

**The Rules of the Road for  
Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles,  
Pedestrians and Bicyclists**

*Together We Can Save Lives.*

*Turn Headlights on with  
Windshield Wipers, It's Our Law!*



# Maryland Driver's HANDBOOK

# Maryland Driver's HANDBOOK

## **Maryland's MVA—Committed to Safety, Service and You!**

As employees and agents of the MVA, we are committed to providing excellent customer service, promoting a safe driving environment and protecting consumer interests.

## **Driving Privilege**

Driving a motor vehicle in Maryland is a privilege and not a “right.” Your driver’s license grants you the privilege to operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of Maryland safely and responsibly.

## **Obtaining a False or Forged Identification Card, Driver's License or Permit**

The law states that if you attempt to secure a false or fraudulent identification card, driver’s license or permit, or knowingly possess a false or fraudulent identification card, driver’s license or permit, you may be subject to:

- Federal Law:** A fine or imprisonment of not more than 15 years or both.
- State Law:** Imprisonment for not less than two or more than 10 years.

## **Consumer Services**

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) licenses and regulates vehicles, dealers, driving schools, title services, auto dismantlers, scrap processors and manufacturers of passenger cars, station wagons, trucks and motor homes. For complaints or questions about the operation of these businesses, please contact the MVA’s Business Licensing.

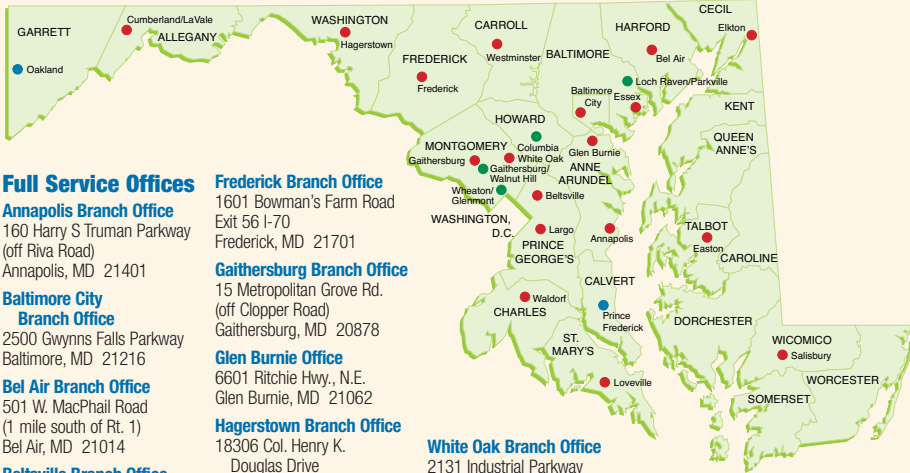
## **Notice to Applicant: Implied Consent**

In Maryland, any person who drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a highway or on any private property used by the public in general, consents to take a test to determine alcohol concentration or a test to determine the concentration of a drug or controlled dangerous substance. Testing is free of charge to the driver and there shall be a breath test to determine alcohol concentration, unless the driver or other persons require medical treatment for serious or life threatening injury, or the test equipment is unavailable. In that event, the test shall be a blood test. A test to determine drug or controlled dangerous substance content shall also be a blood test.

The MVA will suspend the license of any driver who refuses to take a test. A first time test refusal will result in a 120-day license suspension and a second time test refusal will result in a one-year license suspension.

Locations

General Information:  
[www.MVA.Maryland.gov](http://www.MVA.Maryland.gov)  
 1-800-950-1MVA or 1-800-950-1682



**Full Service Offices**

**Annapolis Branch Office**

160 Harry S Truman Parkway  
 (off Riva Road)  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

**Baltimore City Branch Office**

2500 Gwynns Falls Parkway  
 Baltimore, MD 21216

**Bel Air Branch Office**

501 W. MacPhail Road  
 (1 mile south of Rt. 1)  
 Bel Air, MD 21014

**Beltsville Branch Office**

11760 Baltimore Avenue  
 Beltsville, MD 20705

**Cumberland Branch Office**

13300 Winchester Rd., SW  
 Cumberland, MD 21502

**Easton Branch Office**

9148 Centreville Rd.  
 Easton, MD 21601

**Elkton Branch Office**

105-Chesapeake Blvd.,  
 Suite A  
 Upper Chesapeake  
 Corporate Center  
 Elkton, MD 21921

**Essex Branch Office**

1338 A Eastern Avenue  
 Baltimore, MD 21221

**Frederick Branch Office**

1601 Bowman's Farm Road  
 Exit 56 I-70  
 Frederick, MD 21701

**Gaithersburg Branch Office**

15 Metropolitan Grove Rd.  
 (off Clopper Road)  
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878

**Glen Burnie Office**

6601 Ritchie Hwy., N.E.  
 Glen Burnie, MD 21062

**Hagerstown Branch Office**

18306 Col. Henry K.  
 Douglas Drive  
 Hagerstown, MD 21740

**Largo Branch Office**

10251 Central Avenue  
 (Near Routes 202 & 214)  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**Loveville Branch Office**

27351 Point Lookout Road  
 Leonardtown, MD 20650

**Salisbury Branch Office**

251 Tilghman Road  
 Salisbury, MD 21801

**Waldorf Branch Office**

11 Industrial Park Drive  
 St. Charles Business Park  
 Waldorf, MD 20602

**Westminster Branch Office**

1106 Baltimore Blvd.  
 Westminster, MD 21157

**White Oak Branch Office**

2131 Industrial Parkway  
 White Oak, MD 20904

**Express Offices**

**Columbia Express Office**

6490 Dobbin Road  
 Columbia, MD 21045

**Glenmont Express Office**

12335 Unit C & D Georgia  
 Avenue  
 (at Randolph Road)  
 Silver Spring, MD 20906

**Loch Raven/Parkville Express Office**

8966 Waltham Woods Road  
 (North Plaza Shopping Center)  
 Parkville, MD 21234

**Oakland Office**

Rt. 135 and Weber Road  
 (at Brownings Food Land)  
 Oakland, MD 21550

**Prince Frederick Office**

200 Duke Street LL100  
 Prince Frederick, MD 20678

**Walnut Hill Express**

16516 South Westland Drive  
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Closed on Official State Holidays.** The Motor Vehicle Administration has other locations for Driver Licensing Services only. Call 1-800-950-1MVA for additional branch hour information.

**For 24 Hour Recorded MVA Information, Call:**  
 410-768-7000

**TTY for the Hearing Impaired:**  
 1-800-492-4575

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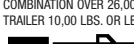



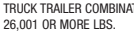
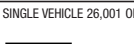

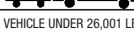

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Maryland Driver's Handbook

**THE MARYLAND CLASSIFIED LICENSE PROGRAM  
ONE LICENSE - SEVEN CLASSES**

**CAN OPERATE WITH THIS LICENSE**

↓

Class "M" NONCOMMERCIAL	Class "C" NONCOMMERCIAL	Class "B" NONCOMMERCIAL	Class "A" NONCOMMERCIAL	Class "C" COMMERCIAL	Class "B" COMMERCIAL	Class "A" COMMERCIAL	
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	TRACTOR TRAILER COMBINATION 
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	TRUCK TRAILER, TRAILER OVER 10,000 LBS. 
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	SINGLE VEHICLE 26,001 OR MORE LBS. 
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	SINGLE VEHICLE 26,001 OR MORE LBS. TRAILER 10,000 LBS. OR LESS 
NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	VEHICLE UNDER 26,001 LBS. COMBINATION OVER 26,001 LBS. TRAILER 10,000 LBS. OR LESS 
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	BUS, 16 OR MORE PASSENGERS GWW UNDER 26,001 LBS. 
NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	BUS, 16 OR MORE PASSENGERS, GWW UNDER 26,001 LBS. 
NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	TRACTOR TRAILER COMBINATIONS 
NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	TRUCK TRAILER COMBINATIONS 26,001 OR MORE LBS. 
NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	SINGLE VEHICLE 26,001 OR MORE LBS. 
NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	VEHICLE COMBINATION UNDER 26,001 LBS. 
NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	VEHICLE UNDER 26,001 LBS. 
YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	MOTORCYCLES 

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLES: FIREFIGHTERS, RESCUE SQUADS AND CERTAIN FARMERS**

**ENDORSEMENTS REQUIRED TO OPERATE SOME COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

**Driving Test for:****Type of Vehicle Required:**

Noncommercial  
Class "A" License

Noncommercial tractor/trailer –  
(class F tractor and class G freight  
semi-trailer)

Noncommercial  
Class "B" License

Noncommercial truck with a gross  
vehicle weight (GVW) of 26,001 or  
more pounds, or a combination of  
vehicles, (except a class F tractor  
and class G semi-trailer), which has  
a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of  
26,001 or more pounds.

Noncommercial  
Class "C" License

Automobile, station wagon, light  
truck, or any motor vehicle, except  
motorcycles, with a gross vehicle  
weight of less than 26,000 pounds

The driving test is designed to assess your driving ability and your observance of traffic laws. The driving test may include "off-street" maneuvers and driving in traffic.

A driving test will not be conducted in a vehicle with defective equipment. A person properly licensed to drive vehicles of that class or higher class who is at least 21 years old with three years driving experience must accompany you to take the test. A younger or less experienced holder of a license for the class vehicle for which you are testing may drive the test vehicle to the examination station and to the starting point where the examiner begins the test. You must wear a seat belt when taking the driving test.

No one other than the applicant and examiner are permitted in the vehicle during the test. However, an examiner's supervisor may be present to observe the manner in which the test is being conducted. The examiner will not attempt to trick you during the driving test. You will not be asked to do anything unlawful and the examiner cannot assist you during any part of the test.

The Test is Designed to Ensure that You Can Operate a Motor Vehicle Safely. The Test Includes:

- Safe driving practices
- Correct signals
- Vehicle control
- General awareness
- Obeying the law
- Judgment

The vehicle must be operated in a safe manner. For example, you may not use your left foot to brake; you may not "palm" the steering wheel, etc.

**Vehicles Used for Testing**

- Must be properly registered and license plates properly displayed
- No cracks in windshield
- Both front doors must open and close properly from inside and outside
- Headlight and taillight lenses must be present and intact
- Exhaust system must be present and free from harmful leaks
- The examiner will check the vehicle for other safety and regulation issues, which may disqualify the vehicle for testing purposes

### Driver Licensing Vehicle/Test Check List

TO: THE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANT AND SUPERVISING DRIVER  
 BEFORE APPEARING FOR YOUR LICENSING TEST CHECK YOUR VEHICLE FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CHECK LIST (BOTH SIDES) AND GIVE TO THE TESTING EXAMINER

	CHECKLIST	
	YES	NO
<u>YOU (THE APPLICANT)</u>		
Do you have your original driver education certificate with you?		
Do you have your completed & signed skills log?		
If you are required to wear eyeglasses while driving, are you wearing them?		
If you have an out of country driver's license - Do you have your 3 hour drug and alcohol certificate?		
<u>YOUR ACCOMPANYING DRIVER</u>		
Does he/she have a valid operator's license (not expired) in their possession?		
If your licensed accompanying driver is under 21 years of age and has less than 3 years experience, is he/she driving the vehicle to the test start point?		
<u>YOUR TEST VEHICLE</u>		
Is the vehicle properly registered? Does it display both front and rear license plates? Are the plates securely mounted to the vehicle and are the current validation stickers displayed on the proper plate? (NOTE: Vehicles registered in Maryland require two (2) registration plates with current validation stickers displayed on the rear plate) Must have registration card.		
Is the windshield free of cracks?		
Do the windows roll up and down on the driver's and front passenger's side?		
Are there operable seat belts for both driver and front passenger?		
Do the tires have adequate tread (no cords showing) and are they free of bulges? (NOTE: no spare tire donuts) All lug nuts present?		
Are all headlights present and intact? And working?		
Are all taillight lenses present and intact? And working?		
Are the turn signals/hazard signals and lenses present and intact? And working?		
Are the brake lights and lenses present and intact? And working?		
Are there two (2) rearview mirrors present, intact, and not broken?		
Are the front seats present, securely mounted and free of debris and protruding springs? Adjusts properly?		

	YES	NO
Is the glove box secured using latch or tape? (must be closed)		
Is the exhaust system present and free of harmful leaks in the passenger area?		
Are the vehicle's brakes adequate? (Example pedal does not sink to the floor, vehicle does not pull to one side or the other when the brakes are applied, etc.) Emergency brake operable?		
Are the windshield wipers present and in working order in the event of inclement weather? Including washer fluid?		
Are there any dash board warning indicator lights on?		
The heater/defroster are working properly.		
Is the gas cap present?		
Fuel Level - MUST have at least 1/4 tank or more in gas.		
Is the interior of the vehicle free of loose objects which may be a hazard?		
Is the vehicle's accelerator adjusted properly? (Idle adjustment not set too high where vehicle moves without use of accelerator)		
Rental vehicle applicant's name MUST appear on contract as a driver.		

Note: Any vehicle condition that affects the safety of the applicant, examiner or any other nearby persons may disqualify the vehicle for the test.

If all answers are yes proceed to the test area. I understand that if I proceed to the test area and my vehicle does not pass the pre-trip inspection check list, my vehicle will be disqualified and I must come back another day for the driving test. If you answer NO to any of these questions please return to the information counter.

**Applicants may be disqualified if they are unable to operate any of this vehicle's equipment.**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is properly insured and registered. I understand that  
(vehicle license plate number)  
 this vehicle will be used for the driving test. In the event that the test would be stopped, I understand that the examiner would be returning the vehicle back to the MVA or the test course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (APPLICANT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (SUPERVISING DRIVER)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (EXAMINER)

## The Driving Tests

### Examination Locations

Driver license examinations are conducted at the Motor Vehicle Administration office in Glen Burnie and at branch offices located throughout the state.



All driving tests for Class A, B, and C Non-Commercial licenses will be conducted by appointment only. The Commercial Driver License test schedule containing locations, dates and business hours may be obtained from any branch office.

Your driver's skills test for a provisional driver's license must be scheduled in advance by calling 1-888-212-4709 for an appointment.

## The Tests\*

The required examinations include a test of the applicant's: (1) vision; (2) ability to read and understand all traffic signs; (3) knowledge of Maryland's traffic laws; (4) satisfactory operation of a motor vehicle; and (5) any physical and mental examinations the MVA may find necessary to determine the applicant's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

If one fails any portion of the test he/she may retake the test the next day. If one fails a second test or subsequent test, he/she must wait seven calendar days before a new test can be taken.

*\*The information for the tests is contained throughout this guide.*

## Vision Requirements

A minimum visual acuity of 20/40 in each eye, a continuous field of vision of at least 140 degrees and binocular vision is required for an unrestricted license. If lenses can correct the applicant's vision to meet the requirements, the learner's permit or license issued will indicate the appropriate restriction. The licensee will be required to wear glasses or contact lenses while driving a motor vehicle.

## Road Signs

One must be able to read and explain all highway signs. The license examiner will check to see if attention to the signs is paid during the driving test.

## Traffic Laws and Rules of the Road

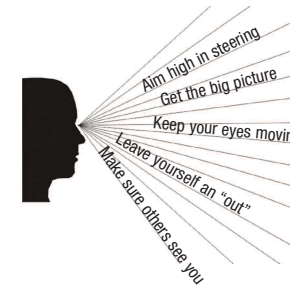
Traffic laws are intended to prevent crashes and keep traffic moving. If you violate the law, you can cause crashes and slow traffic. To obey the law, you must know the law. This part of the booklet includes both the law and some good advice about safe driving. The advice is based upon the knowledge of the main causes of crashes.

## Risk Management

Driving has four main parts.

(1) looking and seeing, (2) thinking and deciding, (3) letting others know what you are going to do, and (4) doing it.

All of the laws and the advice you will read about in the following pages will come under these main headings.



### Looking and Seeing

You look with your eyes but you see with your mind. Keeping an alert mind to what is going on around you will prepare you for the important decisions you must make when you drive.

### Thinking and Deciding

After you see what is important, you must think about them and decide what to do. If you are interested in your own safety and the safety of others, you will decide what to do on the basis of the least risk.

Notice that we said the least risk. All driving involves some risk. The smart driver quickly sizes up the situation, realizes that there are several different things he/she might do and decides to do the thing that involves the least risk.

### Letting Others Know What You Are Going To Do

Other drivers and pedestrians on the road must know what you are going to do if they are to keep out of your way. You let them know through hand signals, turn signals, headlights, brake lights and by the position of your vehicle.

### Doing

When you have decided what you are going to do, you must do it using all your driving experience and skills.

## Obeying Traffic Laws

You must obey all of Maryland's traffic laws. You have a responsibility to obey road signs, traffic signals, lane markings, the orders of police officers, and in emergency situations, the direction of firefighters.



## Knowledge Test

The knowledge test is designed to check one's knowledge of traffic laws, rules of the road, motor vehicle laws, and safe driving practices. The information on which one will be tested is in these guides. Fifteen minutes are allotted for the test. The test may be automated, written, or oral.

### Sample questions for a class C noncommercial license

1. If a traffic signal light is green and a police officer signals you to stop, you should:
  - A. Obey the traffic officer.
  - B. Obey the traffic signal.
  - C. First obey the traffic officer, then the signal.
  - D. Do what the vehicle in front of you does.
2. The best way to tell if you are permitted to pass other vehicles is to see if:
  - A. There is a green flashing light.
  - B. The road ahead is straight.
  - C. The vehicle ahead signals that it is OK to pass.
  - D. There are solid or broken lane markings.

3. When on a short entrance to an interstate where there is no acceleration lane:

- A. Enter the far right traffic lane and speed up to the flow of traffic there.
- B. Use the shoulder of the main road to get up to the speed of the traffic.
- C. Speed up on the entrance only after you have found a gap in traffic.

Answers: 1. A 2. D 3. C A Passing Score is 85%.

