Car Seat Usage



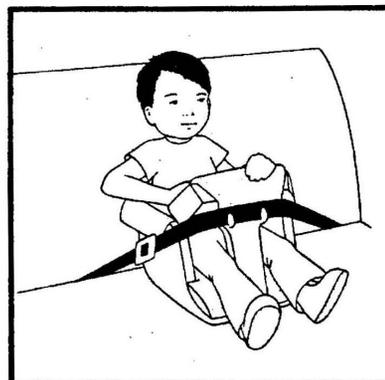
Infant car seats always face rearward.



Toddler car seats are upright and face forward.



Booster seats without a shield must use a teathered harness or shoulder straps.



Booster seats with a shield can use just a lap belt.

**Infants and young children in car safety seats should never sit in the front seat of a car equipped with air bags.**

**Remember: It is safer in the back seat!**

### Infant and Child Guidelines

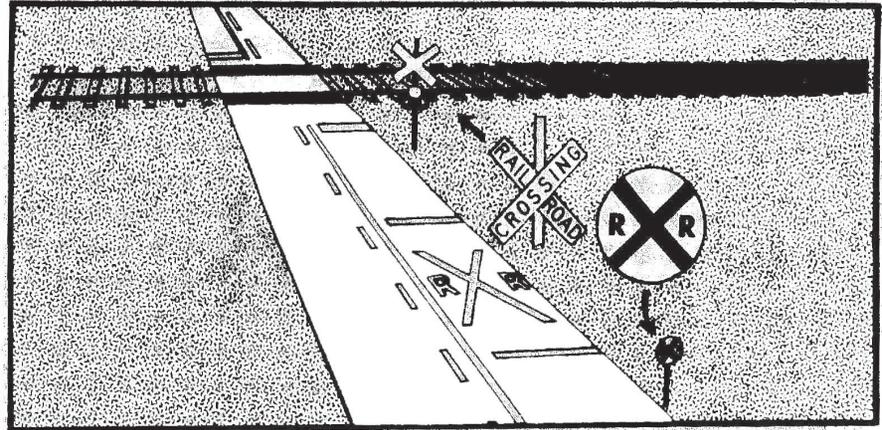
- Remember that any child younger than 8 years old and shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches tall must always ride in an approved car safety seat.
- Use an infant car safety seat **in the rear-facing position** for a baby younger than one year old or weighing less than 20 pounds. But **NEVER** have the seat in front of an airbag.
- Use infant safety seats that meet Federal safety standards.
- Make sure the car safety seat is properly fastened.
- Set a good example by **always** buckling up yourself.
- Don't hold a child on your lap while riding in a car.
- Don't buckle yourself and the child into the same seat belt.
- Don't use an infant seat not designed for use in a car.
- Do not use a second-hand child car seat unless you are sure it is safe.
- Do not use a car safety seat that has been in a major crash.
- Do not give in if a toddler resists riding in a safety seat. Be firm. **The child must be in a safety seat.**
- Do not allow any child to ride in the cargo area of a truck or station wagon. Children are not cargo.
- **Never leave children alone in a motor vehicle.**

## Air Bags

Air bags automatically open to protect you in frontal (head on) collisions. Front seat air bags act as a cushion between you and the steering wheel or between you and dash panel. Because they don't give much protection in side crashes, rear crashes, or rollovers, **it is very important that you always use the seat belts. Even in new cars that could have front, side, and roof air bags, always buckle up!! It's the law.**

### When you are in the front seat of a car that has air bags:

- Have the driver's seat as far back as you can, but be sure you can drive safely. There should be at least 10 inches between you and the steering wheel.
- Have the front passenger seat as far back as possible.
- While driving, hold the wheel at the 9 and 3 position or the 8 and 4 position: **the 8 and 4 position is better.**
- Do not put children under 13 in the front seat.
- Don't smoke while driving.
- Make sure the seat belts are buckled and adjusted properly.



## Railroad Crossings

In 2010 there were 33 railroad crossing crashes in Minnesota. One person was killed in these crashes; 21 people were injured.

**Railroad crossing crashes should not happen because all public railroad crossings are clearly marked in one or more of the following ways:**

- railroad crossbuck sign
- warning sign
- pavement markings
- flashing red lights
- gates that block your path when a train is coming



*Why did these crashes happen? The two reasons most often noted were:*

- The driver failed to yield the right of way to the train.
- The driver was distracted or was not paying attention.

### **Ten Safety Tips To Follow When Crossing Railroad Tracks**

1. Expect a train on any track at any time.
2. Before starting to cross any track, make sure you can get all the way across.
3. Watch for another train on a second track.
4. Never drive around a lowered crossing gate, even if there is no train in sight. To do so is illegal.
5. Never race a train to the crossing.
6. Never shift gears on the crossing.
7. When the road is covered with snow or ice, go over the tracks fast enough so you do not get stuck.
8. When riding a bicycle or motorcycle across tracks, cross at a right angle to the tracks.
9. Be ready to stop when you are following a bus or truck which must stop at all crossings. **It is against**

**the law to pass a truck or bus when it has stopped for the tracks.**

10. If your vehicle stalls on a crossing, get everybody out of the car and off the tracks right away. If a train is coming, stay clear of the tracks and run TOWARD the train to avoid injury from the train/vehicle impact.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Think about it . . .*

**About every 90 minutes a vehicle and a train collide in the USA.**

**A 150-car freight train going 50 mph takes a mile and a half to stop.**

**An 8-car passenger train going 70 mph takes over a mile to stop.**

**A train hitting a car is like a car hitting a pop can.**



**Don't challenge a train!  
You will probably lose.  
A lot!  
Including your life!**

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 3

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ You may park in a NO PARKING zone if you stay in your car.
2. \_\_\_ It is not necessary to look to the left when entering an intersection if you are going to turn right.
3. \_\_\_ It is all right to park in a NO PARKING zone if it is after 6:00 P.M.
4. \_\_\_ Before you pass another vehicle, you must be sure the movement can be made safely.
5. \_\_\_ When making a left turn from a divided highway, you begin your turn from the lane nearest the centerline or traffic divider.
6. \_\_\_ You make a right turn from the right lane near the curb.
7. \_\_\_ The 9 and 3 or 8 and 4 o'clock position is the way safety experts tell us to grip the steering wheel.
8. \_\_\_ When loading a trailer, 10-15% of the trailer weight should be on the hitch.
9. \_\_\_ Seat belts save lives when properly used.
10. \_\_\_ It is all right to park on a sidewalk if there is no other place to park.
11. \_\_\_ If you feel more comfortable, you may wear just the shoulder belt.
12. \_\_\_ A left turn from a one-way street onto a one-way street can be made from any lane.
13. \_\_\_ You may park 11 feet from a fire hydrant.
14. \_\_\_ You may not park within 30 feet of any stop sign or flashing red light.
15. \_\_\_ You may not park within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.
16. \_\_\_ When parking downhill, turn your wheels toward the curb.
17. \_\_\_ Do not make a U-turn where you cannot be seen from at least 1,000 feet away.
18. \_\_\_ Yellow painted curbs mean NO PARKING.
19. \_\_\_ It is all right to park in an intersection.
20. \_\_\_ When parking uphill with a curb, turn your wheels away from the curb.
21. \_\_\_ It is wise to adjust your seat before buckling your seat belt and adjusting your mirrors.
22. \_\_\_ There are blind spots on both the right and left sides of your vehicle.

23. \_\_\_ A traffic lane is a part of a street or highway wide enough to permit safe operation of a vehicle or line of vehicles.

24. \_\_\_ If a lane is not marked, it is not considered a lane.

25. \_\_\_ By law all turns must be signaled 200 feet in advance of the place you intend to turn.

26. \_\_\_ Motorized bicycles can be ridden on the public roads by persons of all ages.

27. \_\_\_ Children under 8 years old must ride in approved car safety seats.

28. \_\_\_ The driver and all passengers must wear seat belts.

29. \_\_\_ If you are not belted in, it is possible to be killed in a crash at speeds as low as 12 mph..

30. \_\_\_ It is OK for young children to ride in the front seat of a car that has air bags so long as the children are buckled up properly.

31. \_\_\_ Every automobile/train crash is avoidable.

32. \_\_\_ To check your left blind spot you look over your right shoulder.

33. \_\_\_ When driving a car equipped with air bags, you should NOT use the “10 and 2” hand position on the steering wheel.

34. \_\_\_ If there is no train in sight, it is all right to drive around a lowered railroad crossing gate.

35. \_\_\_ All railroad crossings on public roads in Minnesota have a crossbuck sign.

18-true	1-false
19-false	2-false
20-true	3-false
21-true	4-true
22-true	5-true
23-true	6-true
24-false	7-true
25-false	8-true
26-false	9-true
27-true	10-false
28-true	11-false
29-true	12-false
30-false	13-true
31-true	14-true
32-false	15-true
33-true	16-true
34-false	17-true
35-true	

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 4

1. **disability** — being unable to move or use parts of your body, such as your arms or legs.
2. **alert** — being awake and very aware of what is going on around you.
3. **“highway hypnosis”** — drowsy feeling you get from hearing the sound of the wind, tires, and pavement, and the steady hum of the engine.
4. **fatigue** — being very tired.
5. **stimulant** — any drug that peeps you up.
6. **depressant** — any drug that slows you down.
7. **impair** — to make worse.
8. **stopping distance** — how far your car travels in the time it takes you to see a problem, react to it, and bring your car to a stop. Reaction distance plus braking distance equals total stopping distance.
9. **AC** — Alcohol concentration in the body.
10. **intoxication** — legally drunk.
11. **driving impaired** — driving almost drunk.
12. **under the influence** — drunk or almost drunk.
13. **amphetamines** — drugs used in diet and pep pills.

14. **tranquilizers** — drugs used to calm a person down.

15. **muscle relaxant** — a drug that eases the muscles in your body so they are not tense.

16. **antihistamine** — a drug often used in cold and allergy medicines which might cause a person to be drowsy.

17. **confused** — mixed up or not aware of what is going on around you.

18. **barbiturates** — very strong drugs often used as sleeping pills which might cause a person to fall asleep.

19. **chronic illness** — one that lasts for a long time.

20. **collisions** — crashes.

21. **stopping distance** — the distance your car travels between the moment you see a problem and the moment the car comes to a complete stop.

22. **reaction distance** — the distance your car travels between the time you see an emergency and the time you hit your brake.

23. **braking distance** — the distance your car travels from the time you hit your brake and the time your car stops.

24. **critical** — the events that make the difference between your having a crash or not.

# Chapter 4

## The Driver

Accident records show that more than 90 out of every 100 crashes are caused by driver mistakes. This could mean that a driver may not know all of the laws. It may mean that he is thinking about something else. Or maybe he is not feeling well or is upset over something. Or it may mean that he just does not care about the safety of passengers or other drivers or pedestrians.

Even after a person knows enough to pass his road test, he should still try to become a better driver.

### Physical and Mental Aspects of Driving

The physical condition of a person affects his ability to drive safely. Alcohol, drugs, illness, or disability<sup>1</sup> — all may cause or be a part of traffic crashes.

### Your Personality and Emotions Affect Your Driving

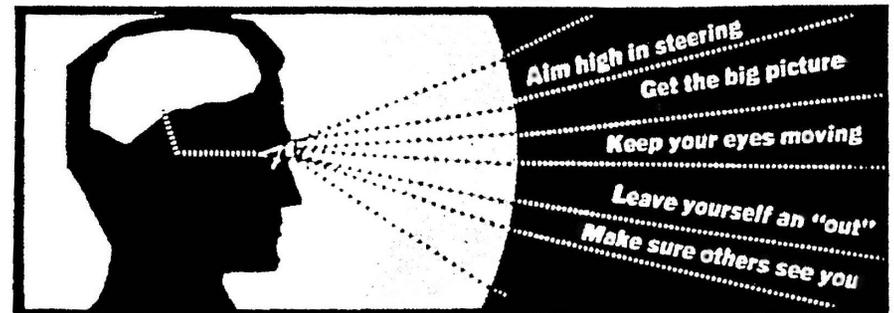
If you are worried, or if you are thinking about something else, you may not be alert<sup>2</sup> enough to drive safely. Worry and safe driving do not mix. Family problems, money troubles, illnesses, fears, or being too sure of yourself, make you more likely to have an accident. In the same way, persons who are very upset or angry are more likely to have an accident. Taking your

anger out on other roadway users is dangerous and stupid.

If you are a person who knows how to control your feelings, you are more likely to be a good driver, because you know that safe driving means being fair, being patient, being kind, being courteous. You drive carefully, not only for your own sake, but also for the sake of all other persons on the road.

### Concentration

Driving is a full time job. The driver's seat is no place for day dreaming, window shopping, or for looking at the scenery. Don't let any strong emotion - anger, joy, excitement, sorrow, fear - take your mind off your driving. You must focus on the driving task at all times! **When you drive while you have your permit or provisional licence, the law says you CANNOT use a cell phone - even a hands-free phone - while the car is in motion.**



*These are 5 good rules for safe driving.*

- 1) Aim high in steering.
- 2) Get the big picture
- 3) Keep your eyes moving.
- 4) Leave yourself an "out."
- 5) Make sure others see you.

*You can't follow these rules unless you are alert at all times.*

## Highway Hypnosis<sup>3</sup> and Fatigue<sup>4</sup>

**There is no such thing as a safe sleepy- driver.** Pull off the highway when you feel drowsy. Falling asleep while driving is one of the greatest dangers of freeway driving. A cup of coffee or a Mountain Dew and a bit of stretching may be enough to perk you up for a short time. But if you are really sleepy, get off the highway, lock your car, and take a nap. Do not depend on “stay awake” drugs. They may make your driving even more dangerous. To keep alert, it is wise to take regular rest stops at least every 100 miles or every 2 hours. Get out of the car, walk around and stretch your legs.

Be well-rested when you begin a long trip. While driving it is a good idea to exercise your eyes. Look at things near and far, on one side, then the other. Moving your eyes will help to prevent “highway hypnosis”.

## Alcohol

*In the year 2010, in Minnesota:*

- 131 persons were killed in alcohol-related crashes.
- 2,485 persons were injured in alcohol-related crashes.
- 32% of traffic fatalities were alcohol-related.
- 17 under age 21 were killed in alcohol-related crashes.
- 467 under age 21 were injured in alcohol-related crashes.
- 2,102 drivers under 21 were arrested for DWI (driving while intoxicated or impaired by alcohol or other drugs).

**Traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people, and alcohol is too often a factor in the crash. Remember that in Minnesota it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to buy or drink alcoholic beverages.**

If you become aware of a drunk driver, stop and call in a report to the police. Just dial 911.

**Do not let friends or family members drive after drinking.**

You can

- Offer them a ride.
- Call a cab.
- Arrange for someone sober to drive.
- Take away their car keys.
- Call police for help if needed.

## It's a Fact:

- Many people think alcohol is a stimulant<sup>5</sup>; but the truth is alcohol is a depressant<sup>6</sup>. It causes you to take longer to think and act. It makes it harder for you to see and to think and to act clearly.
- It does not matter whether you are drinking beer, wine, or whiskey - it is the amount of alcohol that enters the blood that counts.
- Alcohol can affect you differently at different times.

If you have less food in your stomach, a small amount will affect you more than it usually would.

- After drinking, there is nothing you can do but wait. Black coffee, food, or a cold shower might wake you up, but they will not sober you up. It takes the body time to get rid of the alcohol in your blood - about an hour and a quarter for every drink.
- A single drink can impair<sup>7</sup> your judgment. You may drive too fast, misjudge needed stopping distance<sup>8</sup>, and not drive defensively.
- Alcohol affects the way the brain controls our eyes. The affected driver tends to look straight ahead and miss important details off on either side. Vision can become fuzzy.
- The depressant effect of alcohol slows us down and we lose the ability to react quickly to other drivers, pedestrians, traffic signals.
- Alcohol affects the way we steer. We lose the ability to stay in the traffic lane; the car may weave down the highway.
- Alcohol slows our thinking and decision-making skills. Even at low AC<sup>9</sup> levels it will take longer to read signs or react to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or a child running into the street.
- Driving demands that we see everything, react to everything, and control the car at the same time. But even at very low AC levels we lose the ability to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.

- Alcohol causes loss of balance and coordination; and these are very important for safe, defensive driving.

## Making Low-Risk Choices

Peer pressure is something everyone experiences at some time. But young people especially often feel the pressure of their friends to do good things and sometimes bad things. Peer pressure is often hard to resist; but no one should ever feel that he or she has to drink to be accepted or to have fun.

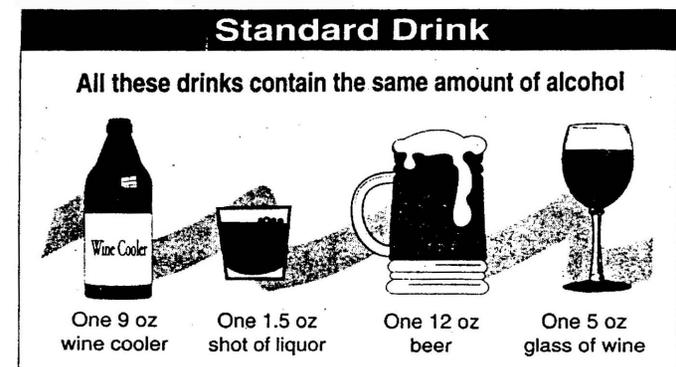
Drinking that causes impairment or intoxication<sup>10</sup> is unhealthy and risky. Driving impaired<sup>11</sup> is always illegal and dangerous.

There is no way to speed up the liver's oxidation. Cold showers, physical activity, coffee have no effect.

Drinking on an empty stomach has an even greater effect on judgment and behavior.

Research also shows that young drivers are involved in fatal crashes at significantly lower AC levels than the AC levels found in adult drivers.

Remember that one beer has about the same amount of alcohol as one shot of whiskey or one glass of wine. The effect on most drivers is the same no matter what kind of alcohol they drink.



## DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE<sup>12</sup>

It is a crime in Minnesota to drive, operate, or be in physical control of a motor vehicle if:

- a person is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance(drugs), or a combination of the two. **Driving with an AC of .04 is evidence of driving under the influence.**

- a person is intoxicated. **You are legally intoxicated if your AC is .08 or above.**

## Minnesota Laws - Zero Tolerance

It is illegal for a person under 21 years of age to drive after drinking *any* alcohol.

**Anyone under the age of 21 caught driving after drinking ANY amount of alcohol faces a certain 30-day permit or license suspension if convicted. A second conviction results in a 6-month (180 day) license suspension.**

An AC of .04 is evidence indicating driving under the influence.

If you are an adult (21 or older), and are caught with an alcohol concentration of .08 or above, or you refuse to take a test to determine your alcohol concentration, your driver's license will be revoked for at least 90 days; and you will be sentenced to 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

With a second offense, your license will be revoked for at least 180 days if the second offense occurs within 10 years of the first offense. You will also be sentenced to one year in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine.

Each time you are convicted of driving while under the influence, the penalties become much greater.

