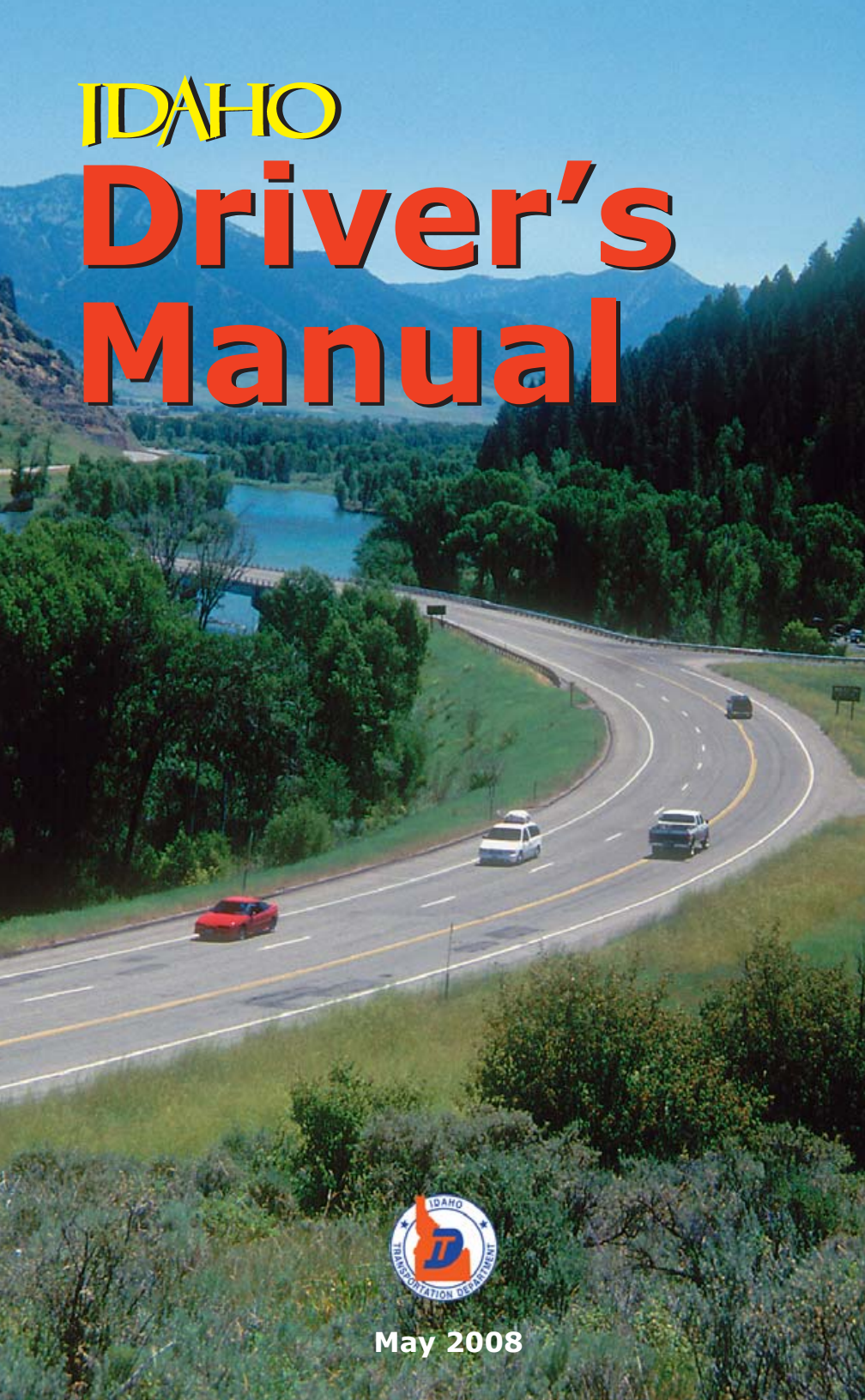
IDAHO Driver's Manual



May 2008

Cover photo: Highway 26 along the Snake River near Swan Valley.

Photography by *Dave Gjesdal, Driver Services, ITD*

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Idaho Driver's Manual

May 2008

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This handbook paraphrases the language of the Idaho Motor Vehicle Code. Courts go by the actual language of the code, not this text.

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CHAPTER 1
LICENSING INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

As more motorists share Idaho's streets and Scenic Highways, it becomes increasingly important that you always drive courteously and safely. Becoming a safe driver takes time and practice. By knowing and following the "rules of the road," Idaho's traffic laws, and knowing what the signs and signals mean, you will be able to move smoothly and safely in a variety of traffic situations. You should learn and practice driving safely, defensively, and with common sense. Your life as well as the lives of your family, friends, and other drivers depends on it.