### Sample questions for a class A & B noncommercial license

1. Double clutching is used:
  - A. When shifting gears
  - B. When backing up
  - C. To weigh the vehicle with its load
  - D. To coast downhill
2. Gross weight means:
  - A. Weight of vehicle
  - B. Weight of load
  - C. Weight of vehicle plus load
  - D. Weight of vehicle minus load

Answers: 1. A 2. C

Because of the similarities in the tests, you may consider it worth your while to apply for a commercial driver's license.

Applicants applying for a driver's license, who experience problems testing due to speech, hearing, language or reading difficulties, should contact the examiner in charge for assistance.

## General Laws

- You must know the general laws.
- You commit a misdemeanor when you disregard any traffic law or fail to do something required by the law.



- You must obey the instructions of a police officer even though they may be contrary to laws, signs, signals, and markings. Such instructions are necessary occasionally to keep traffic moving safely.
- You must not try to evade a traffic signal or road sign by leaving the road and traveling across private property.

### Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

Today's drivers are becoming increasingly frustrated on roads that routinely handle double the number of cars of 20 years ago. Rush hour traffic, the increasing number of construction sites (work zones) and traffic crashes add to the driver's frustration.

Frustrated drivers often engage in:

- Tailgating
- Unsafe lane changing
- Speeding
- Running red lights and stop signs

A person is guilty of aggressive driving if he or she commits 3 or more of the following offenses at the same time or during a single and continuous period of driving:

- Failing to obey a traffic light with a steady indication
- Improperly overtaking and passing a vehicle
- Improperly passing on the right
- Failing to properly obey lane markings
- Following too closely
- Failure to yield right-of-way
- Exceeding the maximum speed limit

#### Simple Rules to Reduce Road Rage and Aggressive Driving

- Always allow extra travel time
- Do not remain behind the wheel for more than three hours at a time
- Maintain an adequate distance from the vehicle in front of you so you will be able to stop in time to avoid a collision
- Always signal your intention when turning or changing lanes
- Always come to a full stop at red lights and stop signs. Do not run yellow lights.
- Let other drivers merge into traffic in an orderly fashion
- Do not block the passing lane
- Obey posted speed limits

- Concentrate on your driving — not on your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions
- Use your horn sparingly, only to remind other drivers of your presence
- Never engage in inappropriate behavior such as making faces or rude or obscene gestures
- Avoid eye contact with other drivers
- Extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times.

All drivers must do their part in making driving a safer, less stressful and more pleasant experience.

### Reckless Driving

A person is guilty of reckless driving if he drives a motor vehicle:

- In wanton or willful disregard for the safety of people or property; or
- In a manner that indicates a wanton or willful disregard for the safety of people or property.

### Negligent Driving

A person is guilty of negligent driving if he or she drives a motor vehicle in a careless or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life of any individual.

### Drag Races

You must not engage in any vehicle race, speed exhibition, or speed contest including those commonly known as drag races on any public street, road, or highway.

### Crashes

In accordance with the Motor Vehicle Law, there are certain duties to be performed when you are involved in a crash. The main duties of any driver involved in a crash are to:

- Stop
- Stop as close to the scene as possible and remain until you have aided any injured person and identified yourself. If possible, move your car away from the line of traffic.

- **Aid any injured person:** You must render assistance to any person injured in the crash. Depending upon the extent of the injury, assistance in most instances is accomplished by calling for an ambulance. Normally, you should not attempt to move a person who is unconscious or seriously hurt.
- **Identify yourself:** Drivers involved in crashes must give their name, address and the registration number of the vehicle they are driving. Upon request, show your Driver's License to other person(s) involved in the crash. If no one is in condition to receive the information and no police officer is present, you must, as soon as possible, report this information to the nearest police department.
- **Provide insurance information:** You must give the name and address of your insurance company, the name and address of the local agent or local office, and your policy number or other identifying number.
- **Leave written notice:** If an unattended vehicle or other property is damaged, an attempt must be made to locate the owner. If the owner cannot be located, a written notice giving the identifying information listed above must be left in or on the damaged vehicle or property in a conspicuous and secure place.
- **Make required report:** If any person is injured or killed, a written report must be filed with the Motor Vehicle Administration within 15 days unless the police investigate the crash. A crash report is not required to be filed when there is only property damage.
- Any motor vehicle crash in which you are involved should be reported to your insurance company.

### **Duty of a Motorist Striking a Domestic Animal with a Motor Vehicle**

If you should strike and injure a domestic animal with a motor vehicle, the law requires you to immediately notify the police department having jurisdiction in the area where the crash occurred. The police will contact the proper agency to obtain medical care for the animal.

### **Safe Driving Practices**

Keep your mind on your driving, obey the laws, be courteous to other highway users, and you will never have to blame yourself for the death or injury of another human being. Although you may obey

the traffic laws, you still can be involved in a traffic crash. Other drivers may not obey traffic laws, or they may not be alert, or their vehicles may be in poor mechanical condition. To be a safe driver, you must be alert, foresee danger and make allowances for the mistakes of others. This section suggests safety practices that will help you to avoid crashes or, when unavoidable, to reduce their severity.

**To insure your safety, basic safety rules are very important:**

- Look over the condition of the outside of the vehicle – inspect tires, look for loose objects, leaks, etc.
- Adjust the seat
- Adjust mirrors
- Properly fasten seat belts
- Insert key and start engine
- Before starting off, think how adverse conditions, such as light, weather, road and traffic conditions will affect your trip
- Always check vehicle brake lights and signals before you drive.

### **Turning**

**Safe turning requires planning:**

- Make up your mind well in advance of reaching the turning point. Last minute decisions often cause crashes.
- Move into the proper lane well before you need to make the turn. The faster the traffic flows, the sooner you should get into the proper lane.
- Look behind you and to both sides. Signal your intention as required by law before changing lanes.
- Slow down to a reasonable turning speed but do so gradually. The only exception is when you are leaving an interstate or other limited access highway (see interstate and other limited-access highways in this chapter).
- Make the turn according to the law.

### **Backing**

Backing a motor vehicle requires skill and good judgment. Under certain conditions, it is safe to back up only with a person outside the vehicle to guide you. **In most conditions, it is safe to back up provided you turn your head and look back and to both sides.** Don't depend on the one rearview mirror alone.

Never back up fast or far; instead, find a way to turn around. Never back out or into an intersection; instead, turn into a side street and turn around there or drive around the block. If you use a driveway to turn around, it is safer to back into it and drive out than vice versa. Back out of angled parking spaces carefully. Above all, watch for children walking, running or playing on toy cars or tricycles.

### Use of the Horn

Sound your horn only to warn a pedestrian or the driver of another vehicle of your presence. The horn is not intended to take the place of brakes. Never use the horn in a posted “quiet zone” unless in an emergency.

Do not use your horn to alert a cyclist of your approach in a non-emergency situation. A loud horn can cause a cyclist to lose control.

### Starting from a Garage or Driveway

- Watch for nearby vehicles or pedestrians.
- Move carefully to join traffic at the proper speed.
- When you must back out, be sure to look behind your car first. You may need to leave your car to be sure there is nothing in your way.
- Watch carefully behind the vehicle through the mirrors and by turning your head to look out the window while you are backing up.
- Stop before entering the street and look again before proceeding.

### Hand Signals Under Special Conditions

Use hand signals in addition to your turn signals when the sun is shining brightly and when vehicles immediately behind you obscure your turn signal.

### Crowding Inside the Vehicle

Never let passengers or parcels crowd you while you are driving. Never let anything in the vehicle obstruct your vision in all directions.

### Pets

Keep pets away from you as you drive. Do not let them sit on your lap or get fresh air from the driver's side window.

### Loose Objects

Loose objects, particularly those on the front dash board and the rear window shelf, can become projectiles in a crash. Put loose objects in the trunk or on the floor, since even objects on seats can fly up and strike you or another passenger. A falling bag of groceries may take your eyes off the road or your hands off the steering wheel. Keep objects off the floor that would interfere with the brake or gas pedals.

### Driving Past Parked Cars

When driving past parked cars, watch out for pedestrians (especially children), and bicyclists stepping out or running from between cars. Watch out for opening car doors.

### Driving Conditions

#### When to Reduce Speed

You must slow down when:

- Coming to an intersection, railroad grade crossing, curve, or the crest of a hill.
- Near playgrounds and schools, or where children are playing.
- Traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway.
- There is danger to pedestrians.
- Weather or highway conditions, or your own condition, require slower speeds for safety.

Never drive so slowly as to interfere with other vehicles moving at normal speeds. Drivers who block or hinder other traffic by driving too slowly can cause crashes.

### Wet Pavements

Wet pavements are far more slippery than dry pavement. When the road is wet, it is much more difficult to hold the road on curves and it takes a longer distance to stop. Be especially careful at the beginning of a light rain; the mixture of oil and water on the pavement is

particularly dangerous. The oils and other vehicle fluids have not been washed away yet as they would after a rain of several hours. Similarly, watch out for wet leaves on pavement in the autumn.

## Hydroplaning

At speeds up to 35 miles per hour, most tires with tread will “wipe” the road surface the way a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. As speed increases, the wiping action of the tires becomes less effective and tires start to ride on a layer of water just as with a water ski. This is called “hydroplaning.”

Partial hydroplaning may start at 35 miles per hour. The extent of hydroplaning increases with speed and with the amount of water on the highway. At 55 miles per hour in a severe rainstorm, the tires may lose contact with the pavement. When this happens, you cannot brake, accelerate or properly turn.

Good tires with deep treads will help to prevent hydroplaning. However, when the depth of water exceeds the tread depth, you can expect to hydroplane at 50 to 60 miles per hour. As soon as you feel any loss of control, take your foot off the gas pedal and hold the steering wheel firmly in the direction you intend to go. Allow your vehicle speed to decrease until you regain complete control of the vehicle.

## Following Distance

Leave as much space between your vehicle and the one ahead as you possibly can. Most rear-end collisions are caused by following too closely.

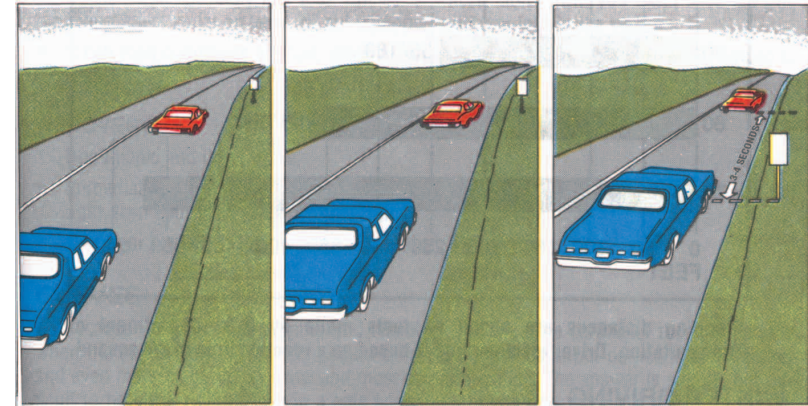
Watch the car ahead of you when it passes a reference point, such as a sign or overpass. Then count “one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four.” If you pass the same spot before you are finished counting to one thousand four, you are following too closely.

When you are following vehicles which stop often (buses, post office

vans) you should allow more following distance than usual. When driving in bad weather, you should increase the distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you to four or five seconds.

*Remember don't cut trucks off. It takes much more time and distance for a truck to stop.*

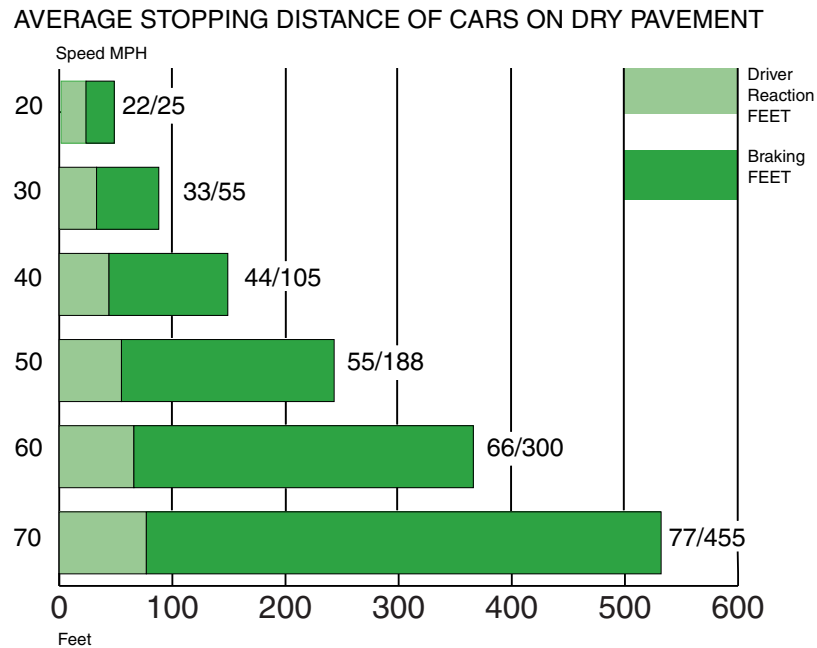
## Three to Four Second Following Distance Rule



## Stopping Distance

The distance in which you can stop your vehicle is important in helping you to choose a safe driving speed. The chart that follows can be used as a rough guide, but your actual stopping distance will depend upon many factors, including:

- The length of time it takes a driver to see and recognize that there is a dangerous situation.
- The length of time it takes from the perception of danger to the start of braking - 3/4 second.
- Type and condition of the pavement.
- Percentage of grade of roadway.
- Kind and condition of tire treads.
- Vehicle design and condition of shock absorbers.
- Type and condition of brakes.
- Direction and speed of the wind.



Stopping distances are based on tests made by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The driver reaction time is based on a reaction time of  $\frac{3}{4}$  second.

## Distracted Driver Syndrome

### The Problem

Driving is a risky activity. Each year, more than 40,000 people are killed in motor vehicle crashes and over three million people are injured. Research indicates that in more than 50 percent of all crashes, driver inattention was a contributing factor.

How does driver distraction affect driving performance? Driving instructors estimate that a driver makes 200 decisions for every mile of driving. If you are mentally solving business or family problems while driving, you are adding to the total workload in your brain. If you take your eyes off the road for three to four seconds, your vehicle travels the length of a football field if you are going 55 miles per hour. Other factors, such as fatigue, weather and traffic conditions, can increase the negative impact of distractions on driving ability.

We've all seen them — people driving down the road reading the

newspaper, putting on make-up or concentrating on a cell phone conversation. Those are the most obvious examples of driver distraction. What may surprise many people is the number of other things we do in our cars that take attention away from the vital task of driving.

### The Clues

How do you know when you are distracted?

How many of these things have happened to you?

- A passenger in your car screamed or gasped because of something you did or did not do.
- You ran a stop sign or stoplight unintentionally.
- You swerved suddenly to avoid an object in the roadway.
- You slammed on your brakes because you didn't see the vehicle in front of you stop.
- You don't remember driving from one place to another.
- You missed your usual exit on the highway.
- You veered into another lane

These events are clues or signals that you are distracted while driving.

### The Cause

Are any of the following actions part of your driving routine?

- Eating, drinking beverages, or smoking.
- Changing the radio, CD, or tape.
- Shaving, putting on make-up, or engaging in other personal grooming tasks.
- Engaging in intense, complicated, emotional, or lengthy conversations on cell phones or with passengers.
- Reading a road map, newspaper or taking notes.
- Focusing attention on children or pets, especially those who are being rowdy.
- Retrieving unsecured cargo or objects.
- Driving an unfamiliar vehicle without first adjusting the mirrors and seat, selecting entertainment options and locating the lights, turn signals and windshield wipers.
- Cellular phones.

If you find yourself doing any of these things routinely, you may be doing more things while driving than you can manage safely.

## Fatigue

Driving for long distances may make you drowsy or unaware of what is happening. Being drowsy is the first stage of falling asleep. Being unaware of what is happening is known as “highway hypnosis.” It is caused by monotony – the sound of the wind, the tires and the steady hum of the engine. Take these precautions to avoid “highway hypnosis:”

- At the first sign of drowsiness, do something positive. Don't just sit there and try to fight it.
- At the first rest or service area, pull off the highway and either take a nap, stretch a bit, take a break, or, if possible, change drivers.
- Don't depend on “stay-awake” drugs. They are apt to make your driving even more hazardous.
- Keep the interior of the car as cool as possible.
- To overcome highway hypnosis, make an effort to stay alert.
- Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another, near and far left and right. Avoid staring straight ahead.
- Shift your position in the seat.
- Talk to your companion or listen to the radio.
- Vary your vehicle's speed slightly from time to time.

## Danger Signs for Drowsy Drivers

- Your eyes close or go out of focus by themselves
- You have trouble keeping your head up
- You can't stop yawning
- You have wandering, disconnected thoughts
- You don't remember driving the last few miles
- You missed your exit
- You keep driving out of your lane
- Your speed becomes variable

If you become tired or sleepy while driving, it is best to rest, or, if possible, change drivers. Being tired dulls your mind and slows down your reactions, making driving hazardous. Keep in mind that lives are at stake.

## Concentration

Concentration is essential for safe driving. Driving is a full-time job. You should be constantly aware of the road and the other vehicles around you. Keep alert and you may be able to foresee a crash and avoid it. While you are driving, do not adjust the radio, read, apply makeup, shave or use a cell phone. Constantly check the position of vehicles behind you, as well as those beside and ahead of you.

## Emotions Affect Your Driving

If you are upset or angry, take some time to calm down before driving, or let someone else drive. You would be better off not driving at all when you are emotionally upset. Expressing your emotions while driving is dangerous.

## Cellular Phones

The increase in the use of cellular phones is becoming a hazard on our highways. Drivers who use their cellular phones while operating a motor vehicle pose a serious threat to themselves and other drivers.