### Here are some estimated costs of a first DWI conviction:

• Towing charge	\$150.00
• Impound lot (car storage) each day	\$25.00
• Driver License Reinstatement Fee	\$680.00
• New Driver's License	\$22.25
• Alcohol Assessment (you must have )	\$125.00
• Maximum fine	\$700.00
• High-risk insurance for 3 years	\$11,400.00
• Lawyer's fees	<u>\$2,500.00</u>

**Total estimated cost of first DWI      \$15,602.25**

## Implied Consent Law

When you sign the application for your driver's permit or license, you are agreeing to take a test to see what your blood alcohol level is if a policeman asks you to take the test. A policeman or other peace officer may ask a driver to take this test when the driver:

- Is arrested for driving under the influence.
- Has been in a crash where someone was hurt or something was damaged.
- Will not agree to take a pre-arrest test.
- Takes but fails the pre-arrest test.

## The Pre-Arrest Breath Test

Under Minnesota law when a law officer thinks that a person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he can give the person a breath test before placing him under arrest. The purpose of this test is to tell the officer whether or not the person's blood alcohol level is at or above .08. If the AC level is at or above .08, the officer will arrest the person, and take him in for another test. This kind of testing works in favor of a person who looks drunk, but is really in need of medical help. The officer is there to get help right away. If the person refuses to take the test, his/her license can be revoked for one year.

## Open Bottle Law

It is against the law to have an open bottle or container of beer, wine, or liquor in the glove or passenger part of your vehicle. Any open bottle or container must be carried in the trunk or some other place not used by the driver or passengers.

If you are a driver under 21 years of age, it is against the law to have **any beer, wine, or liquor anywhere in your vehicle, whether the containers are open or sealed.**

## Other Drugs

**Many other drugs besides alcohol affect a person's ability to drive safely.**

## Facts about other drugs:

- If your doctor orders you to take a certain drug, be sure to ask him how it might affect your driving.
- Many common cold and allergy medicines have drugs in them which might affect your driving.
- Amphetamines<sup>13</sup> or drugs taken to make you eat less, or drugs taken to pep you up, may make you sleepy or dizzy after a short time. They may also cause you to think you see things on the road which are not really there.
- Tranquilizers<sup>14</sup> or muscle relaxants<sup>15</sup> may cause you to feel sleepy, especially if taken with alcohol. Such drugs should not be used if you are planning to drive.
- Antihistamines<sup>16</sup> are often used for colds and allergies. They also may cause a person to feel sleepy or confused<sup>17</sup>.
- Barbiturates<sup>18</sup> are strong drugs used to help people get to sleep. They may make a person act drunk. You should not drive after taking these drugs.
- The worst kinds of drugs are those which are illegal like marijuana, meth, crack, and heroin. These drugs make a person unaware of what is going on. They should never be used while driving.
- Safety experts agree that marijuana should not be used by any person who drives.

No matter your sex or weight,  
**zero alcohol is the only safe limit!**

drinks	body weight (lbs)								Women
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>Only Safe Limit</b>
1	.05	.04	.03	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	<b>.01-.03 Impairment begins</b>
2	.09	.08	.06	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	<b>.04-.07 Driving skills deteriorating; you can be arrested for DUI</b>
3	.14	.11	.10	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	
4	.18	.15	.13	.11	.10	.09	.08	.08	<b>.08 Illegal to drive, immediately lose license; subject to criminal penalties, fines and/or jail.</b>
5	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	
6	.27	.23	.19	.17	.15	.14	.12	.11	
7	.32	.27	.23	.20	.18	.16	.14	.13	
8	.36	.30	.26	.23	.20	.18	.17	.15	

drinks	body weight (lbs)									Men
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	260	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>Only Safe Limit</b>
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.01	<b>.01-.03 Impairment begins</b>
2	.07	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	.03	<b>.04-.07 Driving skills deteriorating; you can be arrested for DUI</b>
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	.04	
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.07	.07	.06	.06	<b>.08 Illegal to drive, immediately lose license; subject to criminal penalties, fines and/or jail.</b>
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.10	.09	.08	.08	.07	
6	.22	.19	.16	.14	.12	.11	.10	.09	.09	
7	.26	.22	.19	.16	.15	.13	.12	.11	.10	
8	.30	.25	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.12	.12	

**Mixing alcohol and other drugs is always risky.**

The effects of drugs such as codeine, antihistamines, tranquilizers, or alcohol by themselves are dangerous enough. Using them together does not just double their effects; it multiplies the effects several times over, depending on the amount and types of each used. It not only causes a severe loss in mental and physical abilities, but can even result in death. So even if you are using drugs under a doctor’s care, do not use alcohol at the same time.

**Chronic Illness<sup>19</sup> or Disability**

Chronic illnesses or disabilities may result in limiting your ability to drive. Your doctor can help you decide if you can be a safe driver.

**Not Enough Sleep**

The most common condition that lowers our fitness to drive is FATIGUE. Fatigue is most commonly caused by LACK OF SLEEP. Drowsiness is the principal cause of

- **60,000 to 1000,000 traffic crashes each year;**
- **More than 1,500 Americans deaths each year;**
- **40,000 to 71,000 injuries each year.**

**Young drivers, age 25 and under, are involved in more than one-half of the fall-asleep crashes each year.** A person with only 4 hours of sleep is 19 times more likely to have a crash than a person with 8 hours of sleep. **There is no such thing as a safe, sleepy driver!**

Sleep is generated by the brain and for the brain – not for the body to rest or recuperate.

## YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD GET 8 ½ TO 9 ¼ HOURS OF SLEEP EVERY NIGHT.

For young people

- 7-8 hours of sleep increases risk of a crash 1.2 times
- 6-7 hours of sleep increases risk of a crash 1.8 times
- 5-6 hours of sleep increases risk of a crash 3.3 times
- Less than 5 hours of sleep increases risk 4.5 times

**How much sleep do YOU get? Remember – You should get 8 to 9 hours of sleep each night.**

## How to Avoid Rear End Collisions<sup>20</sup>

Contributing causes of crashes:

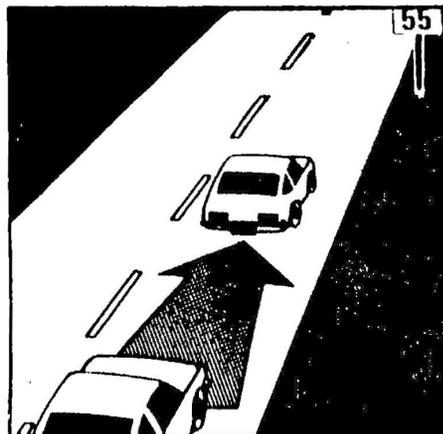
- 1—Driver inattention/distraction;
- 2—Failure to yield right-of-way;
- 3—Illegal/unsafe speed;
- 4—**Following too closely**

Most rear end collisions are caused by following too closely to the car ahead. The space that is easiest to control is the space ahead of your vehicle. Think of this space as a “space cushion”; call the cushion “following distance”.

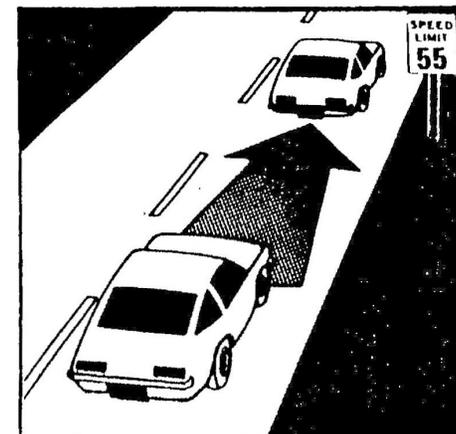
To measure your following distance, notice when the car ahead passes a certain pavement mark, shadow, or signpost. Start counting “one thousand -one, one thousand - two, one thousand - three. . .” If you reach that same place before counting “three”, you are less than three seconds behind the car.

**Always Keep a Safe Following Distance!**

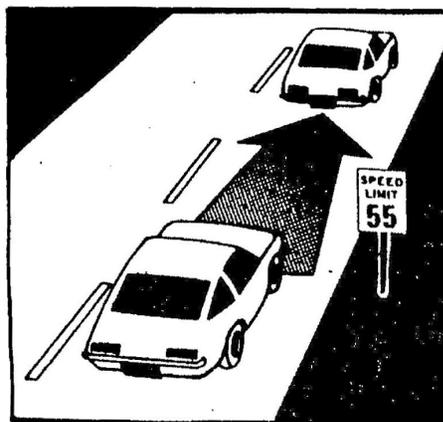
## Three-Second-Rule Spacing



The car ahead is about to pass a highway sign, utility-pole, or some other spot you can keep your eye on.



As the back of that car passes the spot you have selected, start counting off seconds. (A good way to count is “one thousand-one, one thousand-two, one thousand-three, etc.”)



Stop counting as soon as the front of your car reaches the selected spot. If it takes less than three seconds, you do not have three seconds of following distance. Increase the distance.

## CHART B

A safe following distance must be at least as long as your stopping distance. Chart A below shows total stopping distance<sup>21</sup> at various speeds under the very best conditions. Notice that reaction distance at 60 MPH is twice as long as reaction distance<sup>22</sup> at 30 MPH; but braking distance<sup>23</sup> is four times longer.

CHART A

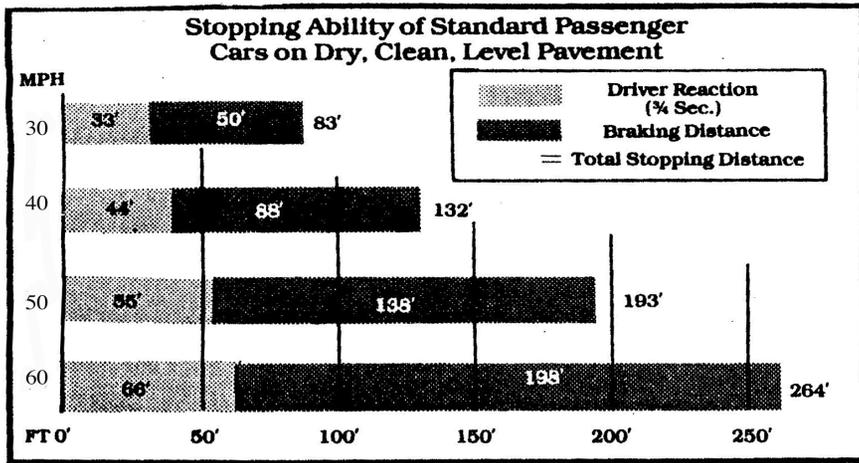


Chart B shows that under ideal conditions of roadway, car, and driver, a 2-second following distance should be safe for speeds of up to 30 MPH, because at 30 MPH, 2 seconds of following distance is greater than stopping distance.

**But at 40 MPH and faster, 2 seconds of following distance is much less than stopping distance; so you need 3 seconds of following distance.**

**At 60 MPH and faster, it is much safer to increase your space cushion to a 4-second following distance.**

## Stopping Distance Compared to Timed Following Distances

At a speed of	You need at least this much total stopping distance	A 2-second following distance gives you	A 3-second following distance gives you	A 4-second following distance gives you
30 MPH	83 feet	89 feet		
40 MPH	132 feet	117 feet	176 feet	
50 MPH	193 feet	147 feet	220 feet	
55 MPH	227 feet	161 feet	242 feet	
60 MPH	264 feet	176 feet	264 feet	352 feet

Remember that these following distances should be safe when the weather is fair, the road is dry, and the driver is alert. When weather, road, or driver condition is not the best, increase your following distance by several seconds. Watch for brake lights ahead of you and for shrinking distance between your car and the one ahead. If you see stop lights or notice that your following distance is getting shorter, move your foot to the brake pedal, so you are ready to stop if necessary.

Look at Chart A again. When you double your speed, the braking distance increases FOUR TIMES. So when you triple your speed (20 MPH to 60 MPH), your braking distance increases NINE TIMES.

## What to Do If You Have a Crash

- Stop; pull off the roadway if possible; and help anyone who is hurt.
- If someone is killed or injured, call 911..
- Direct traffic around the accident.
- Do not move any person who is badly hurt, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Give any aid you can but do not give any “first aid” that you have not been trained in.
- Give your name, address, license plate number and driver license number to other persons in the crash, and get from them their names, addresses, etc.
- Get the names of any witnesses.
- Exchange insurance information with the driver of the other car. State law says that every driver must carry proof that the vehicle the person is driving is covered by insurance. If you do not have the information with you, you must provide it within 10 days, or your license may be revoked.
- Note important facts, such as the time of day, condition of the road, weather and vehicles, and the direction the vehicles were headed.
- If your car hits a parked vehicle with no one in it, either tell the police, try to find the owner, or leave on the vehicle a note with your name and phone number.

- If your vehicle damages any other property, tell the owner right away.
- As soon as possible notify your insurance agent of the collision.

## Reporting Traffic Crashes

All serious injuries or deaths must be reported right away to the local police in a city, to the State Troopers on the highway, or to the sheriff of the county. Dial 911. In case of injury or death, or if the damage to cars and other property is \$1,000 or more, a written report must be made within 10 days to: Driver and Vehicle Services, 445 Minnesota St., Suite 181, St. Paul, MN 55101. You can get the forms from the police or from the Department of Public Safety. Your license may be suspended if you do not make this report.

## Witnessing and Reporting an Accident

When reporting a crash and calling for help, be sure to give the exact location as well as the injuries and probable damage. Being very exact helps the police get there quickly.

## For Safer Driving: Use SIPDE

So much of driving is “moving your vehicle in a way that is safe for you and other people on the roadway.” What interferes with safety is risk. But what is risk?

Risk is the chance of injury, damage, or loss. Risk is danger. A risk factor is anything that **might** contribute to a crash. All drivers meet countless risk factors; **YOU WILL TOO**. It could be something about you as a driver, something about your vehicle, someone else's vehicle, a cyclist or pedestrian, or the road, or the weather.

Are you tired? Worried? Angry?

Will that signaling driver actually turn?

I have the green light; but will that driver stop?

Is that left-turner going to give me the right-of-way?

Did the sand and salt really melt the ice?

Does that driver ahead know I am passing him?

We need to eliminate – get rid of – the risk factors caused by **OUR** driving. We must minimize – make as small as possible – risk factors caused by other drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, road conditions, weather.

Safe driving is about seeing everything and reacting correctly. SIPDE can help us.

### SIPDE MEANS

## Search–Identify–Predict–Decide–Execute (Do)

### SEARCH

Try to find everything that might cause something to happen. Look for things the might happen far ahead of you – not just a car ahead. Where do we search? **WHEREVER POSSIBLE PROBLEMS MAY BE**. Search carefully.

Search continuously (always). Don't stop searching! Keep your eyes moving; don't stare. Search in all directions.

Use your inside mirror and outside mirrors to good advantage. But always return your eyes to where you are going. Concentrate on what you are doing – **SEARCH – SEARCH – SEARCH!**

### IDENTIFY

While you are searching, **IDENTIFY** anything that might cause a problem for you.

- Other drivers: Might they be sleepy? Sick? Drunk? Not paying attention? Using a cell phone? Do they see you?
- Cyclists: They have only two wheels under them; they don't have the protection you have in your vehicle.
- Other vehicles: Moving too fast? Good brakes — Tires?
- Weather: Is there freezing rain? Wet pavement? Gravel? Snow?
- Traffic “jams”, “Tie-ups” – you name it – traffic congestion.
- Roadway potholes, narrow bridges, construction.
- See . . . read . . . understand **every** diamond-shaped warning sign.

### PREDICT

Too often you **cannot know** what others will do, **SO Predict** (consider – think about) what they might do. Even if it is something illegal or stupid! Be ready for others to make mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes — **you will too!** So be ready for others to make mistakes. Perhaps they won't this time; that will be great. But what if they do? Be ready.

### DECIDE

How can you avoid a possible problem? Are you able to change your speed? Change your direction?

Always have an escape path. Always keep a space cushion around your vehicle. Keep yourself in a position where you have enough time and space to react to any stupid, illegal, senseless move by someone else.

Having enough time and space demands VISIBILITY. If you can't see far enough, almost any move could be dangerous. So remember! TIME AND SPACE.

As you decide, make sure others know what you intend to do, and let them know what you intend to do as early as possible. So communicate!

We communicate with

- Turn signals
- Brake lights
- Headlights – high beam and low beam
- Tail lights
- Back up lights
- Hazard lights
- HORN – Use your horn whenever it might be helpful. But use it correctly. You should **not** be saying, “Get out of my way, idiot!” You **should be** saying, “Be careful; I’m going to drive past you.”

### EXECUTE (DO)

You have gotten the big picture by searching; you have predicted what might happen; you have decided on your action. Now you DO (execute) what you have decided. Take the best path, the best position, at the correct speed.

All of your braking should be smooth.

In “panic” situations, with your ABS brakes, **push down hard; don't let up!**

So make SIPDE your driving method:

- Search (all the time);
- Identify (every person, every thing, every possibility);
- Predict (what might happen; not just what you think will happen; not just what should happen;)
- Decide (what is the best way to avoid a problem);
- Execute (Do it).

**That is the SIPDE way.**

And remember the five rules that go along with SIPDE:

- Aim high – well ahead; not just a car ahead.
- Keep your eyes moving – that helps you search. Don't stare.
- Get the big picture – By aiming high and keeping your eyes moving, you WILL GET the big picture.
- Make sure others see you – Communicate with others; use your signals early and correctly; when possible in traffic, make eye contact; use your horn the right way. **Always remember – time and space.**
- Leave yourself an out – Try to keep a space cushion around your car so you have time and space and a way to get out of a possible problem.

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 4

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ You look with your eyes, but see with your mind.
2. \_\_\_ It is important to aim high in steering.
3. \_\_\_ It is not necessary to see all the critical<sup>24</sup> events in a traffic situation.
4. \_\_\_ Using a cell phone while driving is OK if it is a hands-free cell phone.
5. \_\_\_ It is very important for you to “leave yourself an out” as you are driving.
6. \_\_\_ It does not matter if others see you as long as you see them.

7. \_\_\_ “Highway hypnosis” is a good way to keep from getting angry at other drivers.
8. \_\_\_ Strong coffee and exercise can help your body rid itself of alcohol.
9. \_\_\_ A driver under the age of 21 could be arrested after just one drink.
10. \_\_\_ The probability of you having an accident goes up sharply with each drink of alcohol you take.
11. \_\_\_ It takes about 45 minutes for the alcohol in a typical drink to get out of the blood stream.
12. \_\_\_ Watching for the brake lights on the car ahead should help you to avoid a rear end crash with that car.
13. \_\_\_ If you are involved in a crash, you need not stay at the scene if you can drive your vehicle away.
14. \_\_\_ It is a good idea to call the police if you are involved in a serious crash.
15. \_\_\_ Total stopping distance is reaction distance plus braking distance.
16. \_\_\_ It is important to exchange names, addresses, and license numbers with other drivers involved in a crash.
17. \_\_\_ A small amount of alcohol can make you drive better.

18. \_\_\_ You have 10 days in which to make a written report to the Commissioner of Public Safety after being involved in a serious crash.
19. \_\_\_ If the damage to one car is \$750.00 and the damage to the other car is \$325.00, and no one is injured, a written report does not have to be made.
20. \_\_\_ Your license may be suspended if you fail to make a written accident report when one is required.
21. \_\_\_ The average person’s reaction time is about .75 of a second.
22. \_\_\_ An average glass of wine has more alcohol than a can of beer.
23. \_\_\_ Peer pressure can be good or bad.
24. \_\_\_ At 55 mph a two-second following distance is safe.
25. \_\_\_ A car going 30 mph needs over 80 feet for total stopping distance.
26. \_\_\_ The three-second rule is a way of measuring safe following distance.
27. \_\_\_ Alcohol is a stimulant.
28. \_\_\_ Medicines you can buy without a doctor’s prescription will not affect your driving.