LICENSING INFORMATION

Anyone who operates a motor vehicle on the public roads in Idaho is required to have a valid driver's license. You can be licensed in Idaho when you are 15 years old. However, if you are under 17 years old, you must first successfully complete an approved driver's training program. Under Idaho's Graduated Driver's License Program, you must then complete a Supervised Instruction Period (SIP). After completing the SIP, you will be eligible to apply for a driver's license. This license will be restricted to driving during daylight hours only until you are 16 years old.

If you are under 16 years of age, you are only authorized to drive during daylight hours—unless you are supervised by a valid, licensed driver who is at least 21 years old and is sitting in the front seat beside you (no other passengers are allowed in the front seat). Daylight hours are defined as from "1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset."

When moving to Idaho you will need to apply for an Idaho driver's license within 90 days of residing in Idaho, whether your out-of-state license has expired or not. If you have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), you are required to be licensed in Idaho within 30 days of residing in Idaho.

Students attending a college or university in Idaho and members of the U.S. Military on active duty and their dependents who hold a valid drivers license from another state or country and who claim residency in that state or country, are not required to obtain an Idaho driver's license.

Idaho Driver's License/ID Card Fee Schedule

(All fees are non-refundable)

Effective July 1, 2008

OPERATOR (CLASS D)

License

- 1-year (age 17) $12.25
- 3-year (under 18) 20.50
- 3-year (age 18 to 21) 20.50
- 1-year (age 20) 12.25
- 4-year (age 21 and over) 24.50
- 8-year (age 21 to 62) 45.00

Instruction Permit (IP) 11.50
Knowledge Test 3.00
Skills Test ($3.50 to County, $11.50 to Skills Tester) 15.00
Duplicate License/IP/SIP* 11.50
Driver Training Instruction Permit**/SIP 15.00

* Supervised Instruction Permit
**Additional $3.50 admin. fee collected in advance for skills test receipt.

COMMERCIAL (CLASS A, B, & C)

License

- 1-year (age 20) $12.25
- 3-year (age 18 to 21) 20.50
- 4-year (age 21 and over) 28.50

Instruction Permit (must have Idaho license) 19.50
Knowledge Test 3.00
Skills Test ($5.00 to County, $50.00 to Skills Tester) 55.00
Endorsement Knowledge Test 3.00
Additional Endorsement 11.50
Duplicate License 11.50
License Upgrade 15.50
Seasonal CDL (6-month) 27.50

MOTORCYCLE (in addition to above license fees)

Instruction Permit (must have Idaho license) $11.50
Duplicate Permit 11.50
Knowledge Test 3.00
Skills Test (collected by skills tester) 5.00
One-Time "M" Endorsement 11.50

IDENTIFICATION CARD:

ID Card (no age limit)

- Under age 18 ..... $6.50
- Age 18 to 21 ..... 6.50
- 4-year (age 21 and over) 7.50
- 8-year (age 21 and over) 15.00

Duplicate ID (same fee as original)

NOTE: All Retest Fees are the Same as the Original Test Fees.

Idaho driver's licenses, instruction permits, or identification cards are issued through the county sheriff's offices. You may apply at the sheriff's office most convenient to you.

LICENSE TYPES

- **Class A, B, and C** licenses are Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) that allow a person to operate certain types of commercial vehicles. A commercial vehicle, for driver-licensing purposes, is a vehicle that either has a manufactured gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, is placarded for hazardous materials, or designed to carry 16 people or more. See the *Commercial Driver's License Manual* for detailed information about commercial driver licensing applications and requirements.

- **Class D** licenses allow drivers to operate non-commercial motor vehicles.

- **Class D Instruction Permits** allow people to practice driving a motor vehicle for 180 days when accompanied by an adult (someone who is 18 years old, or older) who holds a valid driver's license. These permits are available if you are at least 15 years old and have successfully completed an approved or accredited driver training program and the Graduated Driver's Licensing Program (GDL). If you have not successfully completed driver training and the GDL Program, you must pass a written knowledge test and be at least 17 years old to be issued an instruction permit.

- **Motorcycle (M) Endorsements** are required on any Class D or Commercial Driver's License when a motorcycle rider operates on public roadways. A motorcycle is defined as a motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. Tractors and mopeds are not classified as motorcycles. You must pass a written and a skills test before receiving a motorcycle endorsement. If you are surrendering an out-of-state license that has a motorcycle endorsement, you are still required to pass a written motorcycle knowledge test. If your out-of-state license has been expired for one year or longer, you will also be required to take the skills test. See the *Motorcycle Operator's Manual* for more information about this endorsement.