- Use your cellular phone only in emergencies. If possible, have a passenger make the call.
- If you must make a call, pull safely off the road and stop before making the call.
- Do not take notes or look up telephone numbers while driving.
- Do not use a hand-held cellular phone while driving. Get a model with voice-activated controls and hands-free operation.
- Let your voice mail answer incoming calls.
- Keep your telephone conversations short. Do not use cellular telephones for social conversations.
- Learner's and Provisional permit holders, under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (including a cell phone) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call. Violations may result in a suspension of your driving privileges.

## The Solution to Distractions

Suggestions for helping you manage distractions safely:

- Secure everyone and everything before putting the vehicle into motion.

- Pre-set climate controls, the radio and the cassette or CD player. Know the location of turn signals, wipers and lights in the vehicle.
- If you will be tempted to look at the newspaper, the business report or the day planner, put them in the trunk of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.
- Don't attend to personal grooming behind the wheel.
- Don't wait until you are driving to plan your route. Plan before you go. Leave a little earlier and you will arrive at your destination safely and with less stress.
- Postpone complex or emotional conversations on the phone or with passengers until you arrive at your destination.
- If a passenger is distracting you, pull over where it is safe and legal to do so.
- Don't start driving until the situation is under control.
- When you are hungry or thirsty, take a break.

### Using Your Headlights

- You must turn on your headlights when you are using your windshield wipers.
- When driving you must turn on your headlights from sunset to sunrise.
  - You must turn on your headlights at other times when you cannot see persons or vehicles on the highway clearly at a distance of 1,000 feet or less.
- You should not drive with only parking lights on because parking lights denote a parked car.

#### Low Beam Headlight Usage:

- Use low beams when approaching or closely following other vehicles. Also use low beams where there are streetlights and in fog.

#### High Beam Headlight Usage:

- Use high beams in open country to see persons or vehicles ahead. Even with high beams, speed should be lower than by day.
- You must use high beams whenever needed to see persons or vehicles ahead of you. Be aware you must:
  - Change to low beam at least 500 feet before meeting oncoming vehicles.
  - Change to low beam when following a vehicle at a distance of 300 feet or less.

## Special Driving Situations

### Night Driving

Night driving is more difficult than day driving and it is more dangerous. Per mile driven, the fatal crash rate at night throughout the nation is two-and-one-half times as high as during the day. At night, the driver does not see as far, as soon, or as much and everything has a different appearance.

The glare of oncoming headlights greatly increases the difficulty of seeing what's ahead, especially for older drivers. The glare causes the pupils of the eyes to contract and it takes time for them to readjust to less intense light. During this recovery, you may be driving as though blind.

You can make your night driving safer by:

- Keeping your speed low enough to be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead.
- When approaching other vehicles, do not stare at their headlights. Use quick glances to:
  - Learn the lane position of oncoming vehicles.
  - Learn your own position.
  - Be certain of the right edge of road.
  - Look ahead for objects in your path.
- Keep your windshield clean. With a clean windshield, the headlights of oncoming cars won't bother you as much.
- Do not wear sunglasses at night.
- Stay awake and alert. Fresh, cool air will help.
- Use the road edge line for a guide. If there is no road edge line, use the center line for a guide.
- Watch carefully for highway signs. They are more difficult to see at night.
- Be especially watchful for pedestrians and stopped vehicles at night.
- Do not stop on the roadway for any reason.
- Carry a red warning light or flares for use when stops alongside the roadway are unavoidable.
- Cut down on smoking when you are driving a vehicle with the windows closed.

## Winter Driving

Winter driving requires special precautions.

- Use chains, snow tires or radial tires. Chains do the most to improve traction and stopping on ice and in snow. Yet, neither chains nor radial or snow tires make it safe for you to drive on ice or snow-covered roadways at normal speeds. You must slow down.
- Chains, snow tires or radial tires must be used on designated snow emergency routes when a snow emergency is declared.
- Keep windows and lights clear. Remove all ice and snow and keep it off. Keep an ice scraper in the vehicle.
- Get the feel of the roadway. Start out very slowly. Then test your brakes gently to find out how well you can stop. Start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or turn.
- Keep a safe distance. The space needed between you and the car in front of you is much greater on ice and packed snow. Snow tires, radial tires and even chains slide on ice and packed snow.
- Do not slam on the brakes.
- Do not steer sharply, or change speed quickly.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. It should include the following:
  - Flares
  - First aid kit
  - Blanket
  - Kitty litter or sand – for traction on snow/ice
  - Small shovel
- Keep your gas tank filled.
- Keep windshield fluid full.



There is no such thing as a “completely safe” speed on ice and snow.

In winter weather, every city block and every stretch of highway may be different depending upon sun, shade, the amount of salting being done and other conditions. Watch ahead for danger spots. Blacktop roads [asphalt highways] can easily hide a thin layer of ice produced by melting and re-freezing (sometimes known as black ice) and can cause a crash if you are not aware of the danger.

*Remember: Ramps and bridges freeze first before highways and roads. Also, plowed roads may refreeze at night or have icy patches from the daylight thawing of snow.*

Four-wheel drive vehicles slide on ice and snow too. If you are driving a four-wheel drive vehicle, don't assume that you can drive in ice and snow the way you would on dry pavement.

## Skidding

In most skidding, the drive wheels lose traction on the pavement and slide left or right. Skidding occurs most often on ice or packed snow, but also can happen on wet pavement.

## Anti-Lock Brake Systems

If your vehicle begins to skid and is equipped with an anti-lock brake system, do not pump the brakes. Instead, maintain steady pressure on the brakes to regain control of your vehicle from a skid. (Please see Braking with an Anti-Lock Brake System on page 36.)

## Skid Prevention

- Avoid abrupt changes in speed or direction. Drive as though you have an egg between your foot and the gas or brake pedal.
- Practice stopping and skid recovery in a safe area on private property at slow speed before attempting to drive on packed snow or ice.
- Slow down well in advance of the stopping point.
- Do not brake strongly and lock the wheels. If the wheels don't turn, you don't have control over the vehicle. Pump the brake pedals on vehicles that are not equipped with anti-lock brake systems.
- When road conditions are bad, leave earlier than you normally would to avoid having to rush.

## Curves

Because curves cause slipping and skidding, be careful of them, especially when traction is poor. Be more concerned about curves in wet weather, even more cautious on snow and most cautious on ice. Slow down to a safe speed before entering the curve. On a curve posted for 35 miles per hour in good weather, a safe speed may be only 20 miles per hour in wet weather and only 5 miles per hour or less on ice or snow.



## Recovery from a Skid

- Don't panic and don't brake.
- Immediately steer in the direction of the skid. If your rear wheels start going to the right, turn your front wheels to the right. Take your foot off the gas pedal (accelerator).

## Driving in Fog

When it is foggy, it is best not to drive at all, but if you must, these safety precautions will help:

- Reduce your normal driving speed.
- Reduce speed still further when you see headlights or taillights ahead.
- The headlights may be on a vehicle being driven down the center of the roadway. The vehicle with the taillights may be stopped or barely moving on or along the side of the roadway.
- Be prepared for an emergency stop.
- If the fog is so thick you cannot go at least 10 mph, pull completely off the highway or stop at a rest area, service station or other parking space.
- Use low beams on headlights, or if you have them, special fog lights.
- High beams often reflect back into your eyes, blinding you.
- With night driving, use the road edge lines or the right side of the road for a guide. You may not see highway signs until too late. Yellow pavement markings should never be on your right side, but always on your left side.
- Yellow is used to divide opposing roadway traffic and indicate the left travel edge of the roadway. White pavement markings denote the right travel edge of the roadway.
- Leave early enough to avoid the need to hurry.

## Drive Defensively

Don't trust the other driver to do what you think he or she should do or what you would do in that person's place. For example, if the person's turn signal is flashing, don't assume that the driver will make a turn. Plan ahead and decide what to do if the driver does not turn in the direction shown by the turn signal. Don't assume that every driver will stop when there is a stop sign or a red traffic light. Some drivers deliberately "run" stop signs and traffic lights.

You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. After a few weeks of practice, this will become "second nature." If a sudden emergency arises, you will have a plan of action ready. For instance, if you see an approaching vehicle start to pass and you think that driver may not have room to get back into the proper lane, slow down and check the shoulder and nearby area. That way, you will know where you can go if necessary.

Look as far ahead as you can. In this way, you may see trouble developing in front of the vehicle ahead of you that may cause its driver to swerve or stop suddenly. For example, if you notice flashing red or yellow lights on a vehicle ahead, you should look for objects or people on the road.

If a collision seems inevitable, don't panic. Try to steer your way out of it. Do anything to keep from hitting another vehicle or object head-on; try to hit at an angle. If you have a choice, running your vehicle into a ditch may be preferable to hitting another vehicle.

## How to Avoid Being Hit from the Rear

Rear-end collisions are the most common kind of motor vehicle crashes in Maryland. As the driver of the vehicle being followed, here's what to do to lessen the chances of being hit from the rear:

- Be sure your stoplights are clean and in working order.
- To keep aware of what is going on behind you, check your rear view mirror periodically.
- Your back window must be clean and not fogged. Outside mirrors are helpful.
- Signal well in advance for stops, turns and lane changes.
- Slow down gradually, not suddenly.
- Keep pace with traffic.
- If a vehicle follows too closely, slow down and let it pass.

## Interstate and Other Limited Access Highways

If you know how to use interstate highways properly, they will get you where you want to go sooner, more easily and more safely. However, you must know the safety practices of the highways.

## Before You Start

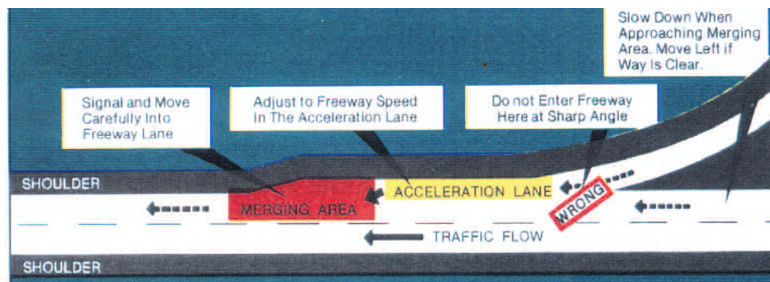
Are your tires in condition for high speeds? Do you have adequate oil and cooling water? Does your vehicle have any mechanical defect that may be dangerous? Do you feel in condition to make this trip? Do you have enough fuel? Have you had enough sleep?

Mark your map to indicate entrances and exits you expect to use. Plan ahead to allow time to change safely into the proper lane. This will help you have a safe, fast and pleasant trip.

## Entering the Interstate

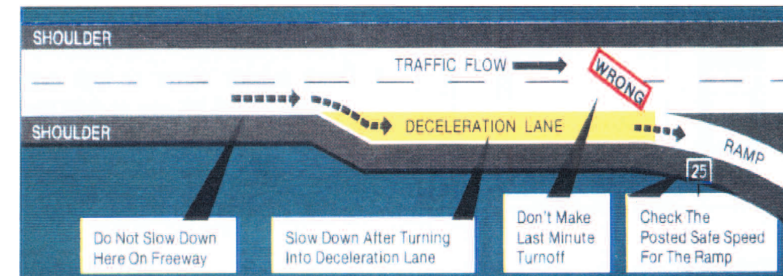
Interstate and other limited access highways are usually reached by an entrance ramp and an acceleration or deceleration lane. The entrance ramp gets you going in the desired direction and the acceleration lane gives you the opportunity to get up to the speed of the traffic. When entering an interstate, the solid painted lines that divide the entrance and the interstate should not be crossed.

If there is a short entrance to an interstate, where there is no acceleration lane, you should speed up on the entrance only after you have found a gap in the traffic. In general, you should stop before entering an interstate when waiting for a break in the traffic. If entering an interstate from the left entrance, compare what you see in your mirrors with what you see when looking over your shoulder.



## Leaving

Get into the right hand lane well before reaching the exit. Don't slow down on the main highway. Start slowing down as soon as you get into the deceleration lane and continue slowing at the beginning of the exit ramp. Slow down to the posted advisory speed for the ramp or you may have trouble getting around curves. If you exit at the wrong place on an interstate, continue until you are off the exit ramp and look for a way to re-enter the interstate.

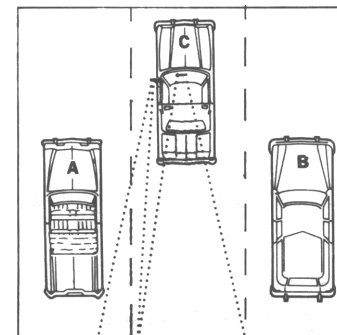


## Lane Changing and Passing on an Interstate Highway

Because of the sustained high speeds on an interstate and other limited access highways, careful lane changing and passing are essential.

Here Are a Few Tips to Help You:

- It is legal in Maryland to pass on the left or on the right, but slow moving vehicles must stay in the right lane. Thus, most of your passing should be on the left.
- Safe passing depends on cooperation between drivers. Don't



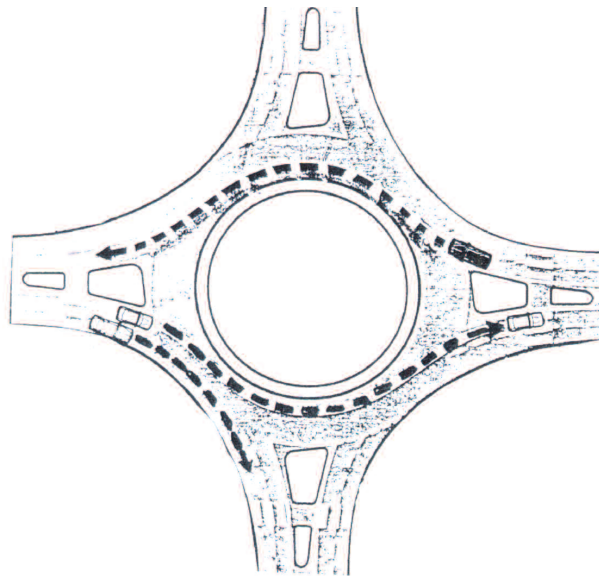
the inside and outside mirrors, because they are in a blind spot.

- speed up when being passed.
  - Quick movements at high speeds can be fatal. Don't return to the other lane too soon after passing.
  - Always signal a lane change.
  - Check your blind spots by glancing over your shoulder.
- In this illustration, the driver of the car in front cannot see the two cars behind him, using

- Check the outside mirror or look over your shoulder toward the left rear or right rear before changing into another lane.
- Never cruise in the blind spot of the vehicle ahead of you.

## Roundabouts

A roundabout is a circular intersection at which all traffic travels counterclockwise, always to the right, around a central island. Vehicles entering from each leg of the intersection must yield to the traffic already in the roundabout, which is coming from the left. Vehicles exit the roundabout by making a simple right turn onto the desired street or highway.



### Approaching the Roundabout

When you are approaching the roundabout, decide as early as possible which exit you need to take to get into the correct lane. Reduce your speed and if possible, adjust it to meet a gap in the traffic in the roundabout.

### Entering the Roundabout

Upon reaching the roundabout, yield to the traffic coming from the left. Watch out for traffic already in the roundabout, especially cyclists and motorcyclists. Do not enter a roundabout when an

emergency vehicle is approaching on another leg. This will enable traffic already in the roundabout to clear in front of the emergency vehicle.

### Traveling Within a Roundabout

Always keep to the right of the central island within the roundabout and travel in a counterclockwise direction around the center island. Do not stop except to avoid a collision; you have the right of way. Where the roundabout is wide enough to allow two or more vehicles to travel side-by-side, do not overtake other vehicles. Watch out for traffic crossing in front of you on the roundabout, especially those vehicles intending to leave at the next exit. When an emergency vehicle is approaching, provide a clear path to turn through the roundabout.

### Exiting the Roundabout

Maintain a slow speed upon exiting a roundabout. Always indicate your exit by using your right turn signal. On roundabouts having a wide roadway, watch for vehicles to your right, including bicycles, whose paths you may cross while exiting. Make sure they intend to yield before you exit. Watch for and yield to pedestrians. Do not accelerate until you are beyond the pedestrian crossing point at the exit.

### Motorcyclists and Bicycles

Give motorcyclists and bicyclists plenty of room and show due consideration. Bicyclists may enter the approach roadway from a bicycle lane; they will often keep to the right on the roundabout; they may also indicate left to show they are continuing around the roundabout.

### Large Vehicles

Do not overtake large vehicles. Large vehicles (for example, trucks and buses) may have to swing wide on the approach to or within the roundabout. Watch for their turn signals and give them plenty of room, especially since they may obscure other vehicles. Large vehicles may need to use the full width of the roadway, including mountable aprons provided to negotiate a roundabout. Their drivers should be careful of all other users of the roundabouts and, prior to entering the roundabout, satisfy themselves that other users are aware of them and will yield to them.

## Pedestrians

Pedestrians have the right-of-way within the crosswalks at the roundabout; however, pedestrians may not suddenly leave a curb or other safe waiting place and walk into the path of a vehicle if it is so close that it may not be able to stop.

## Stopping

Stopping on the traveled portion of a highway is prohibited. Stopping on the shoulder is permitted only when your car won't run or in other emergencies. When this occurs, raise the hood or tie a white cloth on the left door handle or radio antenna. Stay with your vehicle—never walk along an interstate or other limited access highway.

## Backing

Don't back up on any highway, under any circumstances.

## Emergencies

### Brake Failure

Try pumping the brake pedal [non-ABS systems]. If this doesn't restore braking ability:

- Use the emergency (parking) brake.
- Shift to a lower gear, if possible.
- If necessary, rub sides of the tires against the side of the curb.

### Braking with Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS)

Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS) are designed to prevent your wheels from locking up when braking. Whenever the vehicle's computer detects that one or more wheels are locking, ABS begins to pump the brakes for the driver at a much faster rate than the driver ever could to avoid locking. When the ABS engages, you will hear a rumble from the brakes and the brake pedal will vibrate under your foot. All the driver has to do is press down hard on the brake pedal, hold it, and steer the vehicle in the direction that you want it to go. The ABS computer is controlling which wheel is braking in order to prevent a skid.