29. \_\_\_ On dry pavement, stopping distance doubles if you double your speed.

30. \_\_\_ Going 60 mph you need about nine times more stopping distance than you need going 20 mph.

16-true	1-true
17-false	2-true
18-true	3-false
19-false	4-false
20-true	5-true
21-true	6-false
22-false	7-false
23-true	8-false
24-false	9-true
25-true	10-true
26-true	11-false
27-false	12-true
28-false	13-false
29-false	14-true
30-true	15-true

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 5

1. **regulatory signs** — tell drivers what they should and should not do in different driving situations.

2. **warning signs** — are used to warn drivers of dangers ahead and to use extra care.

3. **guide signs** — direct us to places.

4. **pedestrians** — people on foot: walkers, joggers, children playing.

5. **minimum** — the slowest speed you can legally drive under normal conditions.

6. **maximum** — the fastest speed you can legally drive in an area.

7. **normal conditions** — dry roads, clear weather, good vehicle, alert driver.

8. **median** — area, usually grass or concrete, between lanes of opposing traffic

9. **chevron** — looks like a wide “V” tipped sideways.

10. **crossbuck** — “X”-shaped sign that marks a railroad crossing.

11. **destination** — place someone wishes to get to.

12. **adjoining** — right next to.

13. **ramp** — a sloping road leading onto or off of a freeway.

# Chapter 5

## Traffic Signs, Signals, Pavement Markings

Traffic signs, signals, and pavement markings help all of us go from place to place as quickly and safely as possible. It is very important that you learn to recognize the signs, signals, and markings, and that you obey their messages in all your driving.

### Road Signs

Traffic signs are very helpful.

- They warn us of dangers or problems ahead.
- They tell us what we can and cannot do, what we should or should not do.
- They guide us and give us information.

**Regulatory signs<sup>1</sup> - the ones that tell us what we should and should not do - are usually white with black letters; and are usually rectangle-shape.**

**Most warning signs<sup>2</sup> are yellow and are diamond-shape.**

**Guide signs<sup>3</sup> are usually green with white markings. They mark freeway entrances and exits, bike routes, airports, etc.; and they give directions to towns and cities and tell how far away these places are.**

**Brown signs with white markings indicate historical places of interest, public parks, and recreation areas.**

**Blue signs with white markings tell of important services ahead: service stations, rest stops, hospitals, motels, restaurants, etc.**

**Highway work zone signs are orange.**



**FINES  
DOUBLE IN  
WORK ZONES**

Every year in Minnesota many highway workers are injured while working in highway work zones. They might be repairing or maintaining old roadways; or they might be building new ones. No matter what work they are doing, there is no good reason for any of them to be injured by passing motorists. Highway work zones are always well marked with orange warning and regulatory signs; and often flag people are on the road to guide traffic. It is very important that whenever you approach a work zone you slow down and carefully obey all signs. Be especially careful when driving past highway workers. **Remember: if you violate any law in a highway work zone, your fine will be doubled.**



1. Stop completely. When the intersection is clear and safe, you may go. (No other traffic sign is shaped like this.)



2. You must yield at the corner ahead. Slow down and be ready to stop for cross traffic. Stop for any pedestrians<sup>4</sup> in the crosswalk.



3. At corner ahead, traffic in the left lane must turn left. Traffic in the other lane may turn left or go straight.



4. Road ahead is divided. Keep to the right of the island or barrier.



5. Do not enter this roadway.



6. Only vehicles with “physically disabled” license plates or parking certificates may park here. All others who park here will be ticketed.



7. Traffic on this road goes only in the direction of the arrow.



8. You made a wrong turn. Turn around and go back as quickly and safely as you can.



9. You may not make a U-turn in this area.



10. You cannot park here. Even if you stay in the car, or park for just a short time, parking here is illegal.



11. It is illegal to drive faster or slower than these limits unless driving conditions make it necessary to drive slower.



12. Do not pass here. Yellow lines on the pavement show just where this area begins and ends.



13. You must not make a right turn at this corner.



14. You must not turn at this corner while the light is red. Wait for the green.



15. This is the maximum<sup>6</sup> speed for this area when conditions are normal<sup>7</sup>. You must not drive faster.



16. Up ahead your roadway crosses a divided highway. On that highway a median<sup>8</sup> separates the traffic going in opposite directions.



17. The diamond symbol means that one of the lanes ahead can be used only by certain vehicles.



18. The speed limit is lower up ahead. Begin to slow down.



19. Only one car can go through on each green light.



20. Watch out for snowmobilers in this area. Be very careful.



21. Traffic in this lane must turn left. (There will also be arrows painted on the pavement in this lane.)



22. There could be deer trying to cross the roadway in this area. Slow down and watch carefully.



23. A bike trail crosses the road ahead. Be careful; watch for bike riders.



24. There is a pedestrian crossing up ahead. Slow down and watch for it.



25. Pedestrian crossing. You must STOP for any pedestrian in the crosswalk.



26. There is a traffic signal ahead. Be ready to stop.



27. There is a school crossing nearby. Slow down! Watch for children.



28. School crossing. Obey school safety patrol members. Stop for any children in the crosswalk.



29. There is a YIELD sign ahead. At the corner yield to any traffic; but STOP for any pedestrian in the crosswalk.



30. There is an added lane ahead on the right. No one should have to change lanes.



31. There is a STOP sign ahead. You must stop at the intersection.



32. The road ahead "dies". You will have to turn around.



33. This sign is on the left side of a two-lane road. Yellow lines on the pavement show where the "no passing" zone begins and ends.



34. Up ahead the lanes of opposing traffic are separated by a center strip. Keep to the right.



35. There may be rocks in the road ahead. Slow down a bit and look carefully.



36. Cattle may wander into the roadway. Be alert.



37. Up ahead a road joins yours from the left; and just beyond that a road joins from the right.



38. Up ahead the two-way traffic will no longer be separated by a center strip.



39. A road from the right joins your lane up ahead. Watch carefully, and be ready for traffic entering your lane.



40. The two lanes become one up ahead. If you are in the right lane now, you must yield to traffic on your left and move into the left lane.



41. This sign means there is two-way traffic on the road ahead. Keep to the right.



42. Any vehicle taller than this height will NOT be able to get under the bridge ahead.



43. The road ahead turns to the right. Speed limit is 35.



44. The road ahead turns sharply to the right then to the left. Slow down!



45. The road ahead curves gradually to the right.



46. Chevrons<sup>9</sup> like this are used to show the edge of a large, possibly dangerous curve.



47. There is a sudden sharp change of direction ahead. Be careful.



48. This road curves gently right then left.



49. The road ahead winds back and forth. Be careful and slow down.



50. The road becomes narrower ahead.



51. The bridge ahead is narrower than the road on either end of it. Slow down.



52. There is only one lane on the bridge ahead. Be careful; watch for oncoming traffic.



53. The shoulders on the side of the road ahead are soft. Be sure to stay on the pavement.



54. You may drive either to the right OR to the left of the barrier.



55. The vehicle that has this sign on it is going very slowly. Slow down and be careful as you approach.



56. Slow down. There is a bump in the road ahead.



57. There is a dip in the road ahead. Slow down.



58. Check your brakes before going down the long and steep hill ahead.



59. The road ahead is slippery in wet weather. Slow down when the road is wet.



60. There is a fire station nearby. Be alert for sirens and flashing lights.



63. Trains cross the road ahead at an angle. You must look extra carefully before you cross the tracks.



67. A road from the right enters the road you are on.



71. This is a Minnesota highway route sign.



61. This round warning sign means there is a railroad crossing ahead. Slow down; look carefully; and be ready to stop. Trains cannot stop quickly.



64. Up ahead a road crosses the road you are on. Watch carefully for traffic crossing your path.



68. Road ahead splits into two directions. Be ready to turn, and watch carefully for traffic crossing your path.



72. An example of a destination<sup>11</sup> sign.



62. There is a railroad crossing here. Look carefully for trains; be ready to stop. A number below the crossbuck<sup>10</sup> tells how many tracks there are. If there is no number, there is one set of tracks. An EXEMPT sign below the crossbuck means that trains use this track less than 5 times a year.



65. The road you are on will end up ahead. You have to turn right or left. YOU MUST YIELD to traffic on the other road.



69. This is an interstate route marker. The even number means that "94" is an east-west roadway; an odd number would mark a north-south route.



73. An example of a milepost sign. These can help pinpoint where you are if you have an emergency. Zero mileage points are at the south and west borders of a state or at junctions where new highways begin. This sign is 25 miles from the zero mileage point.



66. The roadway you are on now ends. Turn right or left.



70. This is a U.S. highway route sign.



74. An example of a "Services Ahead" sign.



75. An example of a "Points of Interest/Recreation" sign.

## HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SIGNS

Highway work zone signs and signals mark areas where road work is going on. They are used with traffic control signals or flagpersons to help direct traffic safely through the work zone and to protect highway workers. Regulatory signs in work zones are no different from other regulatory signs.

*Warning signs in work zones are orange with black lettering or symbols.*

Here are some examples.



There is a road worker ahead. Be very careful. Slow down!



Watch for the flagperson ahead. Slow down! Be ready to obey his signal.



There is a detour ahead. Watch for the signs that will direct you which way to go.



Be careful. The road ahead has only one lane.



Slow down. The lanes shift up ahead.

**Don't forget. If you get a ticket in a work zone, you will pay a double fine.**

## Traffic Light Signals

Traffic signals help to control traffic at busy intersections. Any time the signals are not working, be very, very careful at that corner. Stop and check before entering the intersection. Red — for STOP — is always the top light.



**Green Light.** Green means “Go”. You may go straight, or turn right or left, unless there is another sign telling you not to make such turns. You should **not** enter an intersection on a green light unless you can be out of the intersection when the red light comes on. This is the law whether you are going straight ahead or turning.



**Yellow Light.** Do NOT enter the intersection if you can stop safely before entering. If you cannot stop, go very cautiously. If you are in the intersection waiting to turn left when the yellow or red comes on, finish your turn, but do so very, very carefully. Pedestrians should not cross an intersection when the yellow light is on.



**Red Light.** Make a complete stop behind a stop line, behind any crosswalk, or before entering the intersection. If there is not a “No Turn on Red” sign, you may turn right AFTER you make a complete stop and after you have checked to see that making the turn is safe. If you are on a one-way street turning onto a one-way street going left, and there is no sign saying you can't turn on red, you may make the left turn AFTER making a complete stop and checking to see that making the turn is safe.



**Flashing Red Light.** Stop completely; check the intersection carefully; then go when it is safe to go.



**Flashing Yellow Light.** Approach and go through the intersection very carefully. Yield to any traffic already in the intersection. Remember that you must STOP for any pedestrian in the crosswalk.



Red flashing lights, used with the railroad crossbuck signs, ALWAYS MEAN STOP, because a train is close. After stopping, do not cross the tracks until the lights stop flashing or you are very sure it is safe to cross. At crossings with a railroad crossing gate, you must stop when the gate is lowered; and you must wait there until the gate is raised.



## Turn Arrows

**Steady Red Arrow** means that drivers turning left must stop and wait.



**Yellow Arrow** means prepare to stop. The red arrow is coming.



**Flashing Yellow Arrow** means that drivers may proceed turning with caution after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Oncoming traffic has a green light.



**Green Arrow** means that drivers turning left have the right of way. Oncoming traffic and crossing traffic is stopped. Yield to any traffic already in the intersection.

## Pedestrian Signals



**Walk Signal.** Pedestrians may start to cross an intersection when WALK or the WALKING FIGURE is lit. Once inside the intersection, keep walking until you reach the other side.



**Don't Walk Signal.** When DON'T WALK or the HAND FIGURE is lit, do not start to cross the intersection. If you are already in the intersection, hurry to the curb.

When the WALK or the WALKING FIGURE is flashing, that means the DON'T WALK or the HAND will be lit very soon. Keep walking to the curb. When the DON'T WALK or the HAND is flashing, the green traffic signal will very soon go to yellow, then to red. So hurry to the curb.

## Lane Use Signals

These are special overhead signals that control the use of freeway lanes near bridges or tunnels. When these signals are in use - when they are lit - follow all safe driving practices and make lane changes properly.

**A steady downward green arrow** means that you may drive in this lane.



**A steady red X** means that no one should be driving in this lane. Move quickly and very carefully to another lane.



**A flashing downward yellow arrow** means that you may drive in this lane only if you are very careful.



When you see the flashing yellow arrow, check the lane use signals above the lanes next to yours. If those lanes have a red X, of course you can't change lanes. But if those lanes have green arrows, make a careful lane change.

## Pavement Markings

Pavement markings help guide and direct traffic.

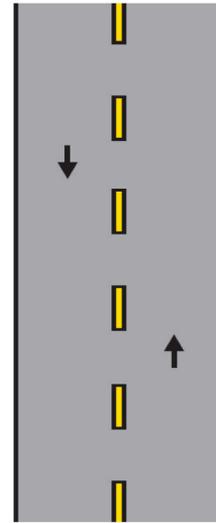
### White Lines

- Lines with white dashes separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. Moving between these lanes is permitted.

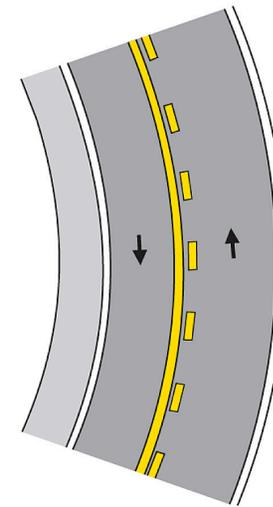
- A thick dashed white line - with short dashes - means that the lane to the right of the line will either end or exit up ahead.
- Solid white lines mark areas where traffic moving in the same direction should not move from one lane to another.
- Solid white lines are also used to mark crosswalks, parking stalls, and the edges of roadways.
- Double solid white lines prohibit traffic moving in the same direction from moving between lanes.

### Yellow Lines

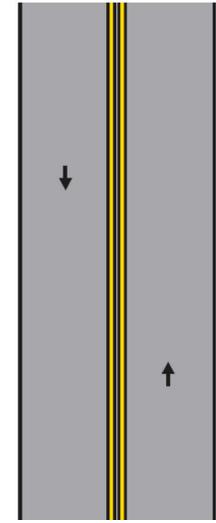
- Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions. Where passing is allowed, the center line is yellow dashes. Where passing is not allowed in one direction, a solid yellow line is painted to the right of the dashed yellow line. If no passing is allowed from either direction, there will be a double solid yellow line.
- A solid yellow line marks the left edge of a divided highway.



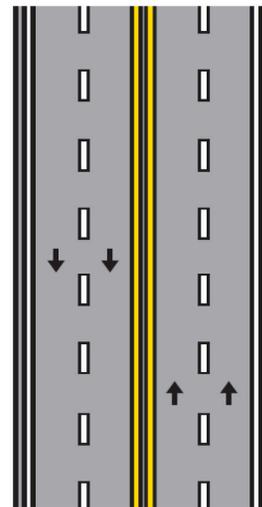
Two-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. Traffic from either direction is allowed to pass.



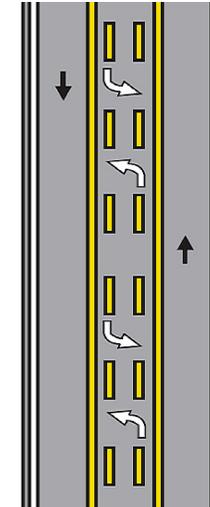
Two-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. Traffic on the side marked with a solid yellow line is NOT allowed to pass.



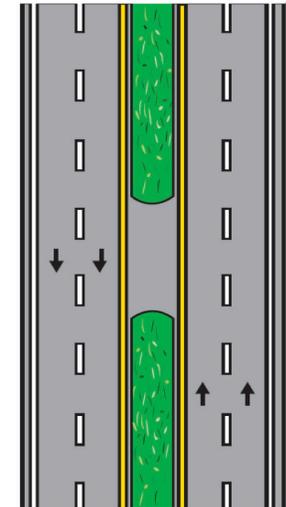
Two-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. Traffic from either direction is NOT allowed to pass.



Multiple-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. You may only cross the center line when making a left turn.



Multiple-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. A center turn lane is reserved for traffic turning left from either direction.



Multiple-lane road with traffic moving in opposite directions separated by a solid traffic divider. No shoulder at inner edge of roadway with traffic moving in either directions.

## Roundabouts

Know how to move through roundabouts safely and correctly—as a driver, as a cyclist, and as a pedestrian.

### Driving Tips

When approaching a roundabout, slow down and get into the appropriate lane.

Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. They have the right of way. **It is the law.**

When entering a roundabout, yield to vehicles already in the circle. Merge into the traffic flow when it is safe.

Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop or pass in a roundabout.

If an emergency vehicle approaches, exit immediately and then pull over and stop. **Do not stop in the roundabout.**

When exiting the roundabout, signal your turn and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

### Cyclists

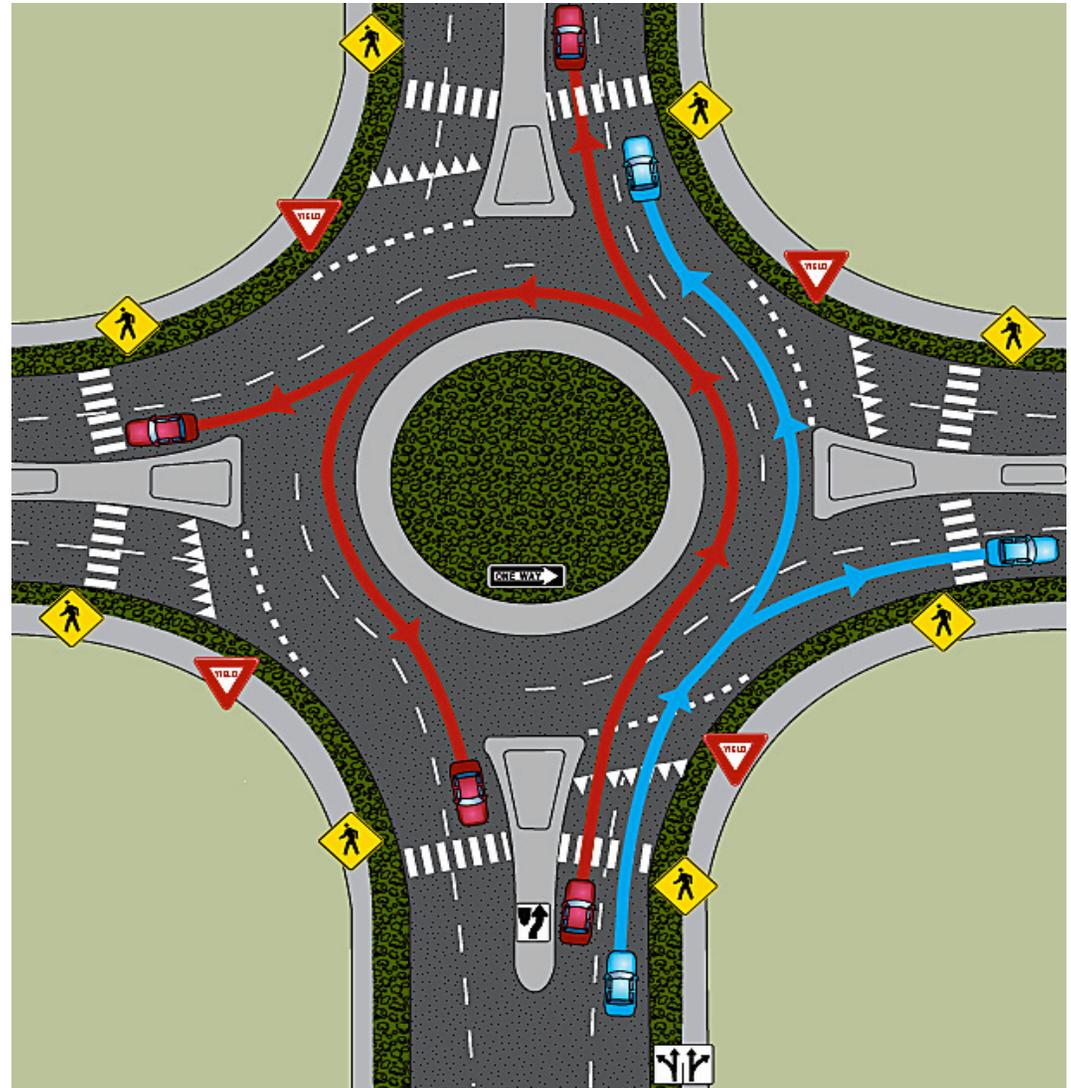
Cyclists can either ride with traffic inside the roundabout or use the crosswalks appropriately.