- **Motorcycle Instruction Permits** are available for those who want to learn how to operate a motorcycle. You must have a valid Idaho driver's license to apply for a motorcycle instruction permit. You must also take and pass a written knowledge test. Any person under 21 will be required to take a written knowledge test and successfully complete an approved motorcycle training course. (See the *Motorcycle Operator's Manual* for more information.)

DRIVER TRAINING

An approved Idaho driver-training program consists of a required 1,800 minutes (30 hours) of classroom instruction, 360 minutes (6 hours) of in-car observation in a driver-training car, and 360 minutes (6 hours) of behind the wheel driving with a driver training instructor. Driver training is required for anyone under 17 years old who is applying for an Idaho driver's license.

The Department of Education provides approved courses through commercial and public schools. Most Idaho school districts offer driver-training programs in cooperation with the Department of Education. The courses are open to all Idaho residents between the ages of 14 1/2 and 21, even if they are not public school students.

If you are under 17 years old and have completed driver training in another state (while a resident of that state) but have not been licensed in that state, you will be required to provide acceptable proof of completion of an approved driver training course from that state. If you are not surrendering an out-of-state license, you will also be required to complete a supervised driving period prior to licensing.

DRIVER TRAINING / SUPERVISED INSTRUCTION PERMITS

You must have a driver training permit/supervised instruction permit to attend any commercial or public school driver training program. While you are enrolled in a driver's training program, these permits are valid only to operate a vehicle with a driver training instructor.

When you have successfully completed a driver's training program and the instructor has signed the permit, you will be eligible to begin the supervised instruction period required by Idaho's Graduated Driver's License (GDL) program.

The documents required to get a driver-training permit are the same as those required for a driver's license and are listed on the following pages. The certified birth certificate you provide must list your mother and father for liability purposes. If you have a driver training permit derived from a Driver's Training/Supervised Instruction Permit, it will expire five days after your 18th birthday. At age 18 you may apply for a Class D instruction permit without a parental liability signer.

GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM

Anyone under 17 years of age who has not been issued a driver's license in Idaho must successfully complete an approved driver training program and comply with the requirements of the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program. Under the GDL Program, you will be required to complete a

minimum six-month, violation-free supervised instruction period, during which you must:

- be accompanied by a supervising valid licensed driver at least 21 years old who is occupying the seat beside the driver (no other passengers are allowed in the front seat),
- assure that all occupants are wearing seat belts or child restraints if required,
- observe all laws regarding alcohol and other intoxicating substances, and
- accumulate at least 50 hours of supervised driving time, ten hours of which must be at night.

If you are convicted of violating any traffic laws while you are operating under the Supervised Instruction Permit (SIP), the permit will be cancelled and you must reapply for a new SIP. Your minimum six (6) months of supervised driving begins all over again with the issuance of a new permit.

Once you have successfully met the requirements of the GDL, you will be required to take and pass a skills test and a written knowledge test before receiving a driver's license. A parent or legal guardian may accompany you during the skills test after signing a liability waiver.

Restriction Under 17 - Licensees under the age of 17 are required—during the first six months from the date the license was issued—to limit the number of passengers in the vehicle who are under the age of 17 to not more than one passenger, unless the passenger is related by blood, marriage, or adoption. This law became effective July 1, 2007 and applies to all drivers in the above category, whether or not the restriction is printed on the license.

Violation of any driver license restriction may result in an automatic 30 day license suspension for drivers under the age of 17.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR LICENSING

Idaho considers new applicants to be individuals who either (1) have never been licensed in Idaho or any other state or jurisdiction, (2) are returning to Idaho after being licensed in another state or jurisdiction, (3) when surrendering a license from another jurisdiction, or (4) have let their Idaho driver's license expire for one year or more.

If you are a new applicant for a driver's license, instruction permit, identity card, or driver training permit, you are required to provide the following to the driver's license examiner:

- Proof of Idaho Residency
- Proof of Age and Identity
- Acceptable Legal-Presence Documents
- Social Security Card
- Visual/Medical Certification (if required)
- Other State or Foreign License
- Driver Training Completion (if under 17)
- Liability Signer (if under 18)
- School Enrollment or Completion (if under 18)

For more information on these items and when they are required see below:

- **Proof of Idaho Residency -** You must reside inside Idaho's borders to be issued an Idaho driver's license or ID card. You will be required to show proof of residency with documents such as lease or rental agreements, utility bills, employment records, school enrollment records, etc. Your home address (where you live) cannot be your workplace, vacation residence, or a part-time residence.