Resist the temptation to take your foot off the brake when ABS is engaged. Maintain constant pressure on the brake pedal. Drivers should be aware that removing steady pressure from the brake pedal or pumping the brakes will disengage or turn off the ABS.

Drivers should practice using ABS and become familiar with how your vehicle reacts to sudden or emergency braking. The best place to practice is an empty parking lot.

### Wet Brakes

After driving through deep water, you should test your brakes. They may pull to one side or not hold at all. To dry the brakes, put the car in low gear, drive slowly and apply brakes lightly. Test the brakes every 200 feet, continuing until braking action returns to normal.

### Windshield Wipers Fail

If your windshield wipers fail during inclement weather, open the window, put your head out the window, drive your vehicle off the roadway and STOP.

### Accelerator Pedal Sticks

- Slap the accelerator pedal hard with your foot.
- Shift to neutral.
- Apply the brakes.
- Pull off the roadway and stop.

### Steering Fails

If you suddenly lose steering control, ease up on the accelerator. If your vehicle continues through its natural balance to stay in your lane on the roadway, wait until it slows down and then apply the brakes gently to avoid changing direction. If your vehicle starts off the road or toward a pedestrian or another vehicle, apply the brakes quickly, using maximum pressure.

## Loss of Control – Steering and Locking Device

### **WARNING** **STEERING LOCKS**

**DO NOT TURN  
OR REMOVE  
IGNITION KEY  
WHILE DRIVING**

#### **STEERING LOCK OPERATION**

##### **(1) THE TRANSMISSION PARK SYSTEM**

**Park.** Shift the transmission into the “park” position. Turn key to **LOCK** and remove.

##### **(2) THE TWO HAND BUTTON SYSTEM**

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

##### **(3) THE LEVER SYSTEM**

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

##### **(4) THE ONE HAND BUTTON SYSTEM**

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

##### **(5) THE PUSH IN SYSTEM**

**Park.** Turn key to **OFF**. Push in, turn key to **LOCK**, and remove.

##### **(6) THE TURN AND REMOVE SYSTEM**

**Park.** Turn key to **LOCK** and remove.

Never turn your vehicle’s ignition to the “lock” position while the vehicle is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock and if you try to turn the steering wheel you will lose control of the vehicle.

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### Headlights Fail

If the highway is lighted, get off the roadway onto the shoulder or other available space as rapidly and safely as possible. If the highway is dark, try your parking lights, your directional signals, or your emergency flashers and get off the roadway. If all lights fail, stay on the roadway and slow down enough to pull off the roadway safely.

### Fire In Vehicle

Knowing how to fight fires is important. Fires have been made worse by drivers who didn’t know what to do. Here are some procedures to follow in case of fire:

**Pull off the road.** The first step is to get the vehicle off the road and stop. In doing so:

- Park in an open area, away from buildings, trees, brush, other vehicles or anything that might catch fire.
- Don’t pull into a service station!
- Use your cellphone, if you have one, to notify the police of your problem and your location.

**Keep the fire from spreading.** Before trying to put out the fire, make sure that it doesn’t spread any further.

- With an engine fire, turn off the engine as soon as you can. Don’t open the hood if you can avoid it. Shoot the fire extinguisher through louvers, radiator, or from the underside of the vehicle.
- For a cargo fire in a van or box trailer, keep the doors shut, especially if your cargo contains hazardous materials. Opening the van doors will supply the fire with oxygen and accelerate the fire.

**Use the right fire extinguisher.**

- The B:C type fire extinguisher is designed to work on electrical fires and burning liquids. The A:B:C is designed to work on burning wood, paper, and cloth as well.
- Water can be used on wood, paper or cloth, but don’t use water on an electrical fire (you could get shocked) or a gasoline fire (it will just spread the flames).
- A burning tire must be cooled. Lots of water may be required.
- If you’re not sure what to use, especially on a hazardous materials fire, wait for qualified fire fighters.

**Extinguish the fire.** Here are some rules to follow in putting out a fire.

- Know how the fire extinguisher works. Study the instructions printed on the extinguisher before you need it.
- When using the extinguisher, stay as far away from the fire as possible.
- Aim at the source or base of the fire, not up in the flames.
- Position yourself upwind. Let the wind carry the contents of the extinguisher to the fire rather than carrying the flames to you.
- Continue until whatever was burning has cooled. Absence of smoke or flame does not mean the fire is completely out or cannot restart.
- Only try to extinguish a fire if you know what you are doing and it is safe to do so.

## **Vehicle Approaching in Your Lane**

If you see a vehicle coming toward you in your lane, pull to the right, slow down, sound your horn and flash your headlights. Do not turn into the lane the vehicle has left as the other driver may “wake up,” realize their mistake and turn back into their proper lane.

## Stalling on Railroad Tracks

Look both ways for trains. If there is a train coming, get out of the vehicle and run along the side of the tracks toward the train, to avoid being struck by the debris from the crash.

## Running Off the Roadway

If you run off or are forced off the road, these rules may save your life:

- Don't panic.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Don't jam on the brakes. Brake carefully or not at all.
- Grip the steering wheel tightly, as unusual stress on the wheel may twist it from your hand.
- Don't try to get back on the roadway until you have the vehicle completely under control, (speed is reduced to 15 mph or less) and you have looked for traffic behind you and beside you. Then turn the wheels sharply toward the roadway. Be sure not to go across the center line of the road or into another lane.

## Rumble Strips

Rumble strips are short sections of corrugated roadway which alert you with the noise your tires make when you drive over them. Rumble strips warn of possible hazards such as dangerous intersections or when one is driving too close to the roadway edge.

## Blowouts

Blowouts are very much like running off the roadway onto a soft shoulder. If your tire blows out:

- Don't apply the brakes.
- Grip the steering wheel tightly.
- Signal a turn to the right and pull the vehicle safely onto the shoulder.
- Decelerate and look for a safe place to drive off the road.
- Wait until the vehicle is almost stopped.

## Flooded Engine

- Press the gas pedal to the floor and hold it down.
- Turn the key in the ignition and keep it there for short intervals (10-15 seconds).

- When the engine starts, release the gas pedal.
- Do not pump the gas pedal; it will make the flooding worse.

## Disabled Vehicle

- Get all four wheels off the roadway, if possible.
- Turn on the parking lights or emergency flashing lights and, if available, set out flares, blinking red lights or a reflective triangle.
- Tie a handkerchief or white cloth to the radio antenna or to the left door handle and/or raise the hood.

## Right-of-Way

Laws govern the right-of-way, but never put these laws ahead of safety. The right-of-way means the right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner on a highway in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian. If you have the right-of-way and others yield it to you, proceed immediately.

- You must, of course, obey stop signs; yield signs and traffic signals at intersections.
- If you enter the intersection after another vehicle, you must yield the right-of-way.
- If you are about to turn left at an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway, you must yield the right-of-way to other pedestrians and vehicles until it is safe to turn.
- If you are entering a public street or highway from a private road or driveway, you must stop and yield to all approaching vehicles and pedestrians.
- If a traffic light turns green for you, you must still yield to pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection. Be on the lookout for red light runners.



Authorized emergency vehicles, such as police cars, ambulances and fire engines, have the right-of-way when they are giving a signal, either audible (siren) or visual (flashing light). When you hear or see a vehicle approach, you should immediately drive to the curb and stop, remaining stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed. Do not follow any fire apparatus closer than 500 feet when it is responding to an emergency.

## Pedestrians Right-of-Way

All pedestrians have the right-of-way at street crossings in towns and cities, except where traffic officers or traffic control devices control traffic. Pedestrians in a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked, have the right-of-way except when they enter the crosswalk on a red light or against the direction of a traffic officer.

## Pedestrian Signals

At some particularly busy intersections, pedestrian signals may be used in combination with normal traffic signals. Drivers must obey the normal traffic signals. Pedestrians must obey the WALK and DON'T WALK signals.

WHEN YOU SEE



OR



You may **START** to cross the street – with care,



“FLASHING”  
OR



You may **CONTINUE** across the street at a normal pace.  
If you haven't started to cross yet, **DON'T START**.



“STEADY”  
OR



**STAY OUT** of the street.  
If you are still crossing, **GET OUT** of the street immediately.  
Even if that means returning to the original point  
from which you started.

## Roadway Markings

Roadway markings indicate to the driver:

- Where the driver should be driving on the roadway.
- Where passing is restricted.
- Where the driver can expect oncoming traffic in the adjacent lane.
- Where the driver may properly wait to make a left turn.

Current standard roadway markings in effect in Maryland and other states use the yellow lines between lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions. This tells the driver two things:

- If a yellow line is to the left, you are on the proper side of the road, and;
- If you cross that line, there is a danger from approaching vehicles or from obstacles in the median.
- White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.
- Edge lines are used to denote the margins or edge of traveled sections of a highway.

You should recognize all of the following pavement markings and understand what they mean.

### Type of Line Markings

### Meanings

Single Broken - White

Separation of lanes on which travel is in the same direction, with crossing from one to the other permitted; i.e., lane lines on multi-lane roadways.

Single Broken - Yellow

Separation of lanes on which travel is in the opposite direction, and where overtaking with care is permitted; i.e., centerline on 2-lane, 2-way roadways.

Single Solid - White

Separation of lanes, or of a lane and shoulder, where lane changing is discouraged; i.e., lane lines at intersections approaches, right edge stripes.

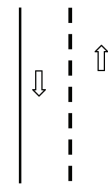
<b>Large Single Solid - White</b>	Marks locations where crossing is strongly discouraged; i.e., separation of special turn lanes from through lanes, merge areas at ramp terminals, paved turnouts.
<b>Single Solid - Yellow</b>	Marks left edge lines on divided highways, one-way roads, and ramps.
<b>Double Solid - Yellow</b>	Separation of lanes on which travel is in opposite directions, where overtaking is prohibited in both directions. Left turn maneuvers across this marking are permitted. Also used in advance of obstructions that may be passed only on the right side.
<b>Solid plus Broken - Yellow</b>	Separation of lanes on which travel is in opposite directions, where overtaking is permitted with care for traffic adjacent to the broken line, but prohibited for traffic adjacent to the solid line. Used on 2-way roadways with 2 or 3 lanes. Also used to mark edges of a two-way left turn lane - solid lines on the outside, broken lines on the inside.
<b>Double Broken - Yellow</b>	Marks the edges of reversible lanes.
<b>Single Dotted Yellow or White</b>	Extension of lane lines through intersections. Color the same as that of the line being extended. Also used to extend right edge line of freeway shoulder lanes through off-ramp diverging areas in problem locations.
<b>Large Single Dotted - White</b>	Separation of through lane and auxiliary lane or dropped lane.

**Extra Large Solid Transverse White**

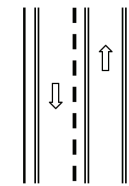
Stop lines or stop bars; also crosswalk edge lines.

**Extra Large Solid Diagonal -White**

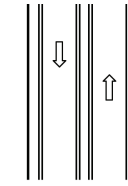
Crosshatch markings, placed at an angle of 45 degrees, at varying distances apart on shoulders channelization islands to add emphasis to these roadway features.



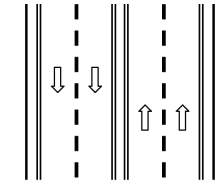
Two-lane, two-way roadway, passing permitted.



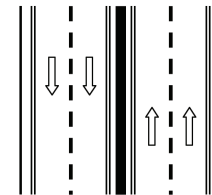
Two-lane, two-way roadway passing prohibited in direction of arrow pointing up.



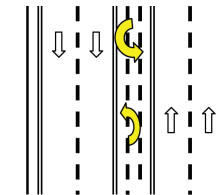
Two-lane, two-way roadway passing prohibited both directions, crossing centerline permitted only as part of left turn maneuver.



Multi-lane, two-way roadway, crossing centerline permitted only as part of left turn maneuver.

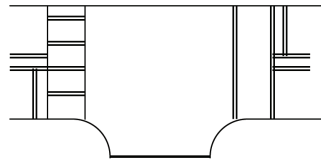


Divided Roadways, multi-lane with divider. Clear space in the median is available for an emergency stop off the traveled way.



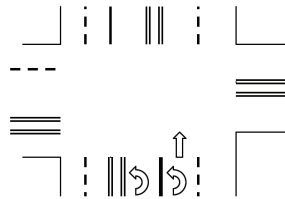
Two-way roadway with a center lane for left turns in either direction of travel. The specially marked left turn lane is intended for slowing down and may not be used for passing. It may also be used to enter the highway.





**Stop Lines:** Are wide solid lines across a roadway to define where a vehicle must stop for pedestrians crossing the roadway, for a stop sign, or for a flashing red light.

**Crosswalks:** Are two parallel solid white lines across the roadway, used by pedestrians for crossing. Crosswalks are usually located at intersections.



If you are in a lane marked with a curved arrow and the word **ONLY**, you must turn in the direction of the arrow. If your lane is marked with both a curved and straight arrow, you may either turn or go straight.

### Crossing at Crosswalks

The driver of a vehicle shall come to a complete stop when a pedestrian crossing the roadway in a crosswalk is:

- On the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling; or
- Approaching from an adjacent lane on the other half of the roadway.

At an intersection, a driver may not pass any vehicle, which is stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to allow for a pedestrian to cross the roadway. A pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety, and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible to yield. Drivers must yield to pedestrians when turning on a solid green light.

### Crossing at Locations Other than Crosswalks (Jaywalking)

A pedestrian does not have the right of way to cross a roadway outside of a crosswalk. A pedestrian who crosses a roadway outside of a crosswalk must yield to any vehicle, although a driver must always avoid hitting the pedestrian.

### Crossing at Special Pedestrian Crossings

If a pedestrian crosses a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead is provided, the pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles approaching on the roadway. Although the pedestrian may not have the right-of-way, the driver always has the responsibility to yield to pedestrians in the intersection.

### Crossing Between Adjacent Intersections

Between adjacent intersections, at which a traffic control signal is in operation, a pedestrian may cross a roadway only in a marked crosswalk or after yielding the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching on the roadway.

### Crossing Intersections Diagonally

A pedestrian may not cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized to do so by a traffic control device for crossing movements.

### Individuals with Disabilities

Drivers should be especially alert for and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians who are deaf, or have physical disabilities that require the use of canes, crutches, walkers, guide dogs/service animals, wheelchairs, or motorized scooters. These individuals may have difficulty detecting oncoming traffic and may need extra time to cross the road. Drivers should exercise extreme care and be prepared to stop when approaching children or obviously confused or incapacitated individuals.



A five-sided sign is used to warn of school crossings. Diamond-shaped signs warn of pedestrian crossings.



## Duty to Warn Pedestrians

The driver of a vehicle shall, if necessary, warn any pedestrian by sounding the vehicle horn. Sounding the vehicle's horn should not be considered a substitute for yielding to pedestrians in the intersection.

## Blind or Deaf Pedestrians or Mobility Impaired Individuals Right-of-Way at Crossings

The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to:

- A blind or partially blind pedestrian carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide dog/service animal.
- A deaf or partially deaf person accompanied by a guide/service dog.
- A mobility-impaired individual using a manual or motorized wheelchair, motorized scooter, crutch, cane or walker.

## Individuals with Different Ethnic/Cultural Backgrounds

Drivers should be alert for individuals whose ethnic or cultural heritage or language differences may impair their understanding of pedestrian rights and responsibilities.

## Parking for Persons with Disabilities

The MVA issues disability license plates and placards to individuals with disabilities that meet specific conditions. Medical certification is necessary in most cases. Individuals with disabilities may obtain

an application (VR-210) for Maryland disability license plates and placards by visiting a full service branch MVA office or by calling:  
 1-800-950-1MVA (1682)  
 1-301-729-4550 (from out-of-state)  
 1-800-492-4575 (TTY for hearing impaired)

Individuals with disability license plates and placards properly displayed are allowed to park in specially designated spaces, which are identified by signs displaying the international wheelchair symbol of accessibility. Individuals with disabilities must be in possession of their certification card when they operate or are a passenger in a vehicle that parks in a designated parking space. Authorities may ask for the certification to verify that a person with a disability is present.

Individuals with qualifying disabilities which are permanent may apply for disability license plates and/or placards. Individuals with temporary disabilities (see next section) are limited to disabled parking placards.

*NOTE: All Hanging Placards Must Be Removed From the Rear View Mirror While the Vehicle is in Operation.*



## Temporary Disabilities

Individuals with a temporary disability that is expected to last at least three weeks may apply for a temporary parking placard. Medical certification and a letter of explanation from the doctor that states the length of time the placard is needed are required. The placard may be valid for up to six months and may be renewed upon submission of a new medical certification and letter of explanation.

## Van Accessible Parking Spaces

Parking spaces marked “van accessible” are designed with extra wide access aisles (eight feet wide) to accommodate vans with lifts and minivans with ramps, which require more space. Drivers with legal disability placards and plates who do not have these special vehicles are requested to park in regular disability spaces first and only park in van accessible spaces if all other disability spaces are filled.

## Privilege Abuse

Citations may be issued for the following violations:

- Parking in disability parking spaces unless you have a disability license plate or placard issued by the MVA and the person who qualifies for the privilege is either operating or being transported in the vehicle;
- Parking in front of or blocking any part of a curb cut (even if you have a disability license plate or placard);
- Parking on any part of an access aisle next to a disability parking space (even if you have a disability license plate or placard); or
- Using a disability placard after its expiration date.

## Abuse Fines

Substantial fines (up to \$500) may be imposed for the abuse of disability parking spaces, disability license plates and placards. Abuse includes:

- Using someone else's disability license plate or placard, unless the person with the disability is present and being transported, and has the proper certification;
- Any fraud or misrepresentation when applying for a disability license plate or placard; and
- Using a disability license plate or disability placard after its expiration date.

Additional information regarding disability parking may be obtained from the “Guide for Maryland Motorists with Disabilities” (VR-138).

## Sharing the Highway with Others

The main purpose of traffic laws and rules of the road is to enable many, roadway users; motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians to share the roadways equally and fairly at all times. Roadway safety is based upon sharing the road with others.