Cyclists who ride with traffic must follow the same rules as vehicles, and cyclists must yield as they enter the roundabout. Since traffic moves slowly in the circle, cyclists should be able to travel at or near the same speed as motorists, staying in line with the circulating traffic

### Pedestrians

Cross only at crosswalks, and always stay on the designated walkways. Never cross to the central island.

Cross the roadways one direction at a time. Use the median island as a halfway point where you can check for approaching traffic.

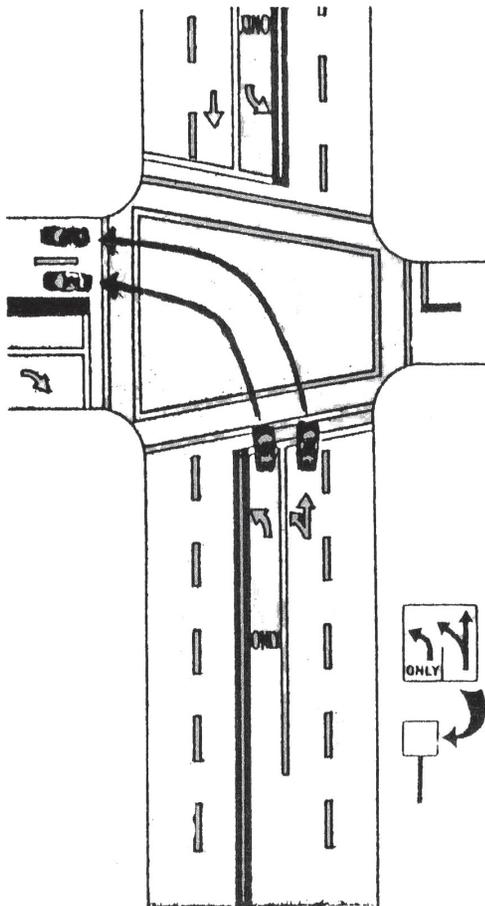


## Pavement Messages

In some places pavement messages are used to warn drivers of special conditions ahead.

- Arrows painted on the roadway show where different lanes are going.

Warnings such as SCHOOL ZONE AHEAD or RR CROSSING may be printed on the pavement.



## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 5

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ This means that you will always be able to drive 65 mph and will never travel under 40 mph.
2. \_\_\_ Stopping is allowed on the shoulder only to rest or change drivers.
3. \_\_\_ All traffic in this lane must turn left at the next intersection.
4. \_\_\_ Traffic in the left lane and in the adjoining<sup>12</sup> lane may either turn left or go straight ahead.
5. \_\_\_ Passing is allowed in this area if there are no cars coming toward you.
6. \_\_\_ You must not drive to the left of this sign.



7. \_\_\_ You are entering a freeway ramp<sup>13</sup> or divided highway in the wrong direction. Do not enter.



8. \_\_\_ Make a complete stop before the crosswalk and yield to all traffic close enough to be a hazard.



9. \_\_\_ When you see this sign facing you, other drivers must yield to you.



10. \_\_\_ You are traveling on a Minn. state highway with a speed limit of 40 mph.



11. \_\_\_ This shape tells you that you are on a Minn. state highway.



12. \_\_\_ No right or left turn is allowed when you see this sign and the light is red.



13. \_\_\_ Parking in this area is allowed if you stay in your car.



14. \_\_\_ You may travel only in the direction of the arrow.



15. \_\_\_ A left turn is not allowed.



16. \_\_\_ This is an informational sign.



17. \_\_\_ There is a traffic signal ahead.



18. \_\_\_ School crossing. You need to be careful only on school days.



19. \_\_\_ Pedestrian crossings are found only at intersections.



20. \_\_\_ Drivers entering from the right must yield to traffic on the main roadway.



21. \_\_\_ This sign shows that the roadway is a north-south interstate highway.



22. \_\_\_ You are leaving a one-way roadway and entering a two-way roadway.



23. \_\_\_ You do not need to slow down when you see this warning sign.



24. \_\_\_ The road curves gradually to the right, then to the left.



25. \_\_\_ The only time roads are slippery is when they are covered with ice.



26. \_\_\_ A side road enters the highway ahead from the right.



27. \_\_\_ There is a STOP sign ahead.



28. \_\_\_ If you are sure your vehicle will go faster, you can ignore this warning sign.



29. \_\_\_ Dashed white lines separate traffic lanes going in the same direction.

30. \_\_\_ A green arrow allows you to go in the direction of the arrow, while oncoming traffic must stop.

31. \_\_\_ A yellow arrow comes after a green arrow to warn you that the protected move is ending.

32. \_\_\_ A steady yellow light means “clear the intersection”.

33. \_\_\_ A solid yellow line on your side of the center line means you can pass another car in this area.

34. \_\_\_ A milepost sign could be helpful if you had an accident at night.

35. \_\_\_ Diamond-shape signs are always warning signs.

36. \_\_\_ The color of a sign does not mean anything.

37. \_\_\_ The railroad crossing warning sign is a diamond shape.

38. \_\_\_ On signal lights, the red is always at the top.

39. \_\_\_ If the yellow light comes on as you near the intersection, you should try to get through before the red light goes on.

21-false	1-false
22-true	2-false
23-false	3-true
24-true	4-false
25-false	5-false
26-true	6-true
27-true	7-true
28-false	8-true
29-true	9-false
30-true	10-false
31-true	11-false
32-true	12-true
33-false	13-false
34-true	14-true
35-true	15-false
36-false	16-false
37-false	17-true
38-true	18-false
39-false	19-false
	20-true

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 6

1. **field of vision** — how far you can see to the sides when you are looking straight ahead. (Review page 4)

2. **construction site** — place where building or repairing is going on.

3. **overtaken** — to come up from behind and pass you.

4. **emergency vehicle** — fire truck, police car, ambulance or rescue squad vehicle.

5. **rural** — in the country.

6. **municipalities** — cities and towns.

7. **reflective** — materials that shine in the dark.

8. **obstruction** — anything on the car windows or windshield, or anything in the car that keeps you from easily seeing everything you need to see to drive.

9. **right of way** — the privilege of immediate use of the roadway; the driver who is allowed to go first.

10. **blind spot** — the space to the rear on either side of your vehicle which you cannot see in your mirrors. (Review “blind spot” information on page 17.)

# Chapter 6

## Traffic Laws

Without traffic laws, all movement of cars and trucks on public roads would stop in a very short time. Traffic laws are made for all who use the streets and roads. This means drivers of cars and trucks, riders of motorcycles and bikes, and pedestrians. Traffic laws are made for your safety. If you disobey them, you run the risk of killing or hurting yourself or someone else.

Sometimes traffic laws change. Every driver should study the state driver's manual every few years and know what changes are made. You can read - even download - the newest manual. Just go to the Web site [www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org)

### Speed Regulations

Speed may not be the main cause of all crashes, but **illegal or unsafe speed is the major cause of fatal crashes**. Very often speed is what turns a minor fender-bender into a fatal crash.

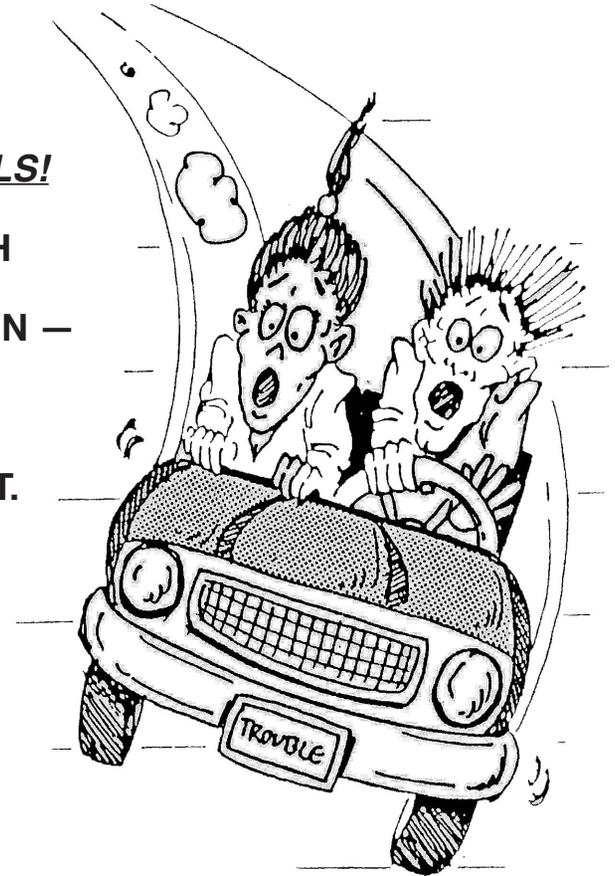
### The Basic Speed Law

Minnesota's basic speed law says that you must never drive at a speed that is faster than reasonable under existing conditions. The key word is reasonable. Existing conditions means the condition of the road, the weather, the vehicle, and yourself. What might be reasonable at one time may not be reasonable at another time.

If driving conditions are bad, you could be given a ticket for driving too fast for conditions even though you are driving slower than the speed limit. So no matter what the speed limit is, never drive faster than what is safe.

**SPEED KILLS!**

**DRIVE WITH  
YOUR BRAIN —  
NOT WITH  
YOUR FOOT.**



### Speed Limits

Speed limit signs are posted along the streets and roads to give the speed limit for good driving conditions. Limits are the maximum speed. If you go

faster than the limit on the sign, you could be arrested.

**The usual limits are listed below; but always watch for signs that show different speed limits.**

**They are the law!!**

- 30 mph within town or city limits.
- 55 mph on two-lane highways.
- 65 mph on four-lane divided highways.
- 60 mph on metro area freeways.
- 70 mph on other freeways in Minnesota.
- 10 mph in alleys.

**In Minnesota towns and cities the speed limit is 30 mph unless posted otherwise; outside of towns and cities, the speed limit is 55 mph unless posted otherwise.**

These limits are for good driving conditions and are in effect unless you see other limits posted on signs.

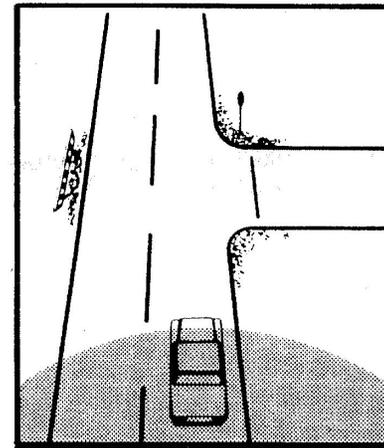
School zones may be posted for lower speeds when children are present.

Work zones may be posted for lower speeds. **If you violate a work zone speed limit you will pay a “double fine”.**

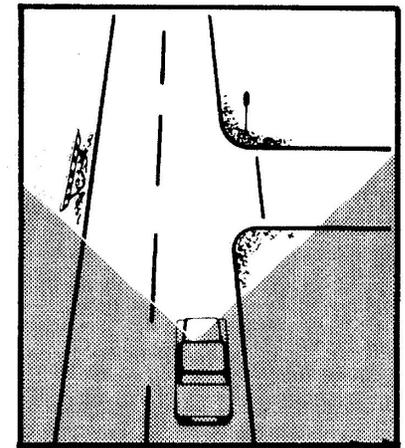
Minimum limits are set on freeways and some other roadways. Going slower than the minimum limit in these places is against the law unless the weather is bad or traffic has to go slower for some other reason.

## Slow Speeds Often Required

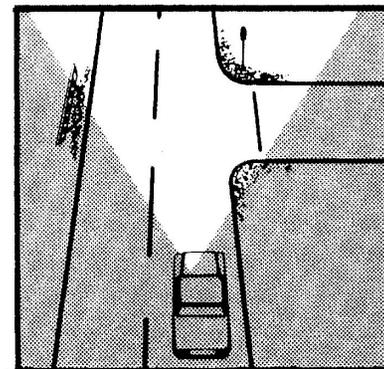
Slower speeds are necessary when you come near or cross a highway or railroad crossing. Slower speeds are also necessary when you see flags or flares on the road. Slow down also when going over hills and around curves. The following pictures show that the faster you go, the smaller your field of vision<sup>1</sup> is. The faster you go, the less you see.



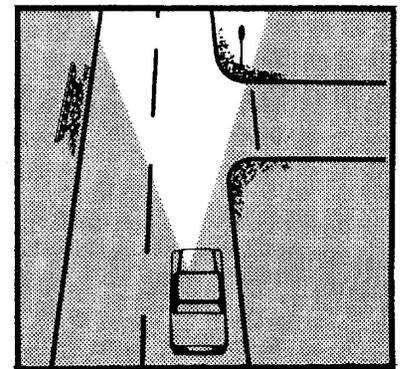
When your car is standing still, your field of vision is about 180 degrees.



At 20 MPH you see about 2/3 of what you can see when standing still.



At 40 MPH you see less than half of what you can see standing still.



At 55 MPH you see only about 1/5 what you can see standing still.

## Speed Limits on Bridges

Watch for slower speed limits on bridges and be very careful to obey them.

Watch for and obey NO PASSING signs.

## Stopping

**State law states that you must STOP in the following situations:**

- At a STOP sign. You must make a complete stop at the sign or at a stop line if it is marked, before crossing any crosswalk and before entering the cross street.
- When coming on to a street from an alley or driveway, stop before crossing the crosswalk.
- When a school patrol member is holding out a STOP flag. When school children are crossing a street, even if there is no school patrol, you must stop.
- For any pedestrian who is crossing a roadway at any marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- At a red stop light you must stop and wait until the sign turns to green and the way is clear.

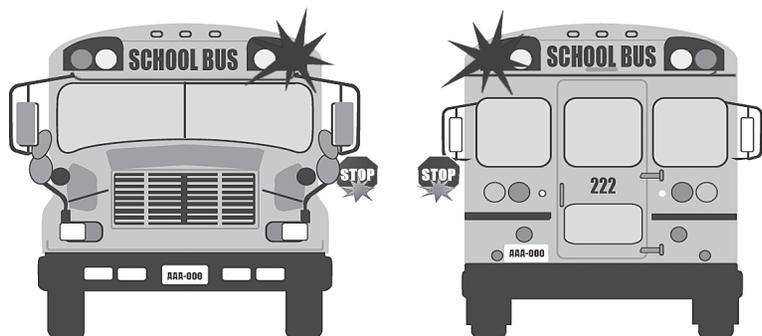
**You may make a right turn on red unless there is a sign telling you not to, but only after coming to a complete stop. You must make such a turn from the right lane into the right lane of the cross street.**

**You may make a left turn on red after stopping if you are on a one-way street turning onto a one-way street. This turn must be made from the left lane into the left lane of the cross street.**

- Stop at railroad crossings where there are STOP signs.
- Stop at a flashing red railroad crossing signal.
- Stop at bridges that are open for boats to pass through.
- Stop when told to stop by a flagman at a construction site<sup>2</sup> or at a railroad crossing.
- Stop any time a police officer tells you to stop.
- Stop after being in an accident. You may not leave the scene of an accident until after you have done everything required by law at such a time.  
(Review page 41 for this information.)
- Any time you meet or are overtaken<sup>3</sup> on the same roadway by an emergency vehicle<sup>4</sup> with red lights flashing or siren sounding, you must pull over to the right and stop. You need not stop if the emergency vehicle is traveling on a roadway separated from yours by a fence, barrier, or wall.
- Stop at a yield sign if there are people or other vehicles in the intersection.
- Stop when you meet or are following a school bus that has the STOP arm out and red lights flashing. You must stop at least 20 feet from the bus. Do not go until the STOP arm is in and the flashing red lights are off.

**Flashing yellow lights are an early warning that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. In rural <sup>5</sup>areas, the lights are used at least 300 feet before stopping, and in municipalities<sup>6</sup> they are flashing at least 100 ft. before a stop.**

**Flashing red lights and extended stop arms mean that the bus is stopped to either load or unload school children.**



**Coming from either direction you must stop when you see the flashing red lights and/or the extended stop sign. Stop at least 20 feet from the bus.**

## Passing

Many highway deaths and injuries take place on two-lane highways when two vehicles hit each other. Most of these crashes are caused by wrong or careless passing. Most happen in places where it is against the law to pass. Most two-lane highways in the state are marked with solid yellow center lines and NO PASSING signs where it would be dangerous to pass. Besides those places that are marked, drivers must be very careful any place at night or when weather conditions make it hard to see or control your car.

On most roadways with one lane of traffic moving in each direction, you must not go over the speed limit when passing. But on two-lane highways with a speed limit of 55 mph or higher you may drive up to 10 mph over the posted speed limit when you are lawfully passing another vehicle.

### When you want to pass

- Check the road ahead to make sure you have enough space.
- Check behind to make sure no one is trying to pass you.
- Signal that you want to pass the driver ahead by giving a tap of the horn during the day, and a flick of the headlights at night.
- Use your left turn signal when pulling out to pass.
- Do not return to the right lane until you can see in your inside mirror the entire front of the vehicle you passed.
- Use your right signal after passing when going back to the right lane.

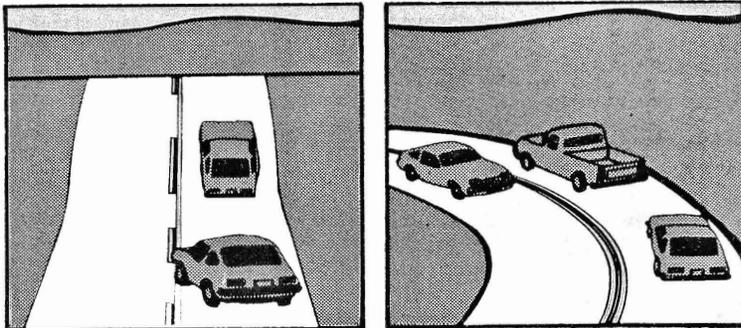
When another driver wants to pass you, stay in your own lane. Do not speed up.