- **Proof of Age and Identity -** Driver's license examiners are required by law to verify your identity and age before issuing you a driver's license or ID card. If you have a valid, state-issued driver's license or state-issued ID card to surrender that meets the conditions of a primary document stated below, you do not need to provide any additional identity documents. If you do not have an acceptable driver's license or ID card to surrender, you will be required to present a certified original birth certificate and an acceptable photo identity document (see primary and secondary document lists below).

If the documents described above cannot be obtained, the examiner will require a combination of documents from the primary and secondary document lists that provide proof of your legal name, date of birth, and identity.

If you need to correct errors on another state's driver's license or ID card or make a name change, you will be required to provide additional certified documentation.

Primary documents must contain your full legal name and date of birth. These documents must be verifiable as authentic by the agency issuing them. The following are examples of acceptable primary documents:

1. Out-of-state driver's license or ID card (with a photo) not expired for five years or more.
2. Idaho driver's license or ID card not expired for five years or more.
3. Certified original birth certificate or certified abstract of birth certificate.
4. Valid Immigration and Naturalization card from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
5. U.S. military photo identification card.
6. Original naturalization/citizenship document.
7. Valid passport with a valid U.S. VISA
8. Valid U.S. passport card
9. Concealed weapons permit issued by the state of Idaho not expired for one year or more.
10. Pilot's license with photo not expired for one year or more.
11. Veteran's Universal Access Card, with photo.
12. Native American ID card, with photo

Secondary documents will assist in confirming your identity, and must contain your name and enough information to establish proof of all or part of what is contained on the primary document. The following are examples of acceptable secondary documents:

1. Out-of-state issued driver's license or ID card with a photo, not expired for five years or more.
2 U.S. military discharge paper (form # DD214).
3. Certified marriage certificate meeting Idaho standards with seal and document number showing that it was recorded.
4. Certified divorce document from a court or state vital statistics office.
5. Guardianship or custody documents, notarized or court certified.
6. Certified court name-change document.
7. School transcript.
8. Home school document.
9. Junior or senior high school (not college or university) photo activity card.
10. Junior or senior high school, college, or military yearbook/annual.
11. Idaho Automobile dealer/salesman photo ID card.
12. Idaho Department of Corrections photo ID card.
13. Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections photo ID card.

NOTE: Either the primary or secondary document must contain a photo of you. If your document is not written in English, you must have an accompanying acceptable English-language document or an acceptable certified translation. **All documents submitted must be acceptable to the examiner or the Idaho Transportation Department.**

- **Acceptable Legal-Presence Documents –** If you are not a citizen or permanent legal resident you will be required to present one of the following documents:

  - Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization
  - Valid Foreign passport with appropriate Department of Homeland Security documents not expired:
    - US VISA with Arrival/Departure record (I-94, I-94 W)
    - Resident Alien card or Permanent Resident card (I-551)
    - Temporary Resident ID card (I-688)
    - Employment Authorization Document (I-688A, I-688B, I-766)
    - Reentry Permit form (I-327)
    - Refugee Travel Document form (I-571)

  If you are not a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States the expiration date on your driver's license will be the same date as your end of lawful stay in the United States as indicated on your documents issued by the Department of Homeland Security or four years, whichever is less. If your Department of Homeland Security documents do not show an expiration date, the expiration date on the driver's license will be one year from the date of issuance of the driver's license.

- **Social Security Card -** Bring your Social Security Number or the original card issued by the Social Security Administration. Your Social Security number will be verified. It will not be printed on your Idaho driver's license or ID card.

  If you do not have a Social Security Number, you may still apply for a driver's license or ID card if you provide a letter from the Social Security Administration stating that you do not have a Social Security Number.

- **Visual / Medical Certification** - If you have a visual and/or medical condition that could affect your driving, you may be required to provide a statement from your physician certifying that you can operate a vehicle safely. The necessary form may be obtained from the driver's license examiner at your county sheriff's office.

  If you have questions regarding any physical or mental condition that may affect your ability to operate a motor vehicle, contact the County Driver's License office.

  If you have had eye surgery to improve your vision, the restriction on your driver's license may need to be removed. Contact the County Driver's License office for more information.

- **One License Law -** When applying for an Idaho Class D (non-commercial) driver's license, you must surrender any driver's license or ID card issued to you from another state, U.S. Territory, or the District of Columbia.

- **Foreign Licenses -**

  CDL - If you are applying for an Idaho Commercial Driver's License (CDL), or if you hold a CDL issued by a foreign country, you must surrender any driver's license(s) issued to you by any Jurisdiction(s). Additionally, in order to comply with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) requirements, if the license you are surrendering was issued in Mexico or Canada you must provide a driving record within 30 days of application.