## Sharing the Road with Large Trucks

### Maneuverability

Trucks are designed primarily to carry many products to and from towns and cities; they are not designed to be as maneuverable as cars. Trucks have longer stopping and accelerating distances, a wider turning radius, and weigh more. On multi-lane highways, tractor-trailers generally stay in the center lane to help the flow of local traffic on and off the highway. Staying in the middle lane also increases the truck driver's options if he or she has to switch lanes in order to avoid a dangerous situation or a crash.

### Passing

When passing a truck, first check to your front and rear, and move into the passing lane only if it is clear and you are in a legal passing zone. Let the truck driver know you are passing by blinking your headlights, especially at night. The driver will make it easier for you by staying to the far side of the lane.

On a level highway, it takes only three to five seconds longer to pass a truck than a car. On an upgrade, a truck often loses speed, so it is easier to pass than a car. On a downgrade, the truck's momentum will cause it to go faster, so you may need to increase your speed. Complete your pass as quickly as possible, and don't stay alongside the other vehicle.

If the driver blinks the lights after you pass, it may be a signal that it is clear to pull back in. Be sure to move back only when you can see the front of the truck in your rear view mirror. After you pass a truck, maintain your speed. Many auto/truck crashes are caused by autos making a quick lane change in front of a truck, then suddenly slowing or stopping because of traffic congestion, not allowing the truck driver time to readjust for a safe space allowance.

### Following A Truck

If you're following a truck, stay out of its “blind spots,” up to 20 feet in front of the cab, on either side of the tractor trailer, particularly along the sides of the cab, and up to 200 feet in the rear. Stay to the rear of the truck and close to the tractor on the right side. Position your vehicle so the truck driver can see it in the side mirrors, then

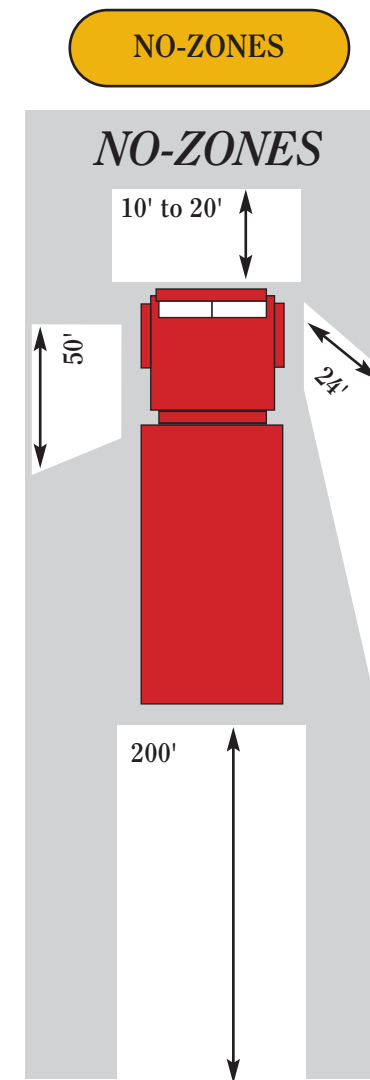
you will have a good view of the road ahead and the truck driver can give you plenty of warning for a stop or a turn. You will have more time to react and make a safe stop.

When you follow a truck at night, always dim your headlights. Bright lights from a vehicle behind will blind the truck driver when they reflect off on the truck's large side mirrors.

If you are stopped behind a truck on an upgrade, leave space in front of you in case the truck drifts back slightly when it starts to move. Also, keep to the left in your lane so the driver can see that you're stopped behind the truck.

**If you cannot see a truck's mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you!**

### Do Not Hang Out In the No-Zone



**Side No-Zones:** Trucks and buses have blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face on the side-view mirror, he or she can not see you. If the truck changes lanes, you could be in trouble.

**Rear No-Zones:** Avoid tailgating. Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge no zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver can not see your car back there. If the truck or bus brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

**Front No-Zones:** Do not cut in front too soon after passing a truck or bus. Truck and bus drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. Look for the entire front of the truck in your rear view mirror before you pull in front, and then do not slow down.

**Backing Up No-Zones:** Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Hundreds of motorists are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks that are backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.

### Truck Stopping Distance

Trucks take longer to stop. A car traveling at 60 miles per hour can stop in about 366 feet. A truck traveling at the same speed takes more than 400 feet to stop.

### Right and Left Turns

Pay close attention to truck turn signals. They can not see cars squeezed in between them and the curb. Truck drivers must make wide right or left turns so that the rear of the truck or rear of the tractor or trailer can clear the corner or any other standing obstructions. Sometimes, space from other lanes is used to clear corners. To avoid a crash, do not pass until the turning action is complete.

### Bad Weather

Following or passing a heavy truck (or being passed by one) in rain or snow creates visibility problems. Splash or spray from a truck's wheels and trailer can reduce visibility to nearly zero. Whenever driving in wet weather, be sure your vehicle's windshield wipers are working and there is fluid in the washer reservoir. Be sure your headlights are on.

### Some of the Most Common Mistakes to Avoid When Driving Around Trucks:

- **Do not cut off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.** Cutting into the open space in front of a truck removes the truck driver's cushion of safety. Take a moment to slow down and exit behind a truck—it will only take a few extra seconds.
- **Don't linger alongside a truck when passing.** Always pass a tractor-trailer completely and always on the left side. If you linger when passing any vehicle, your position makes it impossible for the trucker to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead.
- **Following too close or tailgating.** Tailgating a truck or car is dangerous because you take away your own cushion of safety if the vehicle in front of you stops short. When following behind a truck, if you can't see the truck driver's outside mirrors, there is no way the truck driver can see you. If the vehicle you are following hits something in the road, you will have no time to react before it hits the front of your car.

- **Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer.**

Because of its large size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed than it is. A substantial number of car-truck collisions take place at intersections because the driver of the car does not realize how close the truck is or how quickly it is approaching.

### Stopping for School Vehicles

When a school vehicle is stopping or has stopped on the roadway, and is operating the alternating flashing red lights, all vehicles must stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of the school vehicle. No one can proceed until the alternating flashing red lights have been turned off. Drivers should continue to exercise caution once the flashing lights have been turned off.



Drivers of other vehicles are not required to stop when they are on a divided highway and the school vehicle is on the other side of the divided highway.

### Sharing the Road with Motorcyclists

Almost half of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve cars. In collisions with motorcycles, drivers often say that they never saw the motorcycle. Drivers of cars must always be alert for motorcycles, as their size makes them very difficult to see. Always remain alert and check your blind spot frequently to make sure that a motorcycle is not passing you. You need to be especially alert for motorcycles when turning at intersections and when pulling out from a side road or driveway.

A motorcycle is entitled to use the entire lane. Because the motorcycle is very maneuverable, the operator may move from side to side within the lane to avoid obstacles. Allow ample room for the motor-

cycle when passing and remember it is against the law to overtake or pass a motorcycle within the same lane. Be especially careful when following a motorcycle. Maintain a safe following distance at all times, as the motorcycle can stop more quickly than cars.

## Mopeds

Mopeds are considered to be the same as bicycles. Both must obey the rules, regulations and laws to which other bicyclists and motorists are required to adhere.

A person operating a moped must have a valid driver's license or a valid moped operator's permit.

## Bicycles

### Helmets

Helmets are required for operators or passengers of bicycles under the age of 16. They are, however, strongly recommended for all operators or passengers regardless of age.

Bicyclists must observe applicable laws and all traffic control devices, when using any public highway or roadway. Motorists must remember that bicyclists have a right to travel on many of our roadways and that they need to share the road and be constantly alert to the possible presence of bicyclists.

## Rules for Motorists

### Bicycle Right-of-Way

Bicycles are treated as vehicles in Maryland. Bicyclists have rights and duties like those of a motor vehicle. Motorists must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists at intersections when passing and when turning. Most bicycles do not have turn signals and their operators use hand and arm signals to alert you of their intentions.

### Following a Bicyclist

As you approach a bicyclist, slow down. Avoid the use of your horn. Bicyclists can usually hear an approaching vehicle and loud noises can startle the bicycle operator, causing an accident.

Do not follow a bicycle closely. Bicycles can stop and maneuver quickly and a bicyclist can swerve or change speed to avoid a road hazard. Young bicyclists, in particular, are more likely to make surprising changes in direction.

### Passing a Bicyclist

When passing a bicyclist, wait until it is safe and allow adequate clearance (usually about three feet from the side of your vehicle) and return to your lane when you can clearly see the bicyclist in your rear view mirror. Do not use your horn to alert or alarm the rider. If you are unable to safely pass, reduce your speed, follow the bicycle and wait for a safe opportunity to pass.

A bicycle should be operated as close to the right side of the road as practical and safe. However, cyclists are expected to use turn lanes. Merge safely with bicycle traffic when turning. Do not make right turns across the path of bicycle traffic. It is common for an experienced cyclist to reach speeds of 20-30 miles per hour and be closer than you think.

## Rules for Bicyclists

### Safety Tips

The safe operation of a bicycle often requires the operator to be more aware and stay more alert for road conditions than motorists. A bicyclist is often unobserved by motorists and must constantly scan for surrounding vehicles, pedestrians, hazards, etc. A few safety tips for bicyclists:

- Always wear a proper fitting helmet in good condition, no matter what your age.
- Obey all posted signs and signals.
- Remember that motor vehicles have "blind spots," such as the right rear corner.
- Riding single file on roadways or trails is safer, but you may ride two abreast if not impeding traffic.
- Air turbulence caused by fast-moving or large vehicles may cause the rider to lose control or throw dirt and debris.
- Loose debris, such as sand, gravel and leaves, can cause the bicycle to slip out from under you. Ride carefully over these objects and do not brake hard or steer sharply.
- Water may create a slippery surface on the roadway or path.

- Watch out for potholes, branches and other objects in your path. Carefully avoid them if possible, but do not swerve into the path of another vehicle in doing so.
- Passengers should not ride on the handlebars or the back of your seat or stand on the rear wheel axle bolts. Carry passengers only in a properly secured child carrier seat or a properly secured trailer.
- When riding past parked vehicles, ride in a straight line at least three feet away from the vehicles and watch for opening doors.
- Watch out for vehicles backing or pulling out of driveways, side streets or alleyways, as they may not see you coming down the road.
- Wear light colored clothing during the day and reflective clothing at night so motorists will more readily see you.

## Bicycle Equipment

By law, all bicycles must be equipped with:

- Brakes that enable the operator to make the braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- An audible device (bell or horn) that can be heard for at least 100 feet. Sirens and whistles are prohibited.
- A white beam headlight, visible at a distance of 500 feet, and a red rear reflector, visible at a distance of 600 feet, if ridden at night or during unfavorable light conditions.
- A safety seat, firmly secured to the bicycle, or a trailer must be used if traveling with a small child.
- A bicycle basket, rack or bag must be used in transporting small articles so that both hands may be kept on the handlebars.

## Off Road Motor Vehicles

Any motor vehicle (other than a moped, unless posted) that is not properly registered, tagged and insured, may not be operated upon any public roadways, unless so posted.

The vehicles referred to in this section include, but are not limited to:

- Dirt bikes
- Mini-bikes
- Go-carts\*
- Go-peds (motorized skate boards)\*
- Three-wheeled all terrain vehicle's

- Four- or more-wheeled all terrain vehicle's
- Snowmobiles\*
- Golf carts\*
- Lawn mowers

### *\*Check Local/County regulations*

Operating this type of motor vehicle on private roadways or private property does not violate Maryland law, providing the rider has the permission of the property owner(s) to do so. Operators of these types of motor vehicles must use care and caution. They must act in a responsible manner when operating the motor vehicles.

Any violation of the law may result in fines, penalties and other sanctions. The penalties may also appear on your Maryland driving record.

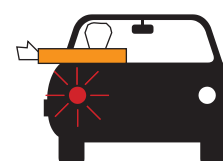
## General Driving Rules

### Keep to the Right

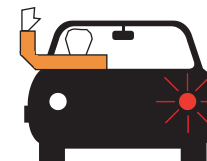
You should keep to the right, except when your vehicle is about to overtake and pass another vehicle or cyclist, or to make a left turn. On a two-lane or other narrow highway, you must grant the approaching vehicle one-half of the paved or improved portion of the road.

### Signaling

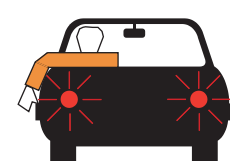
You must use a turn signal, arm or hand signal, or both, continuously for at least 100 feet before turning. You should signal for a much greater distance and a longer time interval when traveling at a high speed. This is particularly important when changing lanes on all express highways.



Left Turn



Right Turn

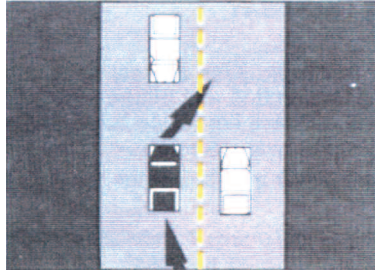


Stop Or Slow

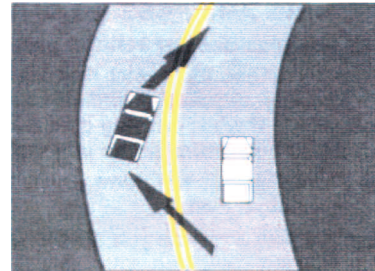
## Passing

It is preferable to pass on the left. However, in Maryland, it is legal to pass on either the left or right on one-way roads, provided there is room for more than one line of traffic. It is also legal to pass on either the left or right on highways with four or more lanes.

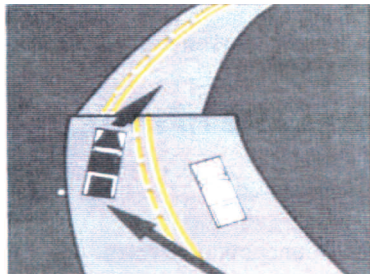
### Examples of Do Not Pass Black Car is Breaking the Law



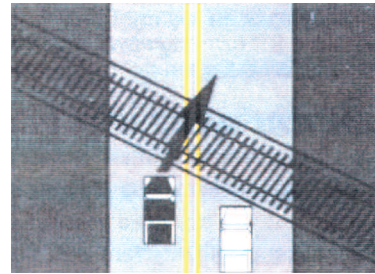
Oncoming Car



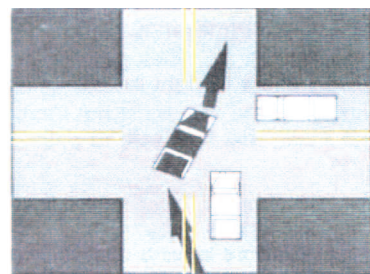
Curve



Hill



Railroad, Bridge,  
Tunnel, Viaduct



Intersection

### When You Must Not Pass on Two-Lane Highways

You must not pass:

- Where the solid yellow line is on your side of the center of the roadway.
- Where there are two solid yellow lines.

- When passing will interfere with the safe operation of oncoming vehicles.
- When approaching the top of a hill or on a curve and there is not sufficient clear view ahead.
- When crossing or within 100 feet of an intersection.
- When crossing or within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
- When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
- On the shoulder of the highway either to the right or the left.
- When being passed by another vehicle, you must not increase your speed. The end of a “no-passing zone” does not mean that it is safe to pass, only that it is lawful to pass when safe.

### Overtaking and Passing on a Two-Lane Highway

When you overtake any vehicle on a two-lane highway, pass on the left.

Before you cross the center line, be certain there is time to pass and get back into the right lane before meeting a vehicle coming in the opposite direction and before a no-passing zone begins. While you are passing, if it appears that you will not have time to complete the pass before meeting oncoming traffic, slow down and return to the lane behind the vehicle you were passing.

Turn on your left or right signal, depending on which lane you are entering, to inform the driver behind you and the driver ahead. Do not use your horn when passing a cyclist.

When passing a vehicle, you should return to the right lane when you see both headlights of the passed vehicle in your rear view mirror. When passing a cyclist, allow a minimum of three feet clearance.

If you are driving the vehicle being overtaken, give way to the right in favor of the over-taking vehicle. Do not increase your speed until the passing is completed.

You may pass on the right only when the vehicle being overtaken is making or is about to make a left turn. However, you must stay on the traveled portion of the road. You cannot drive on the shoulder of the road to pass another vehicle.



## Lane Driving

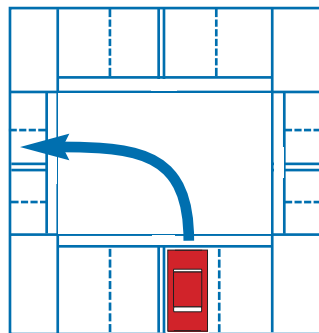
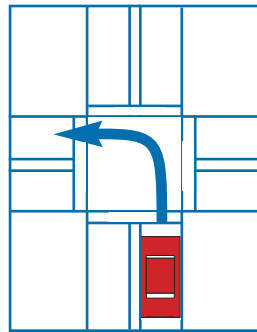
When a road is marked in lanes:

- You should stay in one lane. You must not drive partly in one lane and partly in another.
- You must not move from one lane to another unless you can do so safely.
- You should signal your intention to change lanes no less than 300 feet before you do so. It is preferable to signal sooner to enable drivers ahead and behind you to take appropriate action.
- When you are driving more slowly than the traffic flow on a highway that has two or more lanes in your direction, you should move to and stay in the right lane.
- If you see a vehicle stopped on the shoulder with its hood up, you should slow down and move to the left part of your lane.

## Turns

### Left Turn: Two-Lane, Two-Way to Two-Lane, Two-Way

- Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
- Yield to oncoming traffic including bicycles.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Don't cut the corner.