Passing on the right is allowed where there are two or more lanes of traffic going in the same direction. It is against the law to pass on the road shoulder except in an emergency or when directed to do so by a policeman.

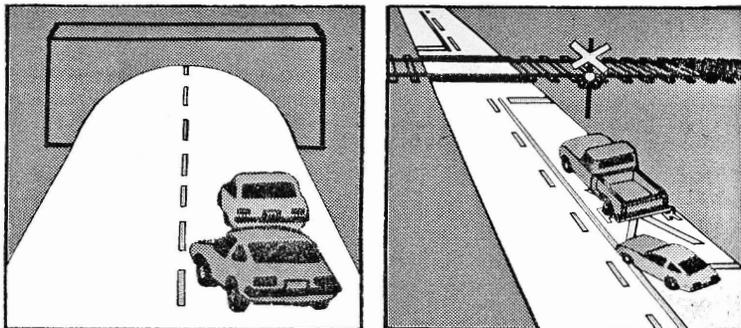
## Do not cross the centerline to pass:

- On a curve or hill where you cannot see a clear passing distance of at least 700 feet.

## DO NOT PASS . . .



- When driving up a hill
- When rounding a curve



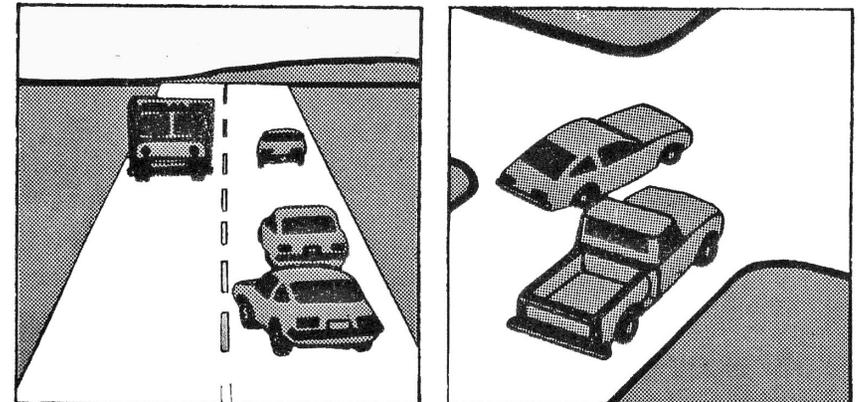
- When within 100 feet of any underpass or tunnel or within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.

## DO NOT PASS . . .

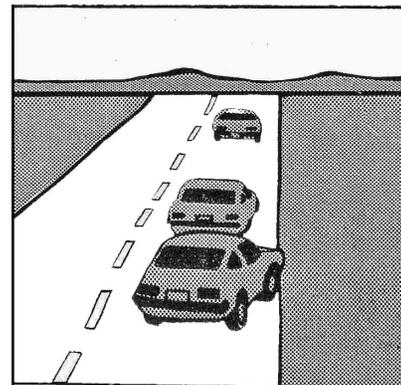
- Where there are NO PASSING signs or where there is a solid yellow line on your side of the centerline. A double solid yellow line tells drivers not to pass from either side of the line.

When you pass another vehicle on a two lane road, you must return to the right side of the roadway before coming within 100 feet of any oncoming vehicle.

## DO NOT PASS . . .



- When meeting a vehicle coming toward you.
- When in or within 100 feet of any intersection.



- Driving on the shoulder of the road.

# Pedestrians

**You must stop  
for any pedestrian  
who is in a marked  
or unmarked crosswalk.**



**In Minnesota in 2010, 36 pedestrians were killed and 824 were injured in automobile crashes.**

Pedestrians killed or injured are often people who do not drive at all or who are not as alert as they should be. Older persons who move slower and cannot see or hear well, and young children are the most most likely to be hurt as pedestrians.

## **Watch for pedestrians in these places:**

- On streets where cars are parked.
- At night or any time it is hard to see.
- At places where people cross, such as near mailboxes, schools, churches, and playgrounds.
- During morning and afternoon when children are going to and from school.

## **Drivers:**

- **must STOP for pedestrians in any marked or unmarked crosswalk. (Can't say it too often!)**
- must not pass another vehicle stopped for pedestrians in a crosswalk.

- must stop for lines of school children and obey school patrols.
- must yield to blind pedestrians carrying a white cane or using a guide dog when such a person enters an intersection, or crosses a roadway anywhere.
- must not block crosswalks when at a stop sign or waiting at a red light.
- must stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk when making a left or right turn.
- must stop for a school bus with its stop arm out.
- must be careful not to hit pedestrians or cyclists.

## **Pedestrians:**

- must obey traffic signals.
- must walk on the left, facing oncoming traffic, if there is no sidewalk.
- must use sidewalks when they are there.
- must yield to vehicles at all places on the roadway except at intersections and marked crosswalks.
- must not stand in the roadway when hitchhiking. It is illegal to hitchhike on any freeway.

### **Rules for pedestrians at traffic lights:**

- When a steady red light is on, you must not cross the intersection.
- When a steady green light is on, you may start to cross the intersection.
- When a steady yellow light is on, you may not start to cross, but if you have already started when the yellow comes on, you may keep going toward the nearest curb.
- When either a flashing red or flashing yellow light is on, you may cross when it is safe.
- When only a green right turn arrow or green left turn arrow is on, you must not cross.
- When a steady green light is on with a green right or left turn arrow, you may start to cross.

### **Safety rules for pedestrians:**

- When walking on a roadway, stay near to the left side and in single file.
- At night or when it is hard to see, carry a light or wear light colored or reflective<sup>7</sup> clothing.
- Even if you know you have the right of way at intersections and crosswalks, do not assume that drivers will stop for you.

- Be aware that drivers need more time to stop when streets are wet or slippery.
- Be sure that a driver sees you before you cross in front of him.

## **Slowpoke Driving**

You must never drive so slowly that you block traffic. Many crashes are caused by drivers who drive too slowly. It is against the law to drive slower than the posted minimum limit except when vehicle, road or driver conditions demand a slower speed. If you cannot drive faster for any reason, and vehicles line up behind you, it is a good idea to pull over to the shoulder, stop, and let them pass. Always try to drive at a speed which is right for other traffic.

### **Following Other Vehicles**

Minnesota law says that you must keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Drive with at least three seconds of following distance. How to measure and keep this distance was covered on page 40.

### **Following Fire Trucks**

Stay at least 500 feet behind any fire truck that is going to a fire. Do not drive over a fire hose unless told to do so by a policeman or fireman.

## Backing

Backing is dangerous, and many crashes happen when someone is backing a vehicle. If you are going to back up, it is a good idea to walk all around your vehicle to be sure there is nothing behind it — no person, bike, or anything you might hit. Before backing, look to the front, sides, and rear. Keep looking to the rear while backing. Do not depend on your mirrors. When backing into a roadway, back slowly into the traffic lane you intend to use with as little movement as possible. Follow the same rules when backing from an angle parking space into a traffic lane.

Never back up on a freeway.

Backing on any public road could cause you to be charged with reckless or careless driving.

If you back out of a drive-way, always back into the nearest lane and go from there. Do NOT back across other traffic lanes.

## Driving on the Road Shoulder

Passing on the right by driving on the road shoulder - even if the shoulder is paved - is against the law; so **do NOT drive on the shoulder of the road to pass on the right.**

## Obstructions<sup>8</sup> on Windows

It is against the law to place any sign, poster, or other material on any window of a vehicle except when required by law or when given permission by the Director of Emergency Management or the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Parking stickers must be placed in the lower corner of the left rear window. State and national park stickers may be placed in the lower right corner of the windshield. Safety inspection stickers may be placed in the lower left corner of the windshield. If you have a dark colored or highly reflective coating on your windows, you may be ticketed and have to pay a fine or go to court.

## Right of Way<sup>9</sup> and Yielding

Right of way rules are an aid to safe and smooth traffic flow. They stress courtesy and common sense. Breaking these rules is one of the main causes of crashes. It is smart driving and defensive driving to obey right of way rules.

### Right of way rules:

- If two vehicles come to an intersection not controlled by lights or signals at about the same time from different roadways, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right. If you enter such an intersection at a speed above the limit, you lose any right of way you might otherwise have.

- Yield to emergency vehicles flashing their red lights or using their sirens. **Whether the emergency vehicle is coming from behind or toward you, pull to the right side of the roadway and stop.** Do not stop in an intersection. Stop either before you get to it or just on the other side of it.
- You must stop and give the right of way to a blind person carrying a white cane or using a guide dog.
- Cars entering a public roadway from a private road, an alley, a driveway, or a parking lot must stop and yield to cars on the public street or highway.
- When entering an intersection where there is a YIELD sign facing you, slow down and stop if necessary for other vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection.
- When making a left turn within an intersection or when turning left into an alley, driveway, or private road, you must yield to any traffic coming toward you that is close enough to be a danger. The oncoming traffic has the right of way.
- Vehicles entering an intersection on a green arrow must yield to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- All vehicles except emergency vehicles must yield to funeral processions. You will know a funeral procession by cars driving in close formation with their headlights on. Often funeral processions are escorted by motorcycle patrol officers.

## Reckless and Careless Driving

Reckless driving is driving in such a way as to show willful and intentional disregard for the safety of other persons or property.

Careless driving is driving thoughtlessly or not thinking about the lives and safety of other persons or property.

If you are convicted of careless or reckless driving it will go on your permanent driving record. Your insurance rates will go up. It is very important to be alert and courteous to others on the road.

## Inattentive or Distracted Driving

Driver inattention or distraction is the leading contributing factor in multiple-vehicle crashes in Minnesota. Driving distractions — conversations, arguments, listening to the radio, talking on cell phones, texting, the actions of other drivers or pedestrians, activities outside your vehicle — these things can take your mind (and your eyes) off the important job of driving safely and defensively.

It is the law that NO DRIVER may use any wireless communications device, such as a cell phone, to compose, read, or send electronic messages while the vehicle is in motion or is a part of traffic. **Reminder: No driver who is driving with a permit or provisional license may use a cell phone – even a hands-free phone – while the vehicle is in motion.**

Make sure that you are concentrating on your driving at all times. Don't let anyone or anything distract you from your driving. **Concentrate — concentrate — on driving every moment you are behind wheel of your vehicle.**

## Fleeing a Police Officer

Anyone who uses a motor vehicle to flee or attempt to flee from a peace officer may be sentenced to up to one year in jail or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. Anyone in a motor vehicle who is fleeing from a peace officer and causes death or injury to another person may be sentenced up to ten years in prison and also be fined up to \$20,000.

## Changing Lanes

Never move from one lane to another until you have looked to the side, front and rear of your car.

- Be sure it is safe to change lanes.
- Be sure to signal the lane change.
- **Be sure to look over your shoulder to check your blind spot<sup>10</sup> before making the lane change.**

## Signal When You Stop or Turn

Signals must be given any time you change direction or slow down. Signals must be made at least 100 feet before the move or turn; but it is a good idea to signal as early as you can so long as you don't confuse

other roadway users. If your turn signals are not working, or if a bright sun might keep others from seeing your signals, the following hand signals may be used (Review the picture on page 19):

- Left turn — arm and hand pointing straight out.
- Right turn — arm and hand pointing up.
- Stop or slow down — arm and hand pointing down.

## Littering

It is against the law to throw or leave any trash, junk, bottles, nails, tacks, wires, cans or other harmful items on any highway. It is unlawful to drop or throw objects at or upon a motor vehicle on the road.

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 6

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ If you are using your car to bring home lumber which extends more than 3 feet beyond the front bumper, you must get a special permit from the Commissioner of Public Safety.
2. \_\_\_ Throwing candy wrappers out of your car window is against the law.
3. \_\_\_ The proper hand signal for a right turn is for the left arm to be turned straight up from the elbow.

4. \_\_\_ Careless driving is driving thoughtlessly.
5. \_\_\_ A reckless driver is one who really does not care what happens to anything or any one around him.
6. \_\_\_ A through street is one for which side traffic must stop or yield.
7. \_\_\_ Funeral processions are usually identified by cars driving in close formation with their headlights on.
8. \_\_\_ Cars traveling on public streets must yield to cars entering from a private roadway or driveway.
9. \_\_\_ When two cars come to an uncontrolled intersection at about the same time, the car on the left must yield to the car on the right.
10. \_\_\_ It is all right to pass another car on the right if there are two lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.
11. \_\_\_ Backing on public streets is strongly discouraged.
12. \_\_\_ When you must back onto a street from your driveway, it is best to back into the nearest lane.
13. \_\_\_ It is not necessary to look out your rear window when backing, if you have looked carefully before starting to back.
14. \_\_\_ The 3-second rule is a way to measure minimum safe following distance.
15. \_\_\_ You must slow down and check for other cars and pedestrians before making a turn at a red light.
16. \_\_\_ The law states that when you cross the centerline to pass another vehicle, you must return to the right side of the roadway before coming within 50 feet of an oncoming car.
17. \_\_\_ It is all right to speed up to 40 mph in a 30 mph zone only if you are passing another vehicle.
18. \_\_\_ Passing on a roadway marked with a double yellow line is all right if you can see that there are no oncoming cars.
19. \_\_\_ Passing when the solid yellow line is on your side of the centerline is allowed when there are no oncoming vehicles.
20. \_\_\_ You must pull over and slow down when meeting or being overtaken by an emergency vehicle with lights flashing and siren sounding.
21. \_\_\_ Left turn on red is allowed only where there is a sign saying that you may turn on red.
22. \_\_\_ Right turn on red is allowed at any intersection which does not have a sign saying that you cannot make the turn.
23. \_\_\_ The basic speed law states that you must never drive faster than is reasonable under the existing conditions.

24. \_\_\_ "Existing conditions" means only the weather conditions.

25. \_\_\_ At a flashing red light you must stop, then proceed when it is safe to do so.

26. \_\_\_ If you come to a railroad crossing when the red lights are flashing, you don't have to stop if no train is in sight.

27. \_\_\_ You must stop for a school bus that has the STOP arm out only if you are behind the bus.

28. \_\_\_ You may use the shoulder of the road to pass on the right IF the road shoulder is paved.

15-false	2-true
16-false	3-true
17-false	4-true
18-false	5-true
19-false	6-true
20-false	7-true
21-false	8-false
22-true	9-true
23-true	10-true
24-false	11-true
25-true	12-true
26-false	13-false
27-false	14-true
28-false	

## Review Quiz: Chapters 1 - 6:

1. \_\_\_ Only your father or mother may be in the car with you and the examiner when you are taking your license road test.

2. \_\_\_ In Minnesota a person over 21 is legally intoxicated with an AC of .08.

3. \_\_\_ The basic speed law states the minimum and the maximum speed limits for all Minnesota roadways.

4. \_\_\_ You should check your blind spot before making every lane change.

5. \_\_\_ The "S" in SIPDE stands for "See"

6. \_\_\_ Minnesota law states that adults sitting in the front seat do not have to buckle their seat belts.

7. \_\_\_ Most regulatory signs are white with black lettering.

8. \_\_\_ If you get a ticket in a highway work zone, your fine will be tripled.

1-false	3-false	4-true	6-false	8-false
2-true	5-false	7-true		

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 7

1. **guided experience** — going through an experience with someone who has done it before. This would likely be safer than having to figure out what to do alone in an emergency.
2. **fatal crash** — crash in which someone is killed.
3. **overdrive headlights** — driving so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see with your headlights.
4. **normal conditions** — good weather, dry roads, safe vehicle, alert driver.
5. **headlight glare** — uncomfortably bright light from headlights that can cause temporary blindness.
6. **fatigue** — becoming very tired.
7. **emergencies** — sudden situations which you do not plan or expect.
8. **survival** — what you need to stay alive.
9. **antenna** — radio aerial.
10. **carbon monoxide poisoning** — gases from your car's exhaust system that could kill you.
11. **hydroplaning** — your tires ride on top of the water and lose contact with the pavement.

# Chapter 7 Adjust to Driving Conditions

Most drivers have learned to drive on dry roads, with a good car, during daylight hours. Many do not know what to do when roads are wet or slippery, or when they have car trouble or must drive at night. Safe driving at all times must be learned through practice and guided experience<sup>1</sup>.

Many of the conditions or driving situations written about in this chapter do not happen every day. You may never experience some of the emergencies discussed; but it is important that you study this chapter well in order to react wisely and quickly if these things do happen.

## Night Driving

About half of the fatal crashes<sup>2</sup> in Minnesota happen at night. Though there is less traffic at night, there are several reasons for more crashes:

**1. Vision.** Most of the reasons for night crashes have to do with vision. Overdriving headlights<sup>3</sup> is a common and dangerous practice.

You should never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance that you can see clearly. Under normal conditions<sup>4</sup> your bright (high-beam) headlights will show about 350 feet ahead.

So in normal conditions you must always be able to stop within 350 feet. If conditions are worse, slow down.

The law says that you must dim your headlights (use the low-beam) when meeting or following other traffic. You must dim your lights when within 1,000 feet of a car you are meeting; and you must dim your lights when following within 200 feet of another driver. Safety demands that you dim your lights and keep them dim even if other drivers do not dim theirs.

Keep your lights clean and in good working order.

**State law requires that low beam headlights and tail lights (not parking lights) must be turned on from sunset until sunrise. Low beams must also be turned on any time you cannot see clearly for 500 feet, and whenever it is raining, snowing, hailing, sleet; also have low beam headlights on in fog. Your lights may not help you see better, but they make it much easier for others to see you.**

If you are using a map for directions, study it carefully before driving at night. If there is another person in the car, have that person watch for signs and unexpected dangers.

For some people, night driving causes their eyes to become very tired. Keep your eyes moving. Looking from side to side and from near to far will help to keep your eyes from getting tired.

**2. Glare.** Glare can reduce your ability to see, sometimes to the point where you cannot see at all. Most headlight glare<sup>5</sup> will be from cars coming toward you or from lights reflecting from your rear view mirror. Do not look directly at the lights coming toward you. Look toward the white line on the right edge of the pavement. Turn your mirror in such a way that you cut out most of the strong light from the rear.

**3. Fatigue<sup>6</sup>.** Becoming tired is the enemy of drivers at night. (It happens during the day, too.) **The best way to prevent fatigue is to be well rested before you start.** If this is not possible, here are some other ideas to try:

- Stop at least every 100 miles or every two hours.
- Get out and walk around the car to stretch.
- Have a cup of coffee or a soft drink.
- Listen to the radio.
- Sing - whistle - talk to yourself..
- If another person can drive, change drivers.
- Keep your eyes moving—from side to side, and from near to far.
- If none of these help, pull over and rest awhile. Be sure to lock your door and leave a window open slightly for fresh air.

**4. Emergencies<sup>7</sup>.** Emergencies are worse at night because traffic is lighter, you are less likely to get help, and the danger is greater. Many drivers have cellular phones in the car so they can call for help. If you get stalled on the road at night, here are some suggestions:

- Pull off the road onto the shoulder.
- Turn on your four-way flashers and raise your hood.
- Stay with your car until help comes.
- If you must walk for help, carry a light and walk on the left edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never walk on a freeway. Doing so is against the law. State Troopers patrol the freeways regularly and will be along to help you.
- If you have flares or reflectors, place them from 100 to 500 feet to the rear of your vehicle on the right edge of the highway to warn other traffic.

**Note! Running out of gas on a freeway is not an emergency. It is avoidable. Drivers who run out of gas on an interstate may be tagged for stopping and parking on a freeway.**

**5. Speed.** Driving fast is more dangerous at night because you cannot see as well or as far as you can during the day. You can only see as far as your headlights light the roadway ahead, and at higher speeds this does not give you enough time and space to stop.

Highways some times have different day and night speed limits posted. Follow these limits even if you know the road and feel that you can drive faster. These limits are set to protect you from unexpected problems, such as:

- a deer or other animal running out in front of you.
- coming suddenly upon an accident.
- a bridge or road torn up by weather conditions.
- your falling asleep and running into something.

At lower speeds your chances of living through an accident are many times greater than if you are driving faster.

## Winter Driving



**Winter driving means slower speed and longer following distance.**

Winter driving brings its own special dangers. Longer hours of darkness, along with fog, rain, snow, sleet and ice make driving in winter more dangerous. The smart driver gets ready for winter conditions before the cold weather begins.

**DAY OR NIGHT, WINTER OR SUMMER, BE ALERT FOR DEER ON THE ROADWAYS. IN 2010, SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 324 INJURED IN THE 2,570 AUTO/DEER CRASHES IN MINNESOTA!**

### **These are helpful tips for winter driving:**

Before driving, remove snow and ice from the hood and windows. Run your engine for about 30 seconds and drive slowly until it has warmed. Be sure that your windshield washer fluid is the kind that does not freeze. Even with the kind that does not freeze, be careful using your washers in extremely cold weather at high speeds, because the liquid might freeze on the wind shield and keep you from seeing.

Get the feel of the road. Try your brakes at a slow speed to find out just how slippery the road is, and adjust your speed to what you find. **Do not use cruise control while driving on slippery roads.**

Snow tires can be a great help under normal winter driving conditions—especially when the snow is deep; but snow tires do not help on ice. Tire chains will help give better traction on icy, snow-packed roads.

Be ready for trouble in heavy snow or in a blizzard. Keep a Winter Survival<sup>8</sup> Kit in the car. Consider carrying the following:

- **cell phone with a fully charged battery**
- sand or kitty litter for traction
- shovel
- warm clothing and boots

- red flag to put on the antenna<sup>9</sup>
- blankets or sleeping bags
- quick energy foods—chocolate, nuts
- tire chains and a tow chain
- empty #10 can for body waste
- flashlight
- jumper cables
- candles, matches or lighter
- first aid kit

### **If you get stuck in a blizzard:**

Do not panic. Stay with your car. Most deaths take place when people leave the car, get lost, and freeze to death.

Turn on your 4-way flashers (hazard lights), attach a red flag to your antenna and set out flares to help others to see you. Bring all clothing, blankets, and other survival items into the car from the trunk.

Be sure the exhaust pipe is not plugged. Run the engine and the heater until the car is warm, then shut them off. Do this again for about 10 minutes every hour to charge the battery and warm the car.

Keep a window partly open even if it is cold outside, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning<sup>10</sup>.

Stay awake. If someone is with you, one person should be awake at all times. Move around as much as possible.

## Slippery Roads Are Dangerous

When roads are slippery, do NOT use cruise control. Be sure to follow other vehicles at a safe distance. Remember that stopping on snow or ice takes three to twelve times as much distance as stopping on dry pavement.

To start on snow or ice, try not to spin your wheels. If you drive a car with a clutch, starting in second gear or high gear should help to keep your wheels from spinning. If you have a car with an automatic transmission, start slowly and smoothly.

## Stopping on Packed Snow or Ice

When stopping on snow or ice, use your brake pedal gently. “Squeeze” the brake pedal down until you feel the tires are just about to begin skidding, then let up slightly, and begin to squeeze again. This method slows the car quickly; and you will keep the wheels turning.

Always remember— the wheels have to be turning in order for you to be able to steer the car. **When the wheels “lock up” you have NO CONTROL of your car.**

## Anti-lock Brakes

Newer cars have anti-lock brakes (ABS). If your car has ABS, and you are trying to stop the car, do not let up on the brake pedal. Push the brake pedal down, and keep it down.

**With ABS  
Do Not Pump the Brake Pedal.  
Just Push the Pedal Down  
. . . And Don't Let Up!!**

## Watch for Snowplows

Snowplow accidents happen too often during the winter season. Usually motorists run into the rear of the plow, or they hit the blade on the side of the plow. In snowy or icy conditions it is very important for you to watch for snow removal equipment. Look for flashing white, yellow, or blue lights. Be alert for dangerous snow clouds, the large clouds of blowing snow that the moving plows create. These snow clouds often hide the plow, making it “invisible”. Slow down, and increase your following distance whenever you approach a snowcloud.

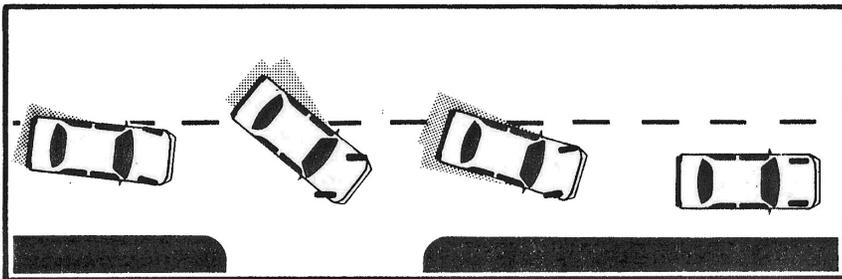
Remember— stay back from snowplows; pass a plow only if you can see the entire plow, including the blade. **And, as in all bad weather— SLOW DOWN.**

## Skidding

A vehicle skids when its tires lose their grip on the roadway. When your car begins to skid, the engine loses its pulling effect and the brakes will not stop the car; steering control is also lost. Many drivers panic and slam the brake pedal down hard. This is a terrible mistake. Since braking will only increase the speed of the skid, do not brake until you regain control. You must have the wheels turning in order to steer the car. **So if the car is skidding, DO NOT BRAKE OR ACCELERATE until you are able to steer the car.** Correct the skid by steering as shown in the picture. Brake or accelerate gently and smoothly.

Remember—if the car is skidding, do not brake or accelerate until you are able to steer the car, and then brake or accelerate gently and smoothly.

**To pull out of a skid, turn the steering wheel in the direction the rear of the car is moving.**



**When in a skid remember that you are always trying to straighten the car out; and stay off the brake and the accelerator until you can steer the car. Best advice of all: Don't get into a skid!**

## Hydroplaning<sup>11</sup>: “Water Skiing on the Highway”

Hydroplaning—riding on the water—can take place when you drive too fast on wet roads. At speeds up to 35 mph most tires will “wipe” the road surface the same way a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. But as speed increases, the tires cannot wipe the road as well and they start to ride up on a film of water, just like a set of water skis.

In heavy rain a passenger car will begin to hydroplane at about 35 mph. The hydroplaning gets worse as speed increases; and by 55 mph the tires may be completely up on the water and may lose all contact with the road. Your car will have no traction at all. A gust of wind, a change of road surface, or a slight turn could cause a sudden and dangerous skid.

The best thing to do if you feel your tires hydroplaning is to take your foot off the gas pedal and let the car slow down. If your car is totally hydroplaning, all you can do is take your foot off the gas and ride out the skid.

Good tread on your tires will help to prevent hydroplaning. But if the water is deeper than the tread, hydroplaning can still take place.

## Driving in Fog, Snow, Rain

Do not drive in a fog or snowstorm unless you must. Whenever it is hard to see, slow down so that you can stop within the distance you can see.

**Remember - Minnesota law says that whenever it is raining, snowing, sleet, hailing, and whenever you cannot see more than 500 feet ahead, you must have your low beam headlights on—not your parking lights.**

Keep headlights on low beam to cut down the reflection of your lights on the fog or snow. If it becomes too hard for you to see or if you become too tired because of the eye strain, pull off the road with care. Wait until the fog or snow stops.

Whenever driving conditions are less than the best—be extra careful and SLOW DOWN! Watch out for motorcycles and bicycles that might be on the road in bad weather. Give cyclists every possible courtesy, because as difficult as it is for a car driver in bad weather, it is so very much harder for the cyclist.

## **Driving in Hilly Country**

Use extra care when driving on narrow hilly roads or where thick brush and trees block your view. There are many blind pockets in hilly areas and you may not realize another car is on the same road until it is within a few feet of you. Use your horn as you round dangerous curves, to let the other driver know that he is not alone on a narrow road.

**When driving down steep hills, remember that it is illegal to coast downhill with your transmission in NEUTRAL.**

## **Carbon Monoxide**

Carbon monoxide poisoning is much more likely to happen during the winter time when you are likely to drive with all of the car windows closed.

You cannot smell the carbon monoxide fumes; but they can kill you. They also can slow your reactions, affect your eyesight, and affect your reasoning ability. Signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are sudden weariness, yawning, headache, dizziness, and nausea. The only cure is to get plenty of fresh air right away.

### **To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:**

- **Have your car's exhaust system checked regularly to make sure it does not leak.**
- **Do not idle your engine or drive with all your windows closed.**
- **Never run your engine in a garage with the doors closed.**

## **Driving Emergencies**

One basic rule applies in all driving situations, especially emergencies: **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!** The following suggestions are listed to help you if you are faced with an emergency. Staying calm, and understanding why the suggestions are made, can give you a better chance of coming through an emergency.

**Blowout.** A blowout is the sudden loss of air in a tire. This could throw your vehicle out of control. If a tire blows out, hold tightly to the steering wheel, steer straight ahead, and take your foot off the gas pedal.

Do not brake until the vehicle is headed straight. You certainly may have a blowout if you hear a thumping sound caused by a bulge in the tire. With modern tires, blowouts are not very common. Tire failure is most often caused by incorrect tire pressure.

**Loss of a wheel.** Often the warning signs for losing a wheel are the same as for a blowout. Follow the same rules.

**Steering failure.** If your car suddenly will not go in the direction you turn the steering wheel, take your foot off the gas, but do not brake unless braking is necessary to prevent a crash. Braking or shifting gears may cause your car to go out of control. As the car slows down, brake gently and smoothly to a stop.

**Brake failure.** If your brake pedal suddenly sinks all the way to the floor, try pumping the pedal to build up the pressure. A warning light should come on if there is a serious brake problem. If pumping does not help, use your emergency or parking brake, but apply it gently so that you do not lock up your brakes and throw the car into a skid. Shifting to a lower gear will help the engine to slow you down. You could turn off the key, leaving the car in gear. But if you have power steering, be aware that turning off the key will make the car much harder to steer.

**Running off the pavement.** If your wheels run off the pavement, take your foot off the gas. When the car has slowed down a bit, turn back onto the pavement. Then pick up your speed again.

**Car coming toward you in your lane.** Pull over to the right and slow down. Honk your horn. At night, flash your lights. Do not turn into the other driver's lane. If the car keeps coming toward you, and there could be a crash, steer off the road to the right.

**Car trying to pass you.** If a car is trying to pass you and cannot complete the move because of oncoming traffic, you must help to avoid a crash. If the passing car is at a point where the pass can be completed with your help, slow your speed so the driver can move ahead of you more quickly. If you are sure the driver cannot complete the pass and must drop back, speed up to give him more room behind you. If there is a shoulder on the right, you could move onto the shoulder to allow the passing car to move into your lane.

**Stalling on railroad tracks.** If the car on the tracks has a standard transmission, you may be able to move your car off the tracks by running the starter with your foot off the clutch while the car is in low gear. With an automatic transmission, you may have to push the car off the tracks. If you cannot move the car and a train is coming, get out and get far away from the tracks. If there isn't time to get far away from the tracks, run alongside the tracks in the direction the train is coming from. This way you will not be hit by flying pieces when the car is hit.

**Sinking in water.** If your car falls into deep water but does not sink right away, go out through a window. Opening a door would cause the car to sink

faster. If the car sinks below the surface before you can get out, the weight of the engine will force the motor end down first. This would create an air pocket in the other end. Get into the air pocket and breathe deeply. When the car has settled, you should be able to get out through a window. Before leaving the car, be sure that anyone else in the car is unbuckled and able to get out.

**Fire.** If smoke comes from under the hood, get off the road and turn off the key. Get everyone out of the car. If you do not have a fire extinguisher, throw sand or dirt to smother the fire. Do not use water, because burning gas will float on it and actually spread the fire.

**Overheating.** You can help prevent over-heating in slow moving traffic by shifting into neutral and racing your engine briefly during stops. This will speed up the fan and water pump. Turning on the heater should help. If steam comes from under the hood, your cooling system is boiling. Pull to the side of the road and turn off your engine. **DO NOT OPEN THE RADIATOR CAP!** Never open the radiator cap when the engine is warm; you could be severely burned.

**Headlight failure.** If your headlights suddenly fail, try your parking lights, emergency flashers, or turn signals. One of them may work and help you get off the road. If your lights fail on a busy highway, you will probably have enough light from other cars to see to get off the road. If lights fail in a dark, lonely place, slow down and try to keep your car on the pavement until you have slowed enough to move to the shoulder without hitting anything.

**Windshield wiper failure or sudden opening of hood.** If your wipers suddenly fail in heavy snow or rain, slow down, roll down your window and put your head out so you can see ahead. If there are cars behind you, don't slow down too rapidly. Do the same if your hood should open suddenly.

**Stuck gas pedal.** If your gas pedal sticks, you may be able to free it by hooking your toe under the pedal and trying to raise it. If this does not work, shift into neutral, steer carefully, and stop the car as quickly and safely as you can. Then turn off the ignition.

## Sharing the Road With Trucks

Trucks, vans, and buses are larger and heavier than cars; and in a collision, the smaller vehicle usually suffers much more damage. In about 71% of fatal crashes involving cars and trucks, the driver of the car is at fault.

### Passing a Truck

- Before trying to pass a truck, check well to the front and the back, and move into the passing lane only if it is clear and you are in a legal passing zone.
- It takes much more time and space to pass a truck than it does to pass a car. So be sure you have enough time and clear space to pass the truck and get back into your lane well before you meet any oncoming traffic. Remember that a truck will lose speed going up a hill; but it will gain speed going down a hill.

- Be sure that you can see the front end of the truck in your rearview mirror before moving back into the right lane. Do NOT slow down.

- When a truck passes you, keep well to the right and slow down a bit.

- When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far right as possible.

### Following a Truck

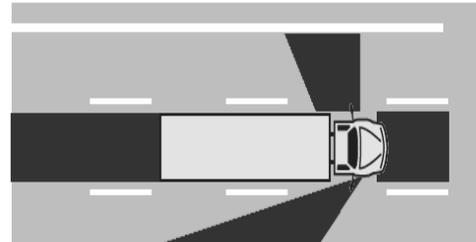
- The best advice for following a truck is to stay way back. Do NOT follow closely; and do NOT drive in the truck driver's blind spots. Depending on the type of truck, a truck driver may not be able to see up to 20 feet in front of his cab, or on either side of his cab and trailer, and up to 200 feet in back of the trailer. *If you cannot see the truck driver in the truck's mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you.*

- When following a truck at night, always dim your headlights.

- When a truck merges into traffic, it needs more time and space to get up to speed. So don't follow too closely; and be ready to slow down.

- When a truck ahead of you stops on an upgrade, stop well back and in the left part of your lane, so the truck driver will be able to see you.

- Large trucks need extra space when turning right. So do not pass a truck on the right if there is any possibility the truck may make a right turn.



Avoid driving in the dark gray areas. They show blind spots and other problem areas to stay out of.

Truck drivers are usually among the very best drivers on the roadways; but they need and deserve all the help we can give them.

**Remember that truck blind spots are “No Zones” for you.**

**For information about road and driving conditions, at any time of day or night, call the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation at 511 or visit the Web site at [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).**

**For road test scheduling call 651 284-1000**

**If you have questions about your permit or driver's license call 651 297-3298**

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 7

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ “Overdriving your headlights” means that you are going so fast that you cannot stop in the distance that you can see.

2. \_\_\_ High beam headlights usually show about 350 feet ahead.
3. \_\_\_ It is suggested that you look directly at oncoming headlights when driving at night.
4. \_\_\_ You must use your low beam headlights when within 200 feet of an oncoming car.
5. \_\_\_ You must use your low beam headlights when following within 1,000 feet.
6. \_\_\_ If your car begins to skid, you should immediately press hard on your brake pedal.
7. \_\_\_ Good tread on your tires will help to prevent hydroplaning.
8. \_\_\_ When driving in heavy fog or snow, it is suggested that you use high beam headlights.
9. \_\_\_ Having your exhaust system checked regularly is one of the best ways of preventing carbon monoxide poisoning.
10. \_\_\_ It is not wise to warm up your car inside the garage with the garage doors closed.
11. \_\_\_ If your right wheels drop off the pavement onto the shoulder, you should brake hard and try to steer back onto the pavement right away.
12. \_\_\_ You should remove the radiator cap right away to cool the engine if your radiator is steaming.

13. \_\_\_ Throwing dirt or sand on a burning engine can put out a fire if no other fire extinguisher is near.
14. \_\_\_ If your windshield wipers fail during a heavy snow or rain storm, you may have to put your head out the window in order to see where you are going.
15. \_\_\_ If your gas pedal sticks, you may have to shift into neutral and brake in order to slow your vehicle.
16. \_\_\_ Large trucks have a blind spot in front of the truck as well as on the sides and in back.
17. \_\_\_ Trucks do not need more space when turning than cars do.
18. \_\_\_ Road information is available from the Minn. Dept. of Transportation any time day or night.

1-true	7-true	13-true
2-true	8-false	14-true
3-false	9-true	15-true
4-false	10-true	16-true
5-false	11-false	17-false
6-false	12-false	18-true

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 8

1. **freeways** — often used to mean the same as expressways, interstate routes, or throughways.

2. **multi-lane** — more than one lane going in each direction.

3. **controlled access** — the number of places where you can get on or off a freeway is limited.

4. **divided highway** — one on which the traffic moving in opposite directions is separated by a fence, wall, median, or other divider.

5. **entrance ramps** — short one-way lanes going on to a freeway.

6. **acceleration lane** — lane where you gain speed to match that of vehicles already on the freeway.

7. **interchange** — intersection of two highways at different levels, which does away with dangerous left turns.

8. **cloverleaf** — an interchange which allows turning to and from all four directions. It has eight ramps.

9. **folded diamond** — similar to the diamond interchange; traffic enters and leaves the main highway while flowing with traffic.

10. **diamond** — an interchange having four ramps, which allows left turns to be made after leaving the freeway.

11. **Metropolitan** — large cities. The Metropolitan areas of Minnesota are Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

12. **rush hours** — times during the day when most people are going to work or coming back home. The streets and highways are very crowded during rush hours.

13. **merging** — blending smoothly with other traffic without having to stop.