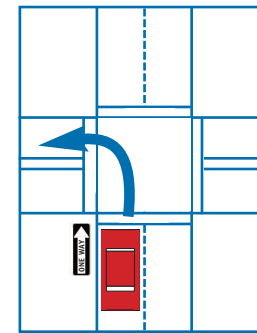
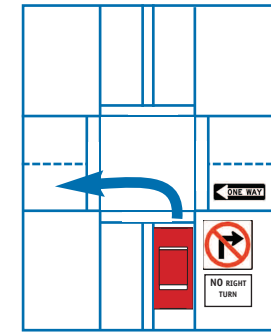


### Left Turn: Four-Lane, Two-Way to Four-Lane, Two-Way

- Get into the left lane on your side of the highway well ahead of the turn.
  - Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
  - Yield to oncoming traffic including bicycles.
  - Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
  - Turn into the left lane going your way.
- Don't cut the corner or turn so wide that you get into the right lane going your way.

### Left Turn: Two-Way to One-Way

- Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
- Yield to all traffic including bicycles.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Turn sharply into the left lane.
- Don't cut the corner or turn so wide you get into the right lane.

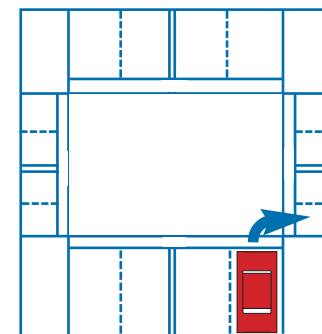
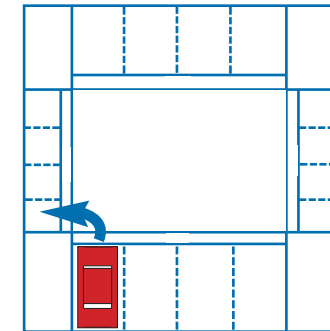


### Left Turn: One-Way to Two-Way

- Get into the left lane well ahead of the turn.
- Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
- Yield to traffic including bicycles.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Don't start the turn at the edge of the intersection; instead drive into the intersection and turn sharply into the lane shown.

### Left Turn: One-Way to One-Way

- Get into the lane furthestmost to the left well ahead of the turn.
- Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Turn sharply into the first lane on the left side of a one-way highway.



### Right Turns

- Get into the lane furthestmost to the right well ahead of the turn.
- Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Be alert for vehicles ahead that are also turning right.
- Yield to bicyclists traveling between you and the side of the road.

## General Parking Rules

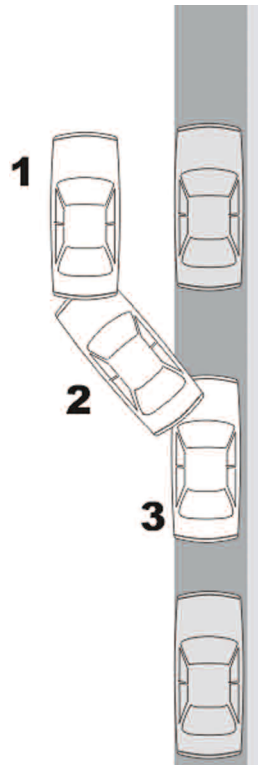
When parking and leaving your vehicle on a highway or a street, you must stop the engine, lock the ignition, remove the key and set the parking brake. It is also advisable to raise the windows and lock the doors.

## Parallel Parking

When parking on a two-way roadway, you must park parallel to and within 12 inches of the curb or the edge of the roadway. When you take the test for your driver's license, you will have to show the examiner that you can park in a parallel parking space 6 feet wide and 25 feet long. This is a timed exercise.

The steps to take to parallel park are:

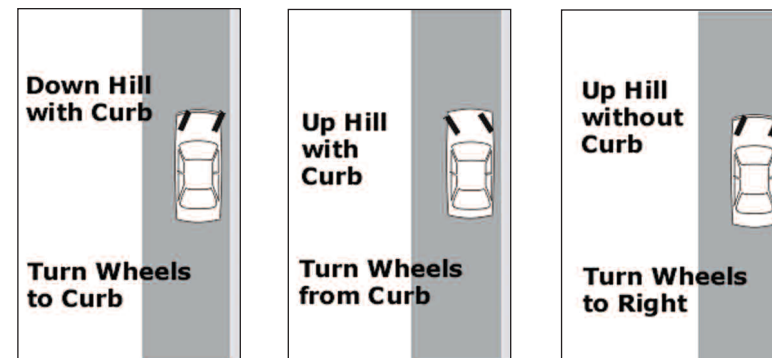
- Check for traffic in your rear view mirror. If a car behind you is following too closely, do not stop suddenly. Continue driving and find another space.
- Stopping suddenly with a car behind you may result in a rear end collision.
- Put on your turn signal to warn other drivers that you intend to park. If the driver following you stops, he should stop several lengths behind you.
- Make sure the space is large enough for your car.
- Pull up until you are about two or three feet from the car in front of your parking space. Back bumpers should be about even.
- Back the car slowly while turning the steering wheel sharply to the right.
- Begin straightening the front wheels when your driver's seat is in line with the rear bumper of the car ahead of your parking space.
- Continue to back slowly, and turn the steering wheel sharply to the left when your car clears the car in front of you. When you think your vehicle is parallel with the curb, turn the steering wheel to the right to straighten the wheels.



- Stop before touching the vehicle behind.
- Shift to Drive, and center the car in the parking space. You should be within 12 inches from the curb.

## Parking on a Hill

When parking your vehicle on a downhill grade, you must turn your front wheels toward the curb or the edge of the road. When parking your vehicle on an uphill grade with a curb, you must turn your front wheels away from curb and bring the near side front wheel into contact with the curb. When parking your vehicle on an uphill grade with no curb, you must turn your front wheels toward the edge of the road. If your vehicle has an automatic transmission, it should be placed in park. If you have a manual transmission, leave the vehicle in gear and set the parking brake.



- **Parking on highways:** You must never park on the paved or traveled part of any highway outside of a business or residential district unless your vehicle is disabled and cannot be moved. Pull to the right as far as possible.
- **Parking lights:** When you park a vehicle on the shoulder or side of any highway from sunset to sunrise or when light is insufficient to see people or objects 1000 feet away, you must turn on your parking lights (or 4-way flashers if the vehicle is so equipped). Turn signal lights should not flash on either side of a parked vehicle.

- **Opening the door of a parked vehicle:** Never open the door of a vehicle that will impede the flow of traffic or endanger any person or vehicle. Instead, use the door on the curbside.
- **Moving a vehicle from a parked position:** You must signal, yield the right-of-way and pull into the street when it is safe to do so.

## Stopping

### Stop Means Cease Movement and No Rolling Stops.

- Where there is a stop sign, you must make a full stop.
- Where there is a flashing red traffic signal, you must make a full stop.
- Where there is a steady red traffic signal, unless a sign prohibiting a turn is in place, you may cautiously enter the intersection and make a right turn after first making a full stop and yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- Where there is a yield sign and vehicles or pedestrians keep you from using the roadway beyond the sign, you should come to a full stop and proceed when the way is clear.
- When emerging from an alley, driveway, private road, or building across a sidewalk or into a street or highway, you must stop and yield to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Before entering an intersection when the roadway beyond the intersection is blocked with traffic, you should stop and cross the intersection when it is no longer blocked.
- At a railroad crossing with lowered gates and/or flashing red lights, you must stop. (For additional information on railroad crossing signs and signals, see Railroad Crossing.)

### Stopping, Standing, Parking — Prohibited

Except when necessary to avoid a conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or official traffic-control device, do not stop a vehicle:

- In front of a public driveway
- On a sidewalk
- Within an intersection
- On a crosswalk
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb, or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone unless the State Highway Administration or local authority indicate a different length by signs or markings

- Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction where stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic
- Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel
- At any place an official sign prohibits stopping
- In a direction that is the opposite from the flow of traffic.

Do not stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except very briefly to pick up or discharge a passenger or passengers:

- In front of a private driveway except with the consent of the owner or occupant of the premises
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet in front of any flashing signal, yield sign, stop sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of that entrance, when properly posted with a sign
- At any place an official sign prohibits standing
- On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street
- On a curve or the brow of a hill where solid lines indicating a no-passing zone appear on the surface of the road.

Do not park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except temporarily while loading or unloading merchandise or passengers:

- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing
- At any place where an official sign prohibits parking
- Unless you are an individual with a disability, parking in a space or zone properly marked as restricted for the use of individuals with disabilities.

## Turnabout

At times it may be necessary to turn your car around in close quarters; for example, during your driving test or at the end of a dead-end street.

To do this:

- Start from the extreme right side of the road. Look for other traffic and if clear, proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. Stop within several inches of the left curb or the edge of the street.

- Then proceed backward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the right.
- Stop within several inches of the right curb or the edge of the street.
- Proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. This should complete your turnabout. If not, repeat the procedures.

*The dimensions of the turnabout test area are 26 feet in width and 30 feet in length. This is a timed exercise.*

### Speed Restrictions

Maryland traffic laws provide both a general speed restriction and specific speed limits. You must obey both.

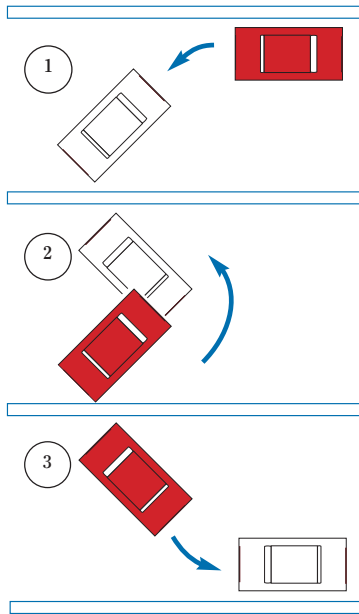
No one should drive on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable under the existing conditions, taking into account the actual and potential hazards. In every event, speed should be controlled in order to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway.

No one should drive at such a slow speed they impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when a reduced speed is necessary for the safe operation of the vehicle or in compliance with the law.

Never exceed the posted speed limit. Up to the limit, it is safest to drive at the average speed at which traffic is moving. Studies have shown that the more you depart from the average traffic speed — faster or slower — the greater your chances are of having a crash.

More crashes are caused by factors other than speed, but speed increases the severity and extent of damages and injuries. Consider the following facts:

- Death is eight times more probable in a crash at 60 miles per hour than at 20 miles per hour.



- The important speed in a head-on collision is the sum of the speed of both vehicles. For two vehicles, each going 50 miles per hour, the sum is 100 miles per hour.
- Hitting a solid stationary object at 60 miles per hour is equal to falling off a 10-story building.

### Speed Limit Laws (or as posted)

	Business Sections	Outlying Sections	Open Country
On Ordinary Highways	30 MPH	30 MPH	50 MPH
On Divided Highways	30 MPH	35 MPH	55 MPH
On Interstate Highways			55 MPH
Where Marked			65 MPH

The maximum speed is 50 miles per hour when operating a school bus that is transporting passengers.

A vehicle with a special “dump service registration” may not be operated on any highway at a speed of more than 45 miles per hour. The only exception is an unloaded dump truck that operates on a divided highway with two or more lanes in each direction.

### Speed Signs

There are two kinds of speed signs:

#### ■ Speed Limit Signs

Speed limit signs have black letters and numerals on a white rectangular background and are the legal allowable limits.



#### ■ Advisory (Recommended) Speed Signs

Advisory speed signs have black letters on a yellow or orange background and often are shown under a warning sign. Advisory speed signs are posted along portions of highways to warn you that conditions may often make it unsafe to drive faster. Although an advisory speed sign does not have the force of law, if you exceed it and have a crash, it may be concluded that you violated the general speed restriction and are subject to a ticket.



## Other Traffic Laws

### Safety Zones

Never drive through a safety zone, which is an area in a roadway marked by signs for pedestrians only. Always proceed cautiously whenever people are standing, walking, sitting or bicycling close to a line of traffic.

### Coasting

Never drive with the gears in neutral or the clutch pedal depressed longer than is needed to shift gears. If you need to react quickly, you may not be able to get the vehicle in gear.

### School Crossing Guards

You must follow the direction of any authorized crossing guard. School-crossing guards, have the authority to stop, control and guide vehicular traffic. They are stationed at locations adjacent to schools or at any other locations deemed necessary.

### Funeral Processions

Vehicles driven in a funeral procession must have the headlights turned on and the warning lights flashing in order to be granted the right-of-way.

A vehicle driven in a funeral procession facing a red signal may continue through or make a turn at an intersection if the first vehicle in the procession has already entered the intersection before the signal changed from green to red.

Other vehicles, even if they have a green signal, must yield the right-of-way to the vehicles in the funeral procession until all vehicles in the procession have passed, unless they can safely proceed without crossing the path of the procession.

### U-Turn

You can not make a U-turn on a curve or a hill where the vehicle cannot be seen at least 500 feet away by the driver of another vehicle proceeding in either direction. U-turns are also prohibited on some city streets and on interstate highways.

### Wearing of Headsets, Earphones, and Earplugs Prohibited

A person may not wear earplugs, a headset, or earphones attached to a radio, tape player, CD player or other audio device while driving a motor vehicle. Hearing aid devices are acceptable.

### Animals Ridden or Driven

Animal-drawn vehicles must be equipped with lamps or other lighting devices. The lights must be used whenever persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet.

Animal-drawn vehicles must be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet from the front of the vehicle. The vehicle must also be equipped with one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear. In addition it must have two red reflectors visible from distances from 600 to 1000 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps.

An animal-drawn vehicle may not be driven on a highway at a speed of 25 miles an hour or less, unless the vehicle displays a slow moving vehicle emblem.

Anyone riding an animal or driving an animal-drawn vehicle on a roadway has all the rights and is subject to all the duties required of the driver of a motor vehicle, except for those provisions that by their very nature cannot apply.

Except in Charles, St. Mary's and Worcester counties, a person may not ride an animal or drive an animal-drawn vehicle on:

- Any divided highway where the posted maximum speed limit is more than 35 miles an hour; or
- Any controlled access highway.

## Energy Saving Tips

By driving carefully, you will get better gas mileage and save money on fuel.

- Accelerate gradually
- Drive smoothly and at moderate speeds
- Anticipate stops to minimize hard braking

- Avoid unnecessary driving
- Combine trips and carpool when possible
- Have your vehicle tuned regularly
- Check tire pressure regularly – under-inflated tires increase fuel consumption
- Choose the smallest, most efficient vehicle to meet your needs

## Vehicle Equipment

Since 1965, the U.S. Government has required that all motor vehicles offered for sale in the United States be equipped with various safety equipment and emission control devices to reduce accidents and control air pollution. Under federal and Maryland motor vehicle laws, it is unlawful for anyone to:

- Remove or alter any safety device or equipment which has been placed upon any motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or pole trailer in compliance with any law, rule, regulation or requirement of the United States or of Maryland.
- Remove, alter or otherwise render inoperable any exhaust system emission control device (i.e., catalytic converter), gasoline tank filler inlet, or crankcase ventilation device which has been installed by a manufacturer of motor vehicles produced as a 1968 or later model, if the motor vehicle is factory equipped with these devices as required by federal law or by rule of regulation.

## Seat Belt Law

As of October 1, 1997, Maryland has a primary seat belt law which means that police officers can issue a traffic citation to drivers and/or adult front seat passengers for not wearing a seat belt.

### Seat Belts Are Required

Every motor vehicle registered in Maryland and manufactured after June 1, 1964, must be equipped with two sets of seat belts in the front seat. Every motor vehicle registered in Maryland and manufactured after June 1, 1969, must be equipped with two sets of seat belts on the rear seat.



### Seat Belts Must Be Worn

Maryland motor vehicle law requires that the driver and front seat passengers wear seat belts in passenger cars, trucks, tractors, multipurpose vehicles or passenger

buses. A person may not operate any of these vehicles unless the operator and each outboard and front seat occupant under 16 years of age are wearing a seat belt. If a driver is under the age of 18, and holds a provisional license, the driver and *all* passengers must wear a seat belt or child safety seat.

### Persons With Physical Disabilities

If a physician licensed to practice medicine in Maryland determines and certifies in writing that the use of a seat belt by a person would prevent appropriate restraint due to a person's physical disability or other medical reason, the seat belt provisions do not apply to that person. The physician's certificate must state the nature of the physical disability and the reason that restraint by a seat belt is inappropriate. The certificate must be carried in the vehicle. A person who violates the provisions is subject to the penalties of the law.

### Head Restraints

Head restraints are installed to protect from spinal injury, whiplash, which can occur when a vehicle is struck from the rear. Before starting to drive the vehicle, adjust the head restraint on your seat to a position directly behind your head. This position varies with each driver, so it's important that the head restraint be adjusted to provide you with maximum protection. Some vehicles have high-back seats that cannot be adjusted.

### Child Safety Seats

Maryland motor vehicle law requires that all children under the age of six or weighing less than 40 pounds be secured in a child safety seat in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers' instructions. A child who weighs more than 40 pounds and is less than age 16 must be secured in a child safety seat or in a seat belt.

### Medical Exceptions For Children

If a physician licensed to practice medicine in Maryland certifies in writing, that the use of a child safety seat by a particular child would be impractical due to the child's weight, physical unfitness, or other medical reasons, then the child is exempt from a child safety seat.

If you are unable to purchase or obtain a child safety seat you may contact Project KISS (Kids in Safety Seats), at the Maryland

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (410) 767-6016 or 800-370-SEAT. There are programs in every county that have a limited number of seats available for loan at a nominal rental charge. Project KISS can refer you to the appropriate loan program or you can request the information from your local public library.

## Air Bags

Air bags are important safety devices. They work best when drivers and passengers are properly secured by lap and shoulder belts and are sitting as far back as possible.

Most air bags are designed to inflate in a moderate-to-severe frontal crash. Some crashes at lower speeds may result in injuries, but generally not the serious injuries that air bags are designed to prevent. Lap and shoulder belts should always be used, even in vehicles with air bags.

To increase the lifesaving capabilities of air bags:

- Always wear safety belts properly, using lap and shoulder belts where available
- Pregnant women should place the lap portion of the safety belt under the abdomen as low as possible on the hips and across the upper thighs.
- Sit as far away from the steering wheel as practical. Try to maintain 10-12 inches from the steering wheel hub to the chest.
- Children age 12 and under should ride buckled up in a rear seat in a child safety seat or seat belt appropriate for their age and size.
- Infants should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.

If it is impossible for you to follow these safety tips, it might be better for the air bags to be turned off. People who fall into one of the following risk groups should consider installing an air bag on-off switch:

- Those who must transport infants riding in rear-facing infant seats in the front passenger seat
- Those who must transport children under the age of 12 in the front passenger seat

- Drivers who cannot change their customary driving position and keep 10 inches between the center of the steering wheel and the center of their breastbone
- Those individuals whose doctors recommend that, due to their medical condition, the airbags pose a special risk that outweighs the risk of hitting their head, neck, or chest in a crash if the air bag is turned off.

Side impact air bags can provide supplemental safety benefits to adults in side-impact crashes. Children who are seated in close proximity to a side air bag may be at risk of serious or fatal injury, especially if the child's head, neck, or chest is in close proximity to the air bag when it is deployed.

## Fueling Guidelines and Safety Tips

Always consult vehicle's owner's manual to determine the manufacturer's recommended octane rating and re-fueling procedures.

Avoid entering and exiting the vehicle while fueling. If you must enter the vehicle, be sure to touch the automobile's metal structure after exiting the car and before touching the fuel filler. (Cloth rubbing on cloth may generate static electricity.)

Gasoline vapor is extremely flammable. Breathing gasoline vapors may have an adverse effect on one's health.

- Remove the key after properly turning off the engine.
- Extinguish all smoking materials.
- Turn off all cellular telephones.
- Ensure that the metal fuel nozzle is fully inserted in the tank opening and remains in contact with the vehicle's metal fuel filler until fueling has been completed.
- Never "top-off" the tank.
- Never leave the vehicle unattended when fueling.
- Make sure the gas cap is properly replaced.
- If filling a container with gasoline make sure that it is approved for that purpose, remove it from the vehicle and place it on the ground during filling. Keep the filler nozzle in contact with the container during filling.

## Signals, Signs and Markings

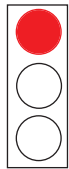
### Traffic Signals

Traffic signals apply to everyone who is walking, driving or riding a bicycle on a street or highway. Failing to obey the signal's message is a major cause of crashes.

The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic control device may not drive across private property, such as gas stations, store parking lots etc., or leave the roadway for the purpose of avoiding the instructions of a traffic control device.

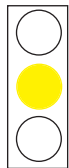
### Rules to Remember

#### Steady Red Signal



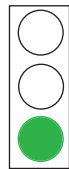
**Stop** — Come to a complete stop before reaching the intersection, stop line or crosswalk and remain stopped as long as the signal is red. You may turn right at a red signal after coming to a complete stop, unless there are signs posted at the intersection, which read “No Turn on Red.” You may turn left at a red signal after coming to a complete stop from a one-way street to another one-way street, unless there are signs posted at the intersection, which read “No Turn on Red.” When turning on a red signal, you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and all other traffic.

#### Steady Yellow Signal



This means that the signal is changing from green to red. Its purpose is to provide time for approaching traffic to stop safely and to clear other vehicles from the intersection before the light turns red. If you are too close to the intersection to stop safely, continue through the intersection with care.

#### Steady Green Signal



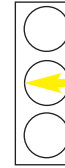
Proceed with caution after you have checked first to see that other vehicles have cleared the intersection. When it is safe to proceed, you may enter the intersection to go straight ahead or turn unless a sign or additional signal prohibits the turn. You must yield to pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.

#### Steady Red Arrow Signal



**Stop** — Come to a complete stop before reaching the intersection, stop line or crosswalk for the direction indicated by the arrow. Remain stopped as long as the arrow signal is red.

#### Steady Yellow Arrow Signal



Like the steady yellow signal, the yellow arrow means that the signal is changing from green to red. Its purpose is to provide time for approaching traffic to stop safely and to clear other vehicles from the intersection before the light turns red.

#### Steady Green Arrow Signal



Proceed with caution in the direction the arrow points. Remember that you must yield to all pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.

#### Flashing Red Signal



You must come to a complete stop and yield to all other traffic and to pedestrians. Proceed when the way is clear. If the flashing red signal is located at a railroad crossing, you must come to a complete stop, even though the train is not present.

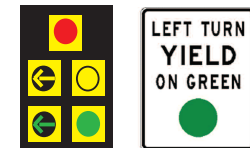
#### Flashing Yellow Signal



You must slow down and proceed with caution.

#### Multiple Signals

The signals are used to allow traffic to make left turns with a green light.

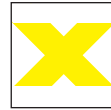




### Lane Use Signals

The signals are used to control traffic flow by reversing a lane's direction during different hours of the day. The lanes and their directions may be marked with signs and signals.

You must never drive in a lane under a red "X" signal.



You are permitted to drive in a lane under a green arrow signal.



A steady yellow "X" signal means a driver should move out of the lane as soon as safely possible.



A flashing yellow "X" signal means that a driver is permitted to use the lane for a left turn. It is likely that you will be sharing the lane with left-turning vehicles coming from the opposite direction.

### Traffic Signs

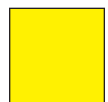
Identify signs by their shapes and colors as well as by the words, numbers, or the symbols on them.

#### Sign Colors

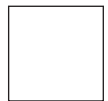
The color of a roadway sign can tell you at first glance what kind of information it has to offer.



**Red**  
Stop, yield, do not enter, or wrong way



**Yellow**  
General warning of what to expect ahead



**White**  
Regulatory sign, such as speed limit



**Orange**  
Construction and maintenance work area warning



**Green**  
Guide information, such as distance or direction



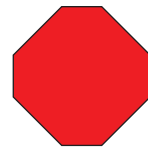
**Blue**  
Motorist services



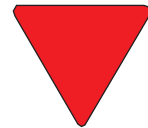
**Brown**  
Recreation and cultural interest areas

#### Sign Shapes

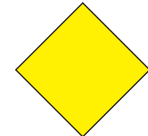
The shape of a traffic sign can tell you as much about the sign's message as its color. In poor visibility conditions, such as heavy fog, you may be able to make out only the shape of a sign.



**Octagon: Stop**  
The octagonal (eight-sided) shape always means stop. You must come to a complete stop at the ~~sign~~, stop line, pedestrian crosswalk or before entering an intersection.



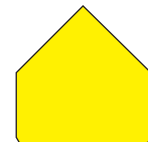
**Triangle: Yield**  
Slow down, or stop if necessary, and give the right of way to vehicles crossing your path.



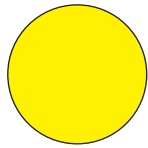
**Diamond: Warning**  
These signs warn you of special conditions or hazards ahead. You may have to slow down, so be ready.



**Rectangle: Regulatory or Guide**  
Vertical signs are generally used to give instructions or tell you the law. In the horizontal position, the signs may give directions or information.



**Pentagon: School and School Crossing**  
The pentagon (five-sided) shape warns you of school zones and marks school crossings.



**Round: Railroad Warning**  
Black on yellow is used only to warn that there is a railroad crossing ahead.

### Regulatory Traffic Signs

#### 8-Sided Sign, White Letters on Red

The Stop sign is the only 8-sided sign you will see on the highway. When you come to a stop sign, you must make a complete stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop at the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection. Before starting, you must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian. You may not proceed until it is safe to do so and you can exit the intersection.



#### 3-Sided Sign, Red Letters on White

You will see no other sign of this shape on the highway. Slow down as you approach a yield sign. Look to the left and the right. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles. You must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian. Once you have yielded to vehicles or pedestrians, you may not proceed until you can do so safely.



#### Rectangular (4-Sided) Signs, Black on White

These signs are used to regulate traffic. This particular sign tells you the maximum speed limit for the stretch of highway where it is posted.



Where this sign is posted, you must wait until the signal turns green before proceeding or making any turns.



Watch out for and obey this sign. Also look for double solid lines on the highway.



You must not enter the street so marked. It may be a one-way street in the opposite direction or all vehicular traffic may be prohibited.

Below Are Some of the International Signs  
Now Being Used In Maryland



No Left Turn  
Left turn prohibited



No Right Turn  
Right turn prohibited



No U Turn  
U turn prohibited



Keep to the right of  
the traffic island or  
divider



If your lane has this  
sign you must make  
a left turn at the  
next intersection.



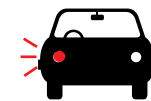
Both signs carry the  
same message. Drive  
only in the direction  
of the arrow.



Right turn and left  
turn prohibited.



**High Occupancy Vehicle**  
This sign means the lane or lanes indicated are reserved for buses and vehicles with the minimum number of occupants specified on the sign.



Must turn left.



Either turn left or proceed straight. Right turn prohibited.



Must turn right.

### Overhead Lane Use Signs

These signs are used where turning movements are required or where unconventional turning movements are permitted from specific lanes at an intersection.



This sign is usually posted at an intersection having a combination of signals including a green arrow which points left. When the green arrow goes out, you may still make a left turn provided the circular green signal is lit and you yield the right-of-way to all approaching traffic.



Reduced Speed Signs mark a zone with a lower speed limit ahead.

### Other Regulatory Signs

There are many other regulatory signs. Regulatory signs restrict parking, people, vehicles, weights and types of vehicles, etc.



### Warning Traffic Signs

Most warning signs are black on yellow and most are diamond shaped. Slow down and watch for other signs and signals that may follow.



**Stop Sign Ahead**  
Slow down and be ready to stop at the stop sign ahead.



**Yield Sign Ahead**  
Slow down and be prepared to stop at the yield sign or adjust your speed to the flow of the traffic.



**Signal Ahead**  
Slow down and be ready to stop at the signal ahead.



**Sharp Right Turn**  
There is a sharp turn to the right in the road ahead.



**Right Curve**  
There is a curve to the right ahead.



**Sharp Right And Left Turns**  
The road ahead turns sharply right, then left.



**Winding Road**  
The road ahead is winding with a series of curves or turns. Adjust your speed.



**Crossroad**  
Another road crosses the highway ahead. Be alert for cross traffic and regulatory signs or signals.



**Side Road**  
A side road enters the highway from the right. Adjust your speed so you can see any vehicles entering or exiting from the side road.

## Warning Traffic Signs Continued



"T"

**Intersection**  
The roadway ends ahead. Slow down and prepare to stop or yield before turning.



"Y"

**Intersection**  
You must bear either right or left ahead. Slow down and stay alert to the flow of traffic.



Advisory Speed

This is the maximum safe speed for a certain stretch of highway and is posted under other warning signs. Slow down to the advisory speed shown.



No

**Passing Pennant**  
The pennant-shaped, no-passing sign supplements the regulatory DO NOT PASS sign. The pennant is located on the left side of a roadway and points to beginning of a no-passing zone.



Exit

**Advisory Speed**  
The maximum safe speed for an entrance or exit.



Merge

Merging traffic from the right is just ahead.



The 5-Sided Sign is Used to Warn of Schools and School Crossings. Diamond Sign Warns of Pedestrian Crossing. Slow Down, Prepare to Stop, if Necessary.

## Warning Traffic Signs Continued



**Divided Highway Begins.** Keep to the right.



**Divided Highway Ends Ahead.** Drive into the proper lane.



**Merge Left.** The right lane ends ahead.



**Steep Hill Ahead.** Slow down and be ready to shift to the lower gear to control your speed and to save your brakes.



**Roadway Slippery When Wet, Reduce Speed.** (The first half hour of rain is the most hazardous.)



**Bicycle Crossing/ Bike Path.** Drive with caution.

## Route Markers

The interstate system has route markers in the shape of a shield. The top carries the legend INTERSTATE in white letters on a red background. The bottom is blue with the route number in large white numbers.



**United States Numbered Routes** (other than interstate routes) are marked with a sign of black numbers on a white background of the familiar U.S. shield.



**State Routes** are marked with a sign of black letters on a white rectangular background.

**Service Information Signs**  
**MOTORIST SERVICE** signs usually have white letters on a rectangular blue background.



#### Mile Marker

These signs are located every mile on interstate roads to serve as a location point for drivers when they need assistance.



#### Slow Moving Vehicle

Vehicles which travel at 25 MPH or less—such as farm equipment—must display these emblems when using public highway. Be prepared to adjust your speed or position when you see the sign.



## Work Zones

A work zone is an area along a highway where construction, maintenance, or utility work is occurring. Because work zones often are unexpected and sometimes hinder the smooth flow of traffic, they can present a challenge to even the most skilled drivers. It is important for the driver's own safety and the safety of pedestrians and workers that drivers use great care when approaching and passing these sites.

Special work zone traffic signs and other devices are set up in advance of where the work actually is taking place and continue beyond the work area. The zone may be either stationary (a bridge is being widened) or may be a mobile operation that moves down the road slowly or from time to time (pavement striping or patching).

Usually, temporary devices such as fixed or portable signs, changeable message signs, arrow panels, pavement markings, and/or channeling devices (cones, drums, barricades, barriers, etc.) are installed to guide traffic safely through the zone. Traffic warning signs in work zones usually are ORANGE.

#### When Approaching or Driving Through a Work Zone

Stay alert for changing traffic patterns and slowing or stopped traffic. Stopped traffic may be hidden around a curve or over a hill. Pay close attention to traffic signs and other devices, such as cones, drums, barricades, barriers, or markings, that are placed to safely guide you through the work zone. Obey the directions of the police and flaggers.

- When you see signs indicating lane closures ahead, prepare to move from the closed lane.
- Watch for slower speed limits. Fines for exceeding the speed limit in a work zone are much higher.
- Observe what other drivers are doing and avoid sudden moves. Do not weave from lane to lane. Brake gradually to give drivers behind you ample time to slow down. Keep up with the flow of traffic.
- Be alert for unusual pavement surface conditions, such as rough surfaces, metal plates, uneven pavement between lanes, and drop-offs at the pavement edge. They can make it more difficult for you to control your vehicle. Gradual, controlled movements are best under these circumstances.
- Maintain a reasonable speed and spacing between vehicles. You may have nowhere to go if you are traveling too fast or following too closely and the vehicle in front of you suddenly slows or stops.
- Be patient and considerate of workers and other road users.

At times, traffic in work zones must be stopped. This usually happens when traffic from opposite directions must take turns using a single lane, when workers or equipment must enter the lane of traffic, or where some work task might be dangerous to passing vehicles. Then, temporary traffic signals might be installed or police stationed to direct traffic. More often, trained and certified flaggers with STOP/SLOW paddles are used to stop, slow, and/or direct traffic through work zones.

## Regulatory Signs

These signs tell drivers of the speed limit and other laws and regulations. Speed limits may be reduced in work areas. The fine for violating the speed limit in a work zone is much higher than usual speeding fines and can reach \$1,000.



## Warning Signs

Warning signs are used to alert drivers to unusual or potentially hazardous conditions in or near work zones. Most signs used in highway and street work areas are orange and diamond-shaped.



Flagger  
Ahead



Workers  
Ahead

## Channeling Devices

Barricades, cones and drums are the most commonly used devices to guide drivers safely through work areas. At night they may be equipped with warning lights for improved visibility.



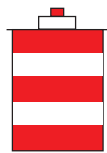
Barricade



Tubular Marker



Cone



Drum



Barricade

## Changeable Message Signs

These electronic signs, which can display a variety of messages pertaining to road conditions, traffic problems, emergency situations, special events, etc., are often used to alert motorists to special conditions within work zones.



## Arrow Panels

Arrow panels are used both during the day and at night to give advance warning and directional information to tell drivers where it is necessary to move into another lane to the right or left.



Arrow Panel in Arrow  
Mode

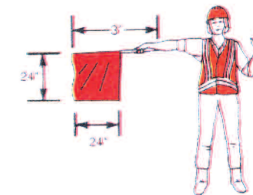


Arrow Panel in  
Caution Mode

## Flaggers



Usual Method Paddle



Emergency Use Only  
Flag to Stop Traffic

## Commercial Driver's License

It is a violation of federal, state and local laws to drive a commercial motor vehicle without a valid commercial driver's license (CDL), and a valid U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) physical card. The Maryland driver's license classes were revised on January 1, 1990.

### If You Drive:

- A motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 or more pounds; or
- A vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
- A vehicle required to be placarded for hazardous materials.
- Any single commercial vehicle less than 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight or any vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000.
- If you are a Maryland non-commercial driver operating a commercial motor vehicle within the state of Maryland, between 10,001 and 26,000 pounds, you are required to have a valid Federal Motor Carrier (DOT) physical card in your possession. If you have a pre-existing medical condition originating prior to 10/01/03, you are exempt from this requirement for 20 years, provided your pre-existing condition does not worsen.
- The U.S.A. Patriot Act of 2001 requires a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, for all CDL holders to obtain a HAZMAT endorsement.

You are required to have a commercial driver's license - See the MVA's "Commercial Driver's License Manual" (form DL-151) for additional information.

For the Driving Skills Test, the applicant is required to supply a registered motor vehicle of the proper class in safe operating condition.

A commercial driver's license is not required to operate firefighting and rescue equipment, farm vehicles, recreational vehicles, or U.S. Department of Defense vehicles on official business. However, the appropriate non-commercial driver's license is required. A driver may not take a non-commercial driver's license test in a commercial motor vehicle.

## Transporting Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) pose a risk to health, safety and property. The federal government and Maryland have published rules regarding the transportation of hazardous materials. The rules sometimes require diamond shaped warning signs on vehicles carrying hazardous materials. The signs are called placards.

One must have a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement before one can drive a vehicle requiring placards. The requirement applies regardless of the size of the vehicle. Consult the commercial driver's license manual for information.

## Vehicle Control

Having control over the load your vehicle is carrying is very important. When transporting logs, poles, lumber, pipe or steel on an open bed truck or trailer, they should be securely fastened to the vehicle with chains or wire rope around the front and rear of the load. If part of the load extends more than four feet past the rear of the vehicle, a red flag or light is needed. Place the red flag or light at the end of the load. When driving a loaded truck down a long hill, you should control your speed by gearing down at the top of the hill before starting down. Also, coming to a stop is important because the braking distance of a truck depends mostly on the gross weight of the vehicle, speed, load, brake, and road conditions.