14. **deceleration lane** — lane used to slow down when leaving the freeway.

15. **exit ramp** — lane used to leave the freeway. The deceleration lane leads to the exit ramp.

16. **weave lane** — freeway lane used by entering AND exiting traffic. This is an area where all drivers must be very careful.

17. **velocitation** — a word used to describe the feeling that you are going slower than you actually are. Drivers often experience velocitation when leaving high-speed freeway driving for much slower city driving.

## Chapter 8

# Driving the Freeways<sup>1</sup>

Freeways are multi-lane<sup>2</sup>, controlled access<sup>3</sup>, divided highways<sup>4</sup> that allow you to drive long distances faster and with less work. There are no stops or cross traffic. If you know how to use freeways, you can get where you are going sooner and more safely.

### Plan Your Trip

**Before you drive on a freeway, know where you are going. Know where to get on and off the freeway. Be sure that you have enough gas in the fuel tank. Make sure that your tires are in good condition.**

To use the freeways safely, you must know what the possible dangers are. Moving at about the same speed as other traffic is important. The faster speeds used on freeways mean that you must stay very alert.

Keeping enough following distance is important in all driving; but it is even more important on freeways, because speeds are faster and many drivers do not keep a safe following distance. If the driver behind you is “tailgating”, that is, following you too closely, increase **your** following distance enough so that if you have to slow down because of a problem ahead, you will be able to slow down gradually so the “tailgater” behind you won’t hit you.

While driving the freeways, you must do everything—changing lanes, accelerating, braking—smoothly and gradually. As much as possible, stay away from other vehicles. Have plenty of following distance and try not to get surrounded by other freeway traffic.

Slower moving vehicles should stay in the right lane. Choose the lane of traffic that is moving at a speed that suits you and stay in that lane. If you must change lanes to pass or leave the free-way, check your mirrors and check over your shoulder to make sure it is safe to make the change. Remember to signal.

If you have a breakdown on a freeway, pull completely off the traveled part of the roadway. Stay with your vehicle. Open the trunk, raise the hood, and tie a white cloth to the door handle or antenna. These are signals to any police officer that you are having trouble.

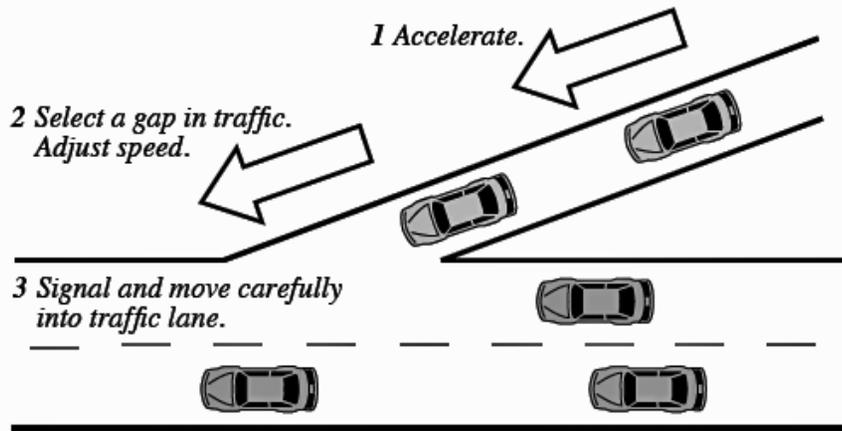
### Entering the Freeway

Entrance ramps<sup>5</sup> are short one-way lanes that help you enter a freeway safely and easily. The entrance ramp will lead to an acceleration lane<sup>6</sup> which is where you can pick up speed. As you move along on the acceleration lane try to match the speed of other traffic already on the freeway and watch for an opening. Signal and enter smoothly into the lane of traffic.

**Drivers on the freeway should make room for those entering, but you must yield to them if they do not make room.**

Do not come to a full stop in an acceleration lane unless you have no other choice.

If there is a yield sign at the end of the entrance ramp, entering traffic must obey the yield sign and stop rather than force their way into the traffic stream.



Entering the freeway smoothly is very important.

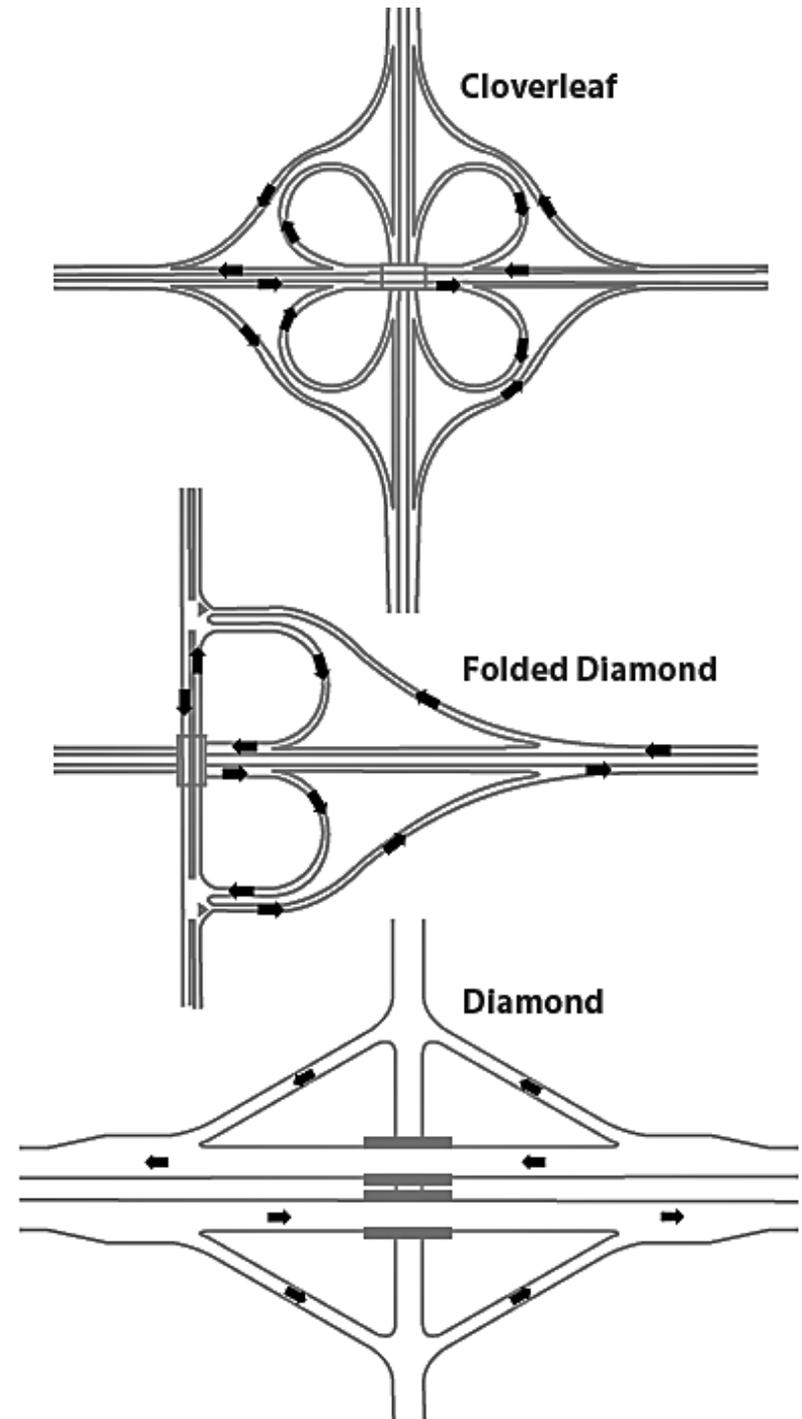
## Interchanges<sup>7</sup>

An interchange is the intersection of two highways at different levels, over and under. Interchanges make it possible for vehicles to cross, enter, or leave either highway without getting in the way of other vehicles. Three of the most common interchanges are: cloverleaf<sup>8</sup>, folded diamond<sup>9</sup>, and diamond<sup>10</sup>. On page 85 is the diverging diamond.

**Cloverleaf** : Designed to allow vehicles to turn off or onto the freeway from four different directions without turning left or crossing other traffic.

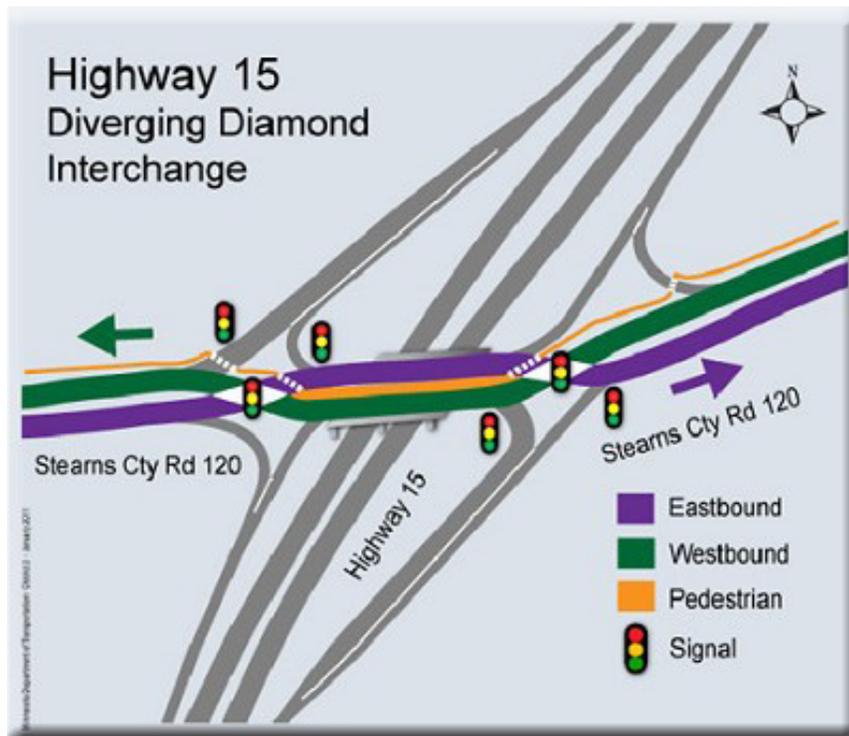
**Folded Diamond**: Has four ramps, allowing vehicles to enter or leave the freeway while flowing with the traffic. Left turns are made **AFTER** leaving the freeway.

**Diamond**: Designed to allow vehicles to enter or leave the freeway while flowing with the traffic. Turns are made **AFTER** leaving the freeway.



**Diverging Diamond:** A new type of freeway interchange will become more common in the future, and you should know about it. Named a Diverging Diamond, this interchange

- is much safer than other interchanges.
- it takes less space.
- it is cheaper to build.



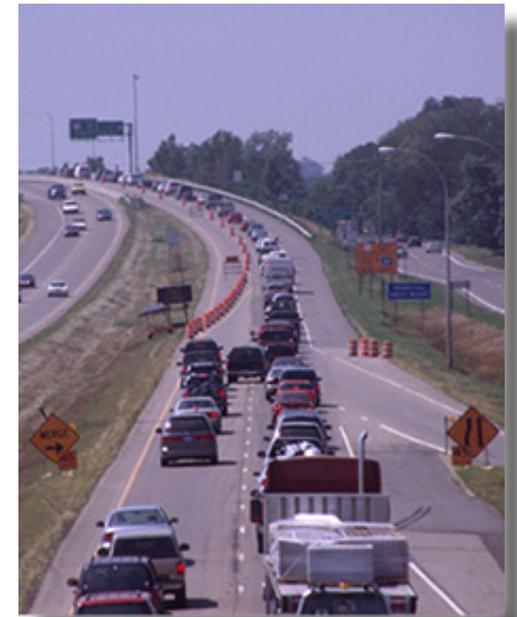
## Zipper Merge

When a lane is closed in a construction zone, a zipper merge occurs when drivers use both lanes of traffic until they reach the defined merge area, and then alternate in “zipper” fashion into the open lane.

When most drivers see the first “lane closed ahead” sign in a work zone, they slow down and move into the lane that will continue through the work area. This can lead to unexpected and dangerous lane switching, serious crashes, and driver road rage.

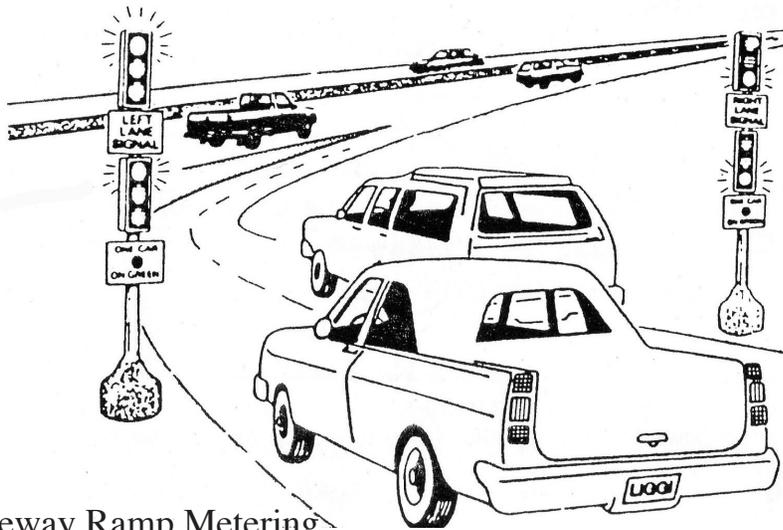
**Zipper merging benefits everyone.**

**Dangers decrease when drivers use both lanes until reaching the defined merge area and then alternate in “zipper” fashion into the open lane.**



## Freeway Ramp Metering

Ramp meters are regular traffic signals, but are only about 5 feet high. They are placed about halfway down many of the entrance ramps in the Metropolitan<sup>11</sup> area. They are turned on during rush hour<sup>12</sup> traffic to space traffic entering the freeway. Ramp signals remain green only long enough to allow one vehicle at a time to enter the freeway.



Freeway Ramp Metering

### Tips for safe, smooth merging<sup>13</sup>:

✓ The red, yellow, and green on the ramp meter mean the same as on any other traffic signal. Go only on green. Going on red is against the law.

✓ Approach slowly so you do not have to stop suddenly. If you are one of several cars coming to the signal, a sudden stop can be very dangerous.

✓ If there are many cars already waiting in line and you have not yet entered the ramp, you have three choices:

- join the line and wait your turn.
- go on to the next entrance ramp.
- go a different route.

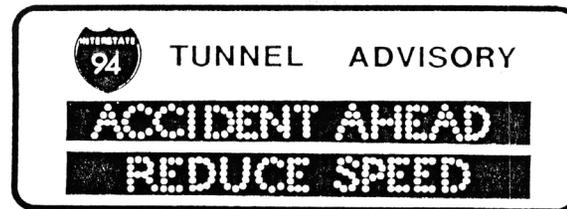
**Courtesy and the amount of time you have will help you to decide which choice to make.**

✓ If a long truck goes through the meter signal just ahead of you, wait one extra green light to give the longer vehicle time to merge.

✓ Use the acceleration lane properly. During rush hour the traffic on the freeway will be heavy. It is most important that you enter the driving lane at the same speed other traffic is going.

✓ When you are waiting for the ramp meter signal, watch for emergency vehicles that may have to use the ramp. Be ready to move to the side of the ramp so they can pass by.

## Changeable Message Signs



Changeable message signs are used on some freeways and entry and exit ramps to:

- warn drivers of accidents, stalled vehicles or other problems.
- tell drivers how many minutes it should take to get to various intersections ahead.

## Lane Use Control Signals

These are used on freeways to warn drivers of dangerous conditions ahead, or to keep drivers out of lanes blocked by accidents, stalled vehicles, road work, or other problems. Review these signals; see page 51.

## HOV (High-occupancy vehicle) lanes

In order to encourage carpooling, **HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes** were created. These freeway lanes are marked by the diamond sign and at certain times of the day can be used only by vehicles carrying the driver and at least one passenger.



## Stopping, Parking

It is against the law to park a vehicle in a traffic lane on any rural highway or freeway; and ***no parking is allowed on the shoulder of a freeway except in an emergency.***

**If you have an emergency, drive onto the shoulder and:**

- Open the trunk and raise the hood (unless it is snowing or raining).
- Tie a white cloth to the radio antenna or a door handle. Be sure it is visible.
- Use your emergency flashers.
- If possible, stay with your vehicle.
- If you must leave your vehicle, cross the highway and **walk against traffic.** Walk on the shoulder, not in the traffic lane.

The car's emergency flashers and the white cloth are emergency signals; when police officers see them, they will know that you need help.

**Running out of gas on the freeway is not an emergency,** because it does not have to happen. Persons who park on the shoulder of a freeway because their vehicle ran out of gas may get a ticket.

## Emergency Vehicles Behind

On the freeway or any divided highway, when an emergency vehicle with lights flashing or siren on comes up from behind, drivers should move to the closer side of the road and stop. Do not panic. Don't slam on your brakes and swerve into another lane. Signal the lane change.

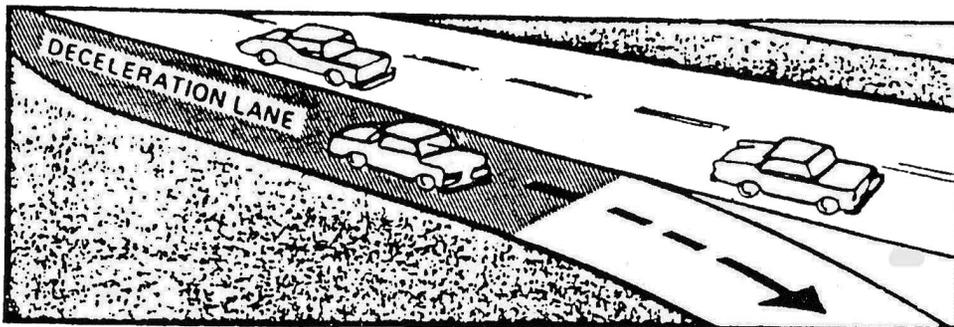
Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle is completely past. Be sure there are no other emergency vehicles coming; then start out carefully. It is against the law to follow within 500 feet of fire trucks.

## Emergency Vehicles Ahead

When an emergency vehicle - police car, fire truck, ambulance, tow truck - is stopped or parked on the side of the road ahead with its lights flashing, **move a full lane away from the emergency vehicle if at all possible. If you can't move over, SLOW DOWN.**

## Getting off the Freeway

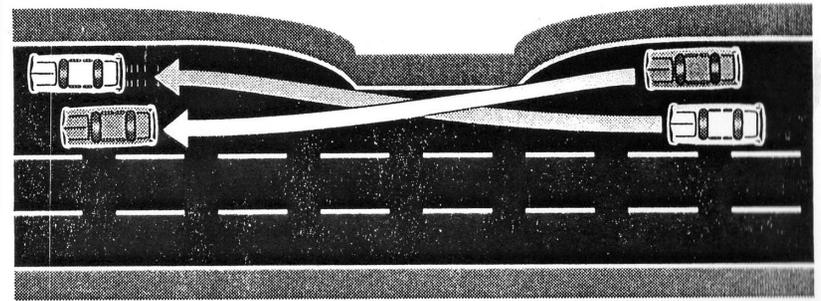
Getting off the freeway at the right exit is not always easy. Know where you want to get off. When you are on an unfamiliar freeway, watch carefully for guidance signs to tell you where the exits are. When you are near the place you want to exit, move into the correct lane as soon as safely possible. Signal your exit; then get into the deceleration lane<sup>14</sup> — a separate lane set aside for you to use when going on to an exit ramp<sup>15</sup>. It gives you time to slow down before entering the ramp without blocking other traffic. *If you miss your exit for any reason, go on to the next exit.* You cannot back up or make a U-turn.