"Double clutching" is used when shifting gears. The only time to disengage the motive power from the driving wheel is when you are stopping or shifting gears. Shifting into neutral gear or coasting, is called freewheeling. This is a very dangerous and unsafe practice.

To hold a tractor trailer in a proper lane while making a left curve on a two-lane roadway, hold the front of the vehicle toward the outside of the curve because the rear wheels of the vehicle will always follow a shorter path than the front wheels.

## Braking System

Every vehicle must have a parking brake system which will bring it to a safe stop and hold it no matter what its load. In order to ensure this, air brake systems must be drained periodically to remove accumulated moisture and sludge. Under normal conditions, air brakes should not be fanned, as this will reduce air pressure below the minimum pressure needed for safe operation. If the air pressure in the brake system drops below a safe operating level, a low-pressure warning device will operate.

## Emergency Situations

Many problems may disable your vehicle. If a tire blows out, gain control with the accelerator and use your engine to brake to a stop. If possible, try to get the vehicle off the road. Then place the necessary flares, reflectors or other signal devices around the disabled truck. On undivided roadways which carry traffic in both directions, signal devices must be placed beside the truck, 100 feet behind the truck and 100 feet ahead of the truck.

Whenever the low air pressure or vacuum warning device operates or shows a low-pressure condition, stop as quickly as possible and have the condition corrected. If the brakes fail and the vehicle does not have an air brake system, first pump the brake pedal, sound the horn and flash the lights, then try to shift to a lower gear. If the vehicle does have air brakes, you should not pump the brake pedal because pumping a brake pedal in a vehicle with air brakes will further reduce the braking ability. When the vehicle is under control, park the vehicle off the traveled portion of the roadway. On a divided roadway, all three warning devices must be placed behind the vehicle on the traffic side, one 10 feet behind the vehicle, the second 100 feet behind the vehicle and the third 200 feet behind the vehicle. While placing warning devices, be sure to hold the device between your body and oncoming traffic.

## Slippery Surfaces

Drive slowly and smoothly on slippery roads. If it is very slippery, you shouldn't drive at all. Stop at the first safe place.

The following are some safety guidelines.

- Start gently and slowly. When first starting, get the feel of the road. Don't hurry.
- Adjust turns and braking to existing conditions. Make turns as gently as possible.
- Don't brake any harder than necessary, and don't use the engine trolley brake or speed retarder. They can cause the driving wheels to skid on slippery surfaces.
- Adjust speed to existing conditions. Don't pass slow vehicles unless necessary.
- Go slow and watch far enough ahead to keep a steady speed. Avoid having to slow down and speed up.
- Take curves at slower speeds and don't brake while going around curves. Be aware that as the temperature rises to the point where ice begins to melt, the road becomes even more slippery. Slow down even further.
- Adjust the space between your vehicle and others to the current driving conditions.
- Don't drive next to other vehicles. Keep a longer distance between you and the next car. If you see a traffic jam ahead, slow down or stop and wait for it to clear. Try to anticipate stops early and slow down gradually.

## Brakes

When going downhill, brakes will always heat up. They are designed so that brake shoes or pads will rub against the brake drum or disks to slow the vehicle, creating heat. Brakes are designed to take a lot of heat. However, brakes can fail from excessive heat if the driver attempts to slow down from too high a speed too many times or too quickly. Brakes will fade (have less stopping power) when they get very hot and they can get to the point where they will no longer slow the vehicle.

The right way to use your brakes for long downhill grades is to go slow enough that a fairly light use of the brakes will keep your speed from increasing. If you go slowly, the brakes will be able to rid themselves of the heat.



## Escape Ramps

Escape ramps are located on many steep mountain grades. Escape ramps are made to stop runaway vehicles safely without injuring drivers and passengers. Escape ramps use a long bed of loose soft material (pea gravel) to slow a runaway vehicle, sometimes in combination with an upgrade.

Know the escape ramp locations on your route. Signs show drivers where these ramps are located. Escape ramps save lives, equipment and cargo. Use them if you lose your brakes.

## Starting a Vehicle in Motion on a Wet Surface from a Stop

Speed up gradually when traction is poor, as in rain or snow. If you use too much power, the drive wheels may spin and you could lose control of the vehicle. If the drive wheels begin to spin, take your foot off the accelerator.

## Downshifting for a Curve

Before entering a curve, slow down to a safe speed, and downshift to the right gear before entering the curve. This lets you use some power through the curve to keep the vehicle stable while turning. It also lets you speed up as soon as you are out of the curve.

## Mirrors

Make certain your mirrors are properly adjusted before you begin to drive. While driving, check your mirrors for vehicles on either side and in back of you. In an emergency, you may need to know whether you can make a quick lane change. There are “blind spots” that your mirrors cannot show you. Check your mirrors regularly to know where other vehicles are around you, and to see whether they move into your blind spots.

## Backing a Heavy Vehicle

Because you cannot see everything behind your vehicle, backing up is always dangerous. Avoid backing up whenever you can. When you park, try to park so you will be able to pull forward when you leave. When you have to back up, here are a few simple safety rules:

**Look at your path.** Look at your line of travel before you begin. Get out and walk around the vehicle. Check your clearance to the sides and overhead in and near the path your vehicle will take.

**Back up slowly.** Always back as slowly as possible. Use the lowest reverse gear. That way you can more easily correct any steering errors. You also can stop quickly if necessary.

**Back and turn toward the driver's side.** Back to the driver's side so you can see well. Backing toward the right side is very dangerous because you can't see as well. If you back and turn toward the driver's side, you can watch the rear of your vehicle by using both side mirrors and by looking out the side window. Use driver-side backing – even if it means going around the block to put your vehicle in position. The added safety is worth it.

**Use a helper.** Use a helper when you can. There are blind spots you can't see. That's why a helper is important. The helper should stand near the back of your vehicle where he or she can be seen. Before you begin backing up, work out a set of hand signals that you both understand. Agree on a signal for “stop.”

## Tires

Look for tire problems. It is dangerous to drive with defective tires. Look for:

- Excessive wear. You need at least 4/32-inch tread depth in every major groove on front wheels. You need 2/32 inch on other wheels. No fabric should show through the tread or sidewall.
- Cuts or other damage.
- Tread separation.
- Dual tires that come in contact with each other or parts of the vehicle.
- Mismatched tire sizes.
- Radial and bias-ply tires used together on the same axle.
- Cut or cracked valve stems.
- Re-grooved, recapped, or re-treaded tires on the front wheels of a bus are not allowed.

## Wheel and Rim Problems

- Defective wheels or rims could cause a crash.
- Bent or cracked rims can cause a tire to lose pressure or come off.
- Rust around wheel nuts may mean the nuts are loose – check tightness.
- After a tire has been changed, stop a short while later and recheck tightness of the nuts.
- Missing clamps, spacers, studs or lugs mean danger.
- Mismatched, bent or cracked lock rings are dangerous.
- Wheels or rims that have had welding repairs are not safe.

## Uncoupling a Trailer

When uncoupling a trailer, set the independent trailer brake and block the trailer wheels before you lower the landing support. Then, after unlocking the 5th wheel coupler, the tractor should be moved ahead until the trailer apron slips to the lowest part of the 5th wheel.

## Recreational Vehicles

A recreational vehicle provides temporary living quarters for recreational use. They are manufactured in a variety of styles, sizes and configurations.

- You may drive any recreational vehicle with a class A noncommercial driver's license.
- You may drive any single or combination of recreational vehicles, except tractor-trailers, with a class B noncommercial driver's license.
- You may drive any single or combination of recreational vehicles with a gross vehicle weight that is less than 26,001 pounds with a class C non-commercial license.

**NOTE:** A class M license is required for motorcycles.

## Terms Used in the Operation of Tractor-Trailers, Trucks, and Recreational Vehicles

<b>Off Track</b>	Refers to the path the rear of the vehicle follows in making a turn. For a given turn of a steering wheel, the rear wheels of the vehicle follow a shorter path than the front wheels.
<b>Pivot Wheels</b>	On a truck, the pivot wheels are the drive wheels.
<b>Pre-Trip Inspection</b>	Vehicle inspection of vehicle for road safety.

Class A or B noncommercial-driving tests will include a pre-trip inspection, which must be performed by the applicant. During the pre-trip inspection, one must show that the vehicle is safe to drive. You will have to walk around the vehicle and point out each item and explain to the examiner what you are checking and why. Pre-trip inspections must be completed in one hour or less. Below is a sample checklist. Request a pre-trip inspection guide for additional information.

### Engine Compartment

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Leaks and hoses | 4. Power steering fluid     |
| 2. Oil level       | 5. Engine compartment belts |
| 3. Coolant level   |                             |

### Cab

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Clutch and gearshift               | 9. Lighting indicators   |
| 2. Oil pressure gauge                 | 10. Horns                |
| 3. Temperature gauge                  | 11. Heater and defroster |
| 4. Ammeter and voltmeter              | 12. Parking brake        |
| 5. Mirrors and windshield             | 13. Hydraulic brake      |
| 6. Emergency equipment                | 14. Air brake check      |
| 7. Steering play                      | 15. Safety belt          |
| 8. Wipers and washers (working order) |                          |

**External Inspection**

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Steering box and hoses | 13. Hub oil seals and axle seals |
| 2. Steering linkage       | 14. Lug nuts                     |
| 3. Springs/air/torque     | 15. Spacers                      |
| 4. Mounts                 | 16. Doors and mirrors            |
| 5. Shock absorbers        | 17. Fuel tank                    |
| 6. Slack adjusters        | 18. Battery box                  |
| 7. Brake chambers         | 19. Drive shaft                  |
| 8. Brake hoses and lines  | 20. Exhaust system               |
| 9. Drum brakes            | 21. Frame                        |
| 10. Brake linings         | 22. Splash guards                |
| 11. Rims                  | 23. Doors/ties/lifts             |
| 12. Tires                 |                                  |

**Tractor/Coupling**

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Air and electric lines | 5. Platform (fifth wheel)     |
| 2. Catwalk                | 6. Release arm (fifth wheel)  |
| 3. Mounting bolts         | 7. Kingpin/apron/gap          |
| 4. Locking jaws           | 8. Locking pins (fifth wheel) |

**Trailer**

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Air and electrical connectors | 4. Doors/ties/lifts                |
| 2. Head board                    | 5. Frame                           |
| 3. Landing gear                  | 6. Tandem release arm/locking pins |

Additional information is contained in the Maryland Commercial Driver's License manual and the Pre-Trip Inspection Guide, which may be obtained at any full-service MVA office.

**Class A & B Non-commercial Driving Test Maneuvers**

"Off-street" maneuvers must be performed by all individuals applying for a class A or B driver's license. Typical "off-street" maneuvers include driving forward and backward along a straight and curved path. Specific maneuvers include driving straight forward and backward to within 24" of a stop line, backing into an offset alley, and backing into an alley dock.

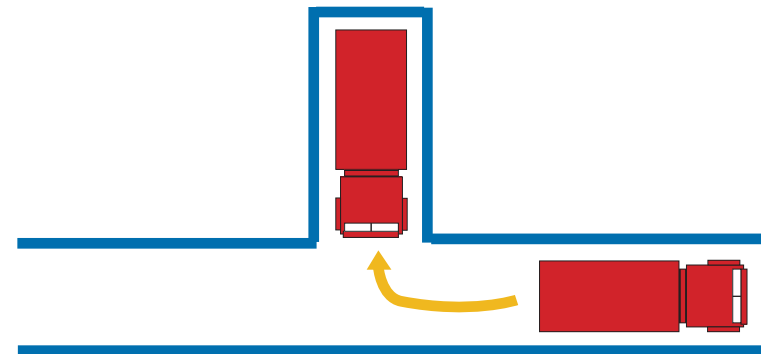
Maneuvers will be timed.

**Straight Line Backing**

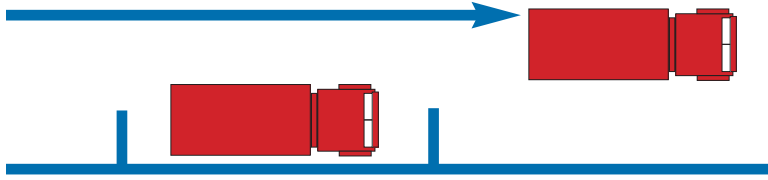
You must drive forward through one lane and stop within 18 inches of a stop line. Then you must back your vehicle in the same lane a distance of at least 100 feet.

**Backing into an Alley Dock**

You must back your vehicle to within 24 inches of the face of the dock. This maneuver may be required from either direction.



## Parallel Parking — Class A & B Non-commercial License



You are required to back your vehicle into a space that is 12 feet wide and 10 feet longer than the testing vehicle. You must get the entire vehicle within this space and within 18 inches of the rear of the space. Parallel parking must be done both to the driver and passenger's side. For class A vehicles, only the trailer is maneuvered into the parking space (jackknife park).

In addition to the basic skills maneuver, the class A and B skills tests include a comprehensive on-road skills test.

## Highway - Rail Crossings

Highway-rail crossings are dangerous intersections and drivers must take great care when driving across railroad tracks.



Every highway-rail crossing has an "X" shaped sign (called a cross-buck) showing where the tracks cross the roadway. No other highway sign is this shape. These signs are white with black lettering with the words "RAILROAD CROSSING". This sign should be treated like a "YIELD" sign – the train ALWAYS has the right-of-way.

An Advance Warning sign is almost always placed several hundred feet before a highway-rail crossing. This sign is round and yellow with a black "X". No other highway sign is this shape. It tells a driver that he or she is approaching a dangerous intersection – a highway-rail crossing. When you come to this sign, slow down and watch for a railroad crossing.



Many highway-rail crossings have flashing light signals. These signals consist of a crossbuck sign over two red lights that flash alternately when a train is approaching the crossing. When the signals at the crossing are flashing, come to a complete stop. You may then cross after looking both ways up the tracks and making absolutely sure no trains are coming.

Some crossings have crossing gates in addition to the flashing light signals. They have red and white diagonal stripes and three red lights. When they are down, these gates extend across the roadway and two of the lights flash alternately while the one on the tip stays steady red. Never drive around lowered crossing gates under any circumstances (unless you are directed to do so by a uniformed police officer).

An advance warning sign and a crossbuck protect most highway-rail crossings. Some crossings do not have gates to stop traffic. If you frequently use such crossings and do not usually see a train, you may be lulled into a false sense of security. Most trains do not operate on a schedule. Even though you have never seen a train at a particular crossing does not mean that one won't be there the next time you cross the tracks.

Crossings with complicated or confusing traffic patterns nearby can also be dangerous. In these instances, drivers will pay more attention to the traffic on the road than to an approaching train.

A fully loaded train may take as long as 1½ miles to stop in an emergency. Don't make the tragic mistake of thinking the train will stop for you just because you were on the crossing first. Trains are very heavy and are unable to stop quickly, even if they are using their emergency brakes. The effect of a train hitting your car is about the same as your car hitting a soda can. In a collision between a train and a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle is always the loser.

#### Remember the Following Lifesaving Points Approaching a Highway-Rail Crossing:

- Expect a train every time you cross the tracks.
- Approach the crossing at a reduced speed.
- Always look left, right, and left again as you approach a highway-rail crossing. Look, even if the warning sign is not flashing.
- If necessary, or required by law, stop within 50 feet, but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail in the crossing.
- If the signals at the crossing are flashing, come to a complete stop, look up the tracks in BOTH directions, and cross only when you are absolutely sure no trains are coming.

- **NEVER** drive between or around lowered crossing gates. Stop if the crossing gates are down. Proceed only when the gates are raised.
- All passenger buses, school buses, and trucks carrying explosives or hazardous materials must stop at a highway-rail crossing. The driver must listen and look in both directions for a train before proceeding through the crossing.
- If stopped at a crossing with more than one track, do not start as soon as the train passes. Wait until you have a clear view down all of the tracks.
- Never drive onto a railroad track until you are sure you can drive all the way across. Wait for the traffic to clear before you cross.
- **NEVER** stop on the tracks. If your vehicle stalls or you make the mistake of getting trapped on a railroad crossing and a train is approaching, exit the car immediately and move as far away from the track as possible. Call 911 or the railroad's emergency number.
- Remember, trains can't stop, YOU can.

#### Stalling on Railroad Tracks

Look both ways for trains. If there is a train approaching, get out of the vehicle immediately and move as far away from the track as possible to avoid being struck by the debris from the crash. Once you are in a safe location, call 911 or the railroad's emergency number.

## Light Rail

**Light Rail Signs:** Drivers and pedestrians should be familiar with the posted light rail signs and be prepared to stop as required. While these signs are intended for the operator of the light rail, drivers and pedestrians should be aware of their meaning.



Horizontal Bar  
Illuminated  
Stop



Diagonal  
Illuminated  
Caution  
The light rail operator sounds the bell and proceeds through the intersection.



Vertical Bar  
Illuminated  
Proceed  
The light rail operator sounds the bell and proceeds through the intersection.

## NOTES:

## Important Safety Tips for the Light Rail

- Never trespass on the light rail tracks.
- Cross only at designated crossings.
- Never walk or drive across the tracks when you see a moving train or a red traffic signal.
- Always look both ways before crossing light rail train tracks.
- In the station, stand behind the yellow warning strip until the train stops.
- Do not walk or bike along the tracks, day or night - Use bike trail only.
- Stay away from the electric wires.

In case of an emergency on the train, locate the intercom on the operator's cab door at the front and back of each car. By pressing the button, you can talk to the operator to get assistance. Each train has a two-way radio to contact authorities.

**Guide Two:**  
**The Rules of the Road for**  
**Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles,**  
**Pedestrians and Bicyclists**

*Together We Can Save Lives.*

*Turn Headlights on with*  
*Windshield Wipers, It's Our Law!*