**Signal. Don't brake on freeway.  
Move into deceleration lane; then slow down.**

## Weave Lanes<sup>16</sup>

This is an area where the same lane is used by traffic entering AND leaving the freeway. So you have to be very careful. The entering traffic is trying to pick up speed; the exiting traffic is slowing down. Avoid a problem by adjusting your speed so that you get to the “weave” area when no one else does. If you and another driver do get to the weave lane about the same time, carefully watch the other driver's actions and act accordingly.



**Be very careful when  
entering or leaving a freeway on a weave lane.**

## Good Freeway Driving Practices

- ✓ Do everything smoothly and gradually if at all possible — speeding up, slowing down, changing lanes.
- ✓ Try to drive at a consistent speed.
- ✓ Be aware of “highway hypnosis” and guard against it. (Review definition #3 on page 32.)

√ If uncomfortable with the high speeds, drive in the right lane; but watch for “Exit Only” lane signs.

√ If possible, stay out of the “wolf packs”, the groups of cars in which most of the cars are tailgating the car ahead. You are in a much safer position “all by yourself”.

√ Don’t change lanes unless necessary.

√ Anticipate any changes early.

√ Keep plenty of following distance.

√ Give other drivers every possible courtesy.

### **Velocitation<sup>17</sup>**

When you leave the freeway and its high speeds, then drive on roadways with much slower speed limits, you might feel as though you are just creeping along. This feeling is called “velocitation”. It is a normal feeling; but you must be careful to hold your speed down and not drive too fast.

## **QUIZ ON CHAPTER 8**

### **True or False:**

1. \_\_\_ Multi-lane, controlled access, divided highways are called freeways.

2. \_\_\_ It is not important to move at about the same speed as other traffic when driving on a freeway.

3. \_\_\_ It is not necessary for you to let other drivers know when you intend to leave the freeway.

4. \_\_\_ If your car breaks down on the freeway, it is important that you stay with it.

5. \_\_\_ When a police car with its flashing lights on is on the side of the road up ahead, all you need to do is to slow down.

6. \_\_\_ Lane use signals and changeable message signs are used in the Metropolitan areas to tell drivers which lanes to use and which lanes to stay out of.

7. \_\_\_ Interchanges allow vehicles to enter, cross, or leave a freeway without interrupting the flow of traffic.

8. \_\_\_ Interchanges allow most turns to be made to the right.

9. \_\_\_ The acceleration lane leads to the entrance ramp.

10. \_\_\_ The acceleration lane is the place to increase your speed to match that of traffic already using the freeway.

11. \_\_\_ You may find a yield sign at the end of the entrance ramp on some freeways.

12. \_\_\_ It is a good idea to drive in the middle of a “wolf pack”.
13. \_\_\_ The colors used on ramp meters are different from those used on other traffic signals.
14. \_\_\_ The purpose of ramp meters is to control the flow of traffic onto freeways during rush hours in the Metropolitan areas
15. \_\_\_ The deceleration lane is the place to slow down when leaving the freeway.
16. \_\_\_ If you miss your exit, it is suggested that you stop, wait for traffic to clear, then back up to thyou missed.
17. \_\_\_ A weave lane can be a problem area if drivers are not extra careful.
18. \_\_\_ “Velocitation” means that you think you are going faster than you really are.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!! NOT JUST ON THE FREEWAYS; BUT IT IS SO IMPORTANT IN ALL DRIVING!

You know that before you make any lane change you must check the blind spot in the direction you are going to move the vehicle. Here is a trick to help you to remember what to do befre making the lane change:

**S-M-O-G**

**THAT'S RIGHT – SMOG**

- S - SIGNAL YOUR MOVE.** DO IT SOON ENOUGH SO THAT OTHER DRIVERS WILL KNOW WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO.
- M - MIRROR CHECK.** CHECK YOUR INSIDE MIRROR TO SEE BEHIND, THEN YOUR LEFT OR RIGHT SIDE MIRROR.
- O - OVER THE SHOULDER.** THIS IS YOUR BLIND-SPOT CHECK.
- G - GO.** NOW THAT YOU KNOW YOUR LANE CHANGE IS SAFE, MOVE OVER.

***A GREAT MANY CRASHES  
COULD BE AVOIDED  
IF EVERY DRIVER  
ALWAYS USED "S-M-O-G"!***

10-true	1-true
11-true	2-false
12-false	3-false
13-false	4-true
14-true	5-false
15-true	6-true
16-false	7-true
17-true	8-true
18-false	9-false

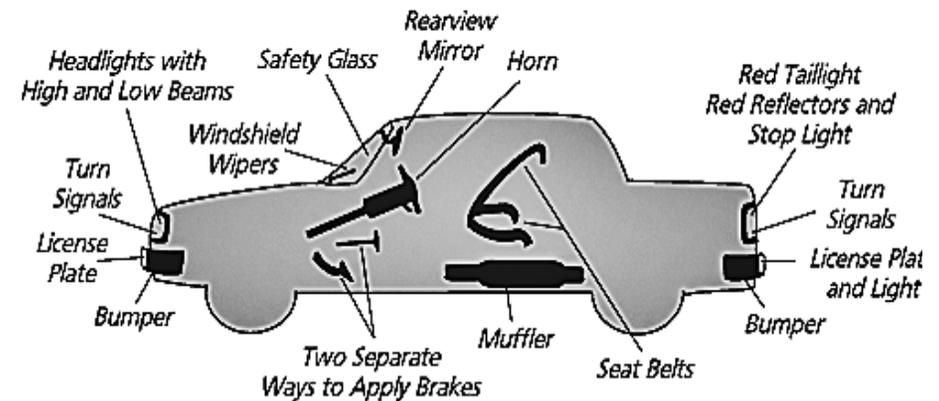
## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 9

1. **passenger vehicle** — vehicle made for carrying people.
2. **sun visor** — a flap near the windshield which you can adjust to keep the sun out of your eyes.
3. **bug deflector** — a strip of plastic placed on the hood of a car to keep bugs off the windshield.
4. **alignment** — a check to see that the front wheels, steering gear, and other parts of the car's front end are properly adjusted.
5. **serviced** — greased, oil changed, completely and carefully checked under the hood.
6. **deputy registrars** — people in different parts of the state who can take care of motor vehicle registration.
7. **current year** — the one we are in now. In 2010 you must have 2010 plates or stickers. In 2011 you must have them for 2011.

## Chapter 9 Your Vehicle

Before driving any motor vehicle on public roads in Minnesota, make sure it meets all state and federal safety standards. Also become familiar with the vehicle. Locate and identify all lights, gauges, and controls that you may have to use while driving. You should be able to use this equipment without taking your eyes off the road for more than a split second. Whenever you drive a different vehicle, take the time to become familiar with its equipment **before** you drive it.

### Your Car Must Have This Equipment



### Safety Features

Any motor vehicle driven on the public roadways of Minnesota must be equipped with the following important safety features:

## ✓ Brakes

Two separate brakes—foot brake and parking brake. Brakes on any passenger vehicle<sup>1</sup> except buses, must be able to stop the vehicle within 25 feet at a speed of 20 mph.

Some vehicles have anti-lock brakes (ABS). This braking system can help you control your vehicle in an emergency situation. When you brake with ABS, a computer senses that the wheels are slowing down. If one of the wheels is about to stop rolling, the computer separately works the brake at each wheel. In order to stop with ABS just push down hard on the brake pedal and let the system work. Don't let up on the pedal.

Remember that anti-lock brakes do not shorten your reaction time. So don't depend on ABS to stop you quicker if you are following too closely to the car ahead.

## ✓ Bumpers and Mufflers

Every passenger vehicle must have a front and a rear bumper. Pickup trucks and vans must have a front bumper and either a rear bumper or reflectors.

Every motor vehicle must have a muffler in good working order. Be sure the muffler and the entire exhaust system is not leaking poisonous carbon monoxide gas into your vehicle. Carbon monoxide is a terrible killer; and you cannot see it, smell it, or taste it.

## ✓ Lights

Your car must have two white headlights which work on both high and low beam. It must have two working red tail lights; it must have red brake lights; and it also must have a white license plate light on the rear of the car. One or two spotlights may be used; but they are not required. When used in traffic the spotlights must never aim more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle.

If your car has turn signals they must all work.

## ✓ Windows and Windshield

It is against the law to drive with a cracked windshield or one that is dirty or covered with steam, frost, ice or snow. State park stickers and other labels and stickers permitted by state law are OK on the windshield or windows. Nothing else is allowed. Objects hanging between the driver and the windshield, other than the rear view mirror and sun visors<sup>2</sup>, are not allowed.

## ✓ Windshield Wipers and Window Defrosters

Your car must have windshield wipers in good working order. Because of Minnesota's severe winter weather, windshield/window defrosters are also necessary to keep the glass surfaces of the vehicle clear of frost or steam.

## ✓ Rear View Mirrors

Your car must have an inside rear view mirror. Outside rear view mirrors are also very helpful.

## ✓ Safety Belts and Safety Seats

Just another reminder that Minnesota law says that the driver and all front seat passengers **must** be buckled up. Children ages four to ten **must** be buckled up whether they are in the front seat or the back seat. Children under four **must** use an approved Child Safety Seat. **Also remember that children under thirteen should not sit in the front seat of a car that has air bags; and everyone in the vehicle must be buckled up.**

## ✓ Horns

All motor vehicles must have a working horn to warn others. Bells, sirens, or whistles cannot be used except on emergency vehicles. Use the horn to warn bicyclists, children, and all pedestrians when they might be in danger from your vehicle. You may also use the horn to warn other drivers you are trying to pass them. It is illegal to use the horn for any reason except as a warning; and you could be arrested for using your horn without a good reason.

## ✓ Bug Deflectors

Bug deflectors<sup>3</sup> are allowed but not required. It is against the law to have a bug deflector higher than three inches above the hood or one made of material you cannot see through.

## ✓ Tires

Buy tires that are made for your vehicle.

Check the tire pressure often. Also, check the tires regularly for cuts, stones, and tread depth. Tread must be at least 1/16 of an inch deep to be legal. If tire wear is uneven, have your car's alignment<sup>4</sup> checked.

Treat your tires kindly. Do not make quick starts and stops. Slow down around corners.

If you use snow tires, have them on the car from about November to April.

Don't mix tire types, such as belted and radials, on the same axle.

Have a good spare tire in the vehicle..

## ✓ Fenders or Wheel Guards

All passenger vehicles must have fenders or other wheel guards to prevent water, dirt, or other materials from being kicked up by the wheels.

## Maintenance or Upkeep

The only safe vehicle is one that is properly cared for. Have your vehicle checked by a good mechanic at least once a year. These are some of the things to check:

✓ Both brake systems for leaking fluid, worn brake pads or linings.

✓ Engine cooling system for leaks or damaged hoses.

- ✓ Tires to insure that they are safe and have enough tread.
- ✓ Electrical system to make sure the battery is OK and that all belts are tight.
- ✓ Lights to make sure that all are working properly.

**Have your car serviced<sup>5</sup> regularly.**

## Motor Vehicle Registration

All motor vehicles using Minnesota roads must be registered. Registration may be taken care of in different ways:

- With the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in St. Paul.
- With deputy registrars<sup>6</sup> in different parts of the state.
- Through the mail.

**All vehicles must have license plates and/or stickers for the current year<sup>7</sup>.**

## QUIZ ON CHAPTER 9

### True or False:

1. \_\_\_ Maintaining your vehicle means making sure that all parts are in good working order.

2. \_\_\_ All cars must have two separate methods of braking.

3. \_\_\_ Cars must have a regular foot brake and a parking brake.

4. \_\_\_ Brakes on passenger vehicles must be able to stop the vehicle within 25 feet when traveling at 20 mph.

5. \_\_\_ It is not always necessary to have a front bumper on your vehicle.

6. \_\_\_ The purpose of a muffler is to do away with unnecessary noise.

7. \_\_\_ All lights must be able to be seen from at least 500 feet away.

8. \_\_\_ Headlight alignment or adjustment is not important.

9. \_\_\_ Red lights on the front of a vehicle are lawful only on emergency vehicles.

10. \_\_\_ Cars or trucks may have one or two spotlights.

11. \_\_\_ It is against the law to have a college or school sticker on your back window.

12. \_\_\_ It is all right to have a rabbit's foot hanging from your inside mirror as this will bring good luck.

13. \_\_\_ It is suggested in the manual that drivers use their car horns to announce their arrival as well as to call their passengers.

14. \_\_\_ Bug deflectors are allowed but not required.

15. \_\_\_ A tire is illegal if the tread is less than 1/16 of an inch deep.

16. \_\_\_ Fenders are to keep water, dirt, or other objects from being thrown up and to the rear by the wheels of the vehicle.

17. \_\_\_ All motor vehicles driven on the roads of Minnesota must be registered with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

18. \_\_\_ You may register a motor vehicle by mail.

19. \_\_\_ You should have your car serviced regularly.

11-true	1-true
12-false	2-true
13-false	3-true
14-true	4-true
15-true	5-false
16-true	6-true
17-true	7-true
18-true	8-false
19-true	9-true
	10-true

Before you move the vehicle, be sure you are fit and alert. Buckle up; lock the doors; turn lights on if car does not have daytime running lights. "Lights on for safety."

Make smooth and gradual starts and stops.

Before entering any intersection, be sure you have the right of way; and your path is clear and safe.

When stopped behind a vehicle, you should be able to see its tires touching the roadway. Don't get too close.

Before you move right or left, always S-M-O-G.

Make "SIPDE" and "The Five Keys"(pages 41 - 42) part of all your driving.

## Words You Need to Know to Understand Chapter 10

1. **compulsory** — something required by law.

2. **no-fault** — the insurance that pays for persons who are hurt in vehicle crashes.

3. **liability** — the insurance that covers the cost of the vehicle or other property that is damaged in a crash. If the crash is your fault, your liability insurance pays for the damages done to the other party. If the crash is the fault of the other driver, his liability insurance pays for the damages done to you and your car.

## Chapter 10

# Insurance and Organ Donation

In Minnesota, it is compulsory<sup>1</sup> to have "no-fault"<sup>2</sup> insurance. The Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance Act is a law that says anyone driving a vehicle in Minnesota must have no-fault and liability<sup>3</sup> insurance.

With no-fault insurance when a driver is insured, that driver's insurance company must pay for the driver's personal injury no matter whose fault the accident may be.

Every vehicle owner must also have liability insurance to cover the costs of the other driver's damages if the owner is responsible for a crash.

Each time a vehicle is registered, the owner must prove that he or she has this insurance. If the person does not keep this insurance paid, his license plates and registration card may be taken away.

Driving an uninsured vehicle can result in a revocation of license plates and registration for that vehicle. In addition, driving privileges may be revoked for one year. Anyone who is convicted of driving an uninsured vehicle may be fined up to \$1,000 and sentenced to up to 90 days in jail.

Motorcycle owners are not required by law to be covered by no-fault insurance, but they can get the insurance if they wish. **Motorcycles must be covered by liability insurance, however.**

## Law Requires Proof of Insurance

A driver must always carry proof that his vehicle is covered by insurance. He must show that proof if asked to do so by a police officer. If the driver does not have the proof with him, the officer may give him a ticket. When the driver appears in court on this matter, if he cannot prove that the insurance was in effect when the ticket was given, his license may be revoked. Many owners keep a copy of the "proof of insurance" in the glove compartment of the car.

## Organ and Tissue Donation

When you fill out the application for your driver's permit ( and later on your application for your driver's license), you will have the opportunity to indicate that you wish to be an organ and tissue donor. As an organ/tissue donor, you consent that after death your organs and tissues may be used to help someone in need. Drivers under age 18 need the consent of their parents to participate in this life-saving program.

- Every day, 18 people die while waiting for an organ transplant.
- More than 105,000 men, women, and children in the United States are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

- Every twelve minutes a new name is added to the transplant waiting list.

- One donor can save or improve up to 60 lives through organ donation, and can improve the lives of more than 40 others.

- Organs and tissues that can be donated include heart, lungs, liver, kidney, pancreas, intestines, corneas, skin, heart valves, bone and connective tissue.

- Organ transplants are successful treatments that give a second chance at life for thousands of people each year.

- More than 2 million Minnesotans have registered as organ and tissue donors.

**For more information about donating, contact Life Source at 1-888-5-DONATE (1-888-536-6283).**

**Check the box on the application of your driver's permit or driver's license:**

*Save a life:  
Be an organ or tissue donor*

## **QUIZ ON CHAPTER 10**

### **True or False:**

1. \_\_\_ All motor vehicles except motorcycles must be covered by no-fault and liability insurance.

2. \_\_\_ Insurance companies must provide for the payment of benefits resulting from injury or death no matter whose fault the accident was.

3. \_\_\_ Each time a vehicle is registered with the Motor Vehicle Division, the owner must prove that the vehicle is covered by insurance. 4. \_\_\_ You may have to turn in your license plates and registration card if you do not keep up your insurance.

5. \_\_\_ Driving a vehicle not covered by insurance may result in the cancellation of your driver license.

6. \_\_\_ Even though a vehicle is properly insured, if you cannot prove that it is, you may get a ticket.

7. \_\_\_ Motorcycles do not need to be covered by liability insurance.

8. \_\_\_ No-fault insurance may be carried but is not required by law for owners of motorcycles.

9. \_\_\_ Drivers under 18 need parental consent to be an organ donor.

1-true  
2-true  
3-true  
4-true  
5-false  
6-true  
7-false  
8-true  
9-true

**Every crash has a cost. On an average day in 2010, there were 203 crashes, 1.1 deaths, and 85 injuries. The average daily cost is \$4,047,640.**

If you have access to the Internet, check out the Web site [www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org). This is the site of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division (DVS). You can:

- Schedule a road test.
- Check your driver's license status.
- Download forms - even the state driver's manual!
- And more...

The main telephone number of the DVS is:  
651 296-6911

## Review Quiz: Chapters 7-10:

1. \_\_\_ By law headlights must be turned on from sunset to sunrise.
2. \_\_\_ During rain, snow, or fog it is OK to use parking lights instead of headlights.
3. \_\_\_ The only cure for fatigue is rest.
4. \_\_\_ Running out of gas on the freeway is a true emergency; the police will not give you a ticket.
5. \_\_\_ Use low-beam headlights only when traffic is coming toward you.
6. \_\_\_ Carbon monoxide has a bad smell.
7. \_\_\_ If your car “breaks down” on the freeway, walk to the nearest milepost sign and wait for help.
8. \_\_\_ Because freeways have more than one lane going in the same direction, it does not make any difference which lane you drive in.
9. \_\_\_ Your liability insurance coverage pays for the other driver’s repair bills if the collision is your fault.

1-true  
2-false  
3-true  
4-false  
5-false  
6-false  
7-false  
8-false  
9-true