  You will be required to take the Class D written test and the test for any additional endorsements you want on your CDL license. Any person who applies for a motorcycle endorsement will be required to pass both a written knowledge test and motorcycle skills test. Any person under 21 will be required to take an approved motorcycle rider training course.

  Class D - If you are applying for an Idaho Class D (non-commercial) driver's license and have not been issued a CDL in any jurisdiction, you are not required to surrender your foreign licenses or provide a driving record. You will be required to take the Class D written test and a driving skills test.

  Once you are issued an Idaho driver's license, you are not allowed to use or show your foreign license for the purpose of operating a motor vehicle. If you are stopped for a potential driving violation and you show your foreign license, you could be cited and fined for a misdemeanor.

- **Liability Signer** - If you are under 18 years old, you need to have a parent or legal guardian with you to sign consent for you to be licensed. The signer assumes legal responsibility for your actions as a driver. If the liability signer is not the mother or father listed on your birth certificate, you must provide acceptable legal documents (i.e. adoption records or court guardianship documents). The identity of the liability signer will be verified. If the signer's name is different from the one appearing on your birth certificate, additional documents such as a marriage license or divorce decree may be required to verify relationship. If the liability signer cannot be present to sign the application at the county office, the liability signer must complete a power of attorney form giving another person authority to sign for him or her. If you are married, your spouse, who must be at least 18 years of age, may sign for you.

As long as you are under 18, the person who signs for you may withdraw consent at any time, which will cause the department to cancel your driver's license.

- **Driver Training Completion -** If you are under 17 years old, you must provide proof that you have completed an approved driver-training program. You must also provide proof that the supervised instruction permit requirement has been met. (See the driver training section of this manual for more information about these requirements.)

- **School Enrollment or Completion -** If you are under 18 years old you will need to provide acceptable proof of enrollment and attendance in or graduation from a recognized high school or equivalent program. This proof can be in the form of a verification of compliance slip from an acceptable school or program you are attending, a high school diploma, or a general education certificate of completion. When signing the liability statement, your parent(s) must also sign a statement that you are in compliance with the school attendance provisions of Idaho Code.

EXAMINATIONS

Applicants must be 15 years old or older to take the written knowledge, visual, and skills tests.

- **Vision Screening** - Your vision will be tested and you must meet a minimum standard of 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or without corrective lenses. If you wear glasses or contacts during the vision screening, a lens restriction will be placed on your driver's license. If a lens restriction is placed on your driver's license, you must always wear your glasses or contacts when operating a vehicle or you could be cited and lose your driving privileges for a period of time.

- **Written Knowledge Test** - If you are a new applicant or your Idaho driver's license has been expired for more than one year, you will be tested on your knowledge of Idaho traffic laws, highway signs by shape and symbol, traffic signals, pavement markings, and equipment required on motor vehicles. All of the information needed to pass the written test for a class D license or instruction permit is included in this manual.

  The written test consists of forty (40) questions and you are allowed to miss six questions to pass the test. No aids (written, audio, or electronic) are allowed to be used while taking the written test. Tests are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Web-based driver practice tests are not accurate representations of Idaho Driver tests, nor are they provided, updated, or approved by the Idaho Transportation Department.

IF YOU FAIL A WRITTEN AND/OR SKILLS TEST, YOU MUST WAIT THREE DAYS TO RETEST. YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO PAY THE TEST FEES AGAIN TO RETAKE ANY WRITTEN OR SKILLS TESTS.

- **Skills Test** - The skills test evaluates your ability to drive a vehicle safely, demonstrate good driving habits, and obey traffic laws in a variety of driving situations. The information needed to pass this test is included in the following chapters. You must pass the written test (if required) and obtain a receipt showing you have paid the $3.50 fee to the county for the skills test. A skills test is required for any applicant:
  - who has never been licensed before,
  - who has completed driver's training and the supervised instruction period,
  - whose license has been expired for one year or more,
  - whose vision does not meet minimum standards, or
  - who presents or surrenders a driver's license issued by a foreign country, or whose most-recent driver's license was issued by a foreign country.

  A skills test may also be required for any applicant:
  - having any mental or physical impairment that might affect the safe operation of a motor vehicle, or
  - when an examiner has concerns about the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, regardless of prior license, experience, or age.

  To schedule a skills test, you need to make an appointment with a certified skills tester. A list of skills testers in your area will be provided by the driver's license office when you make application. You must pay the skills test fee of $11.50 directly to the tester.

  Your skills test will take about 30 minutes to complete. The test consists of two parts: the pre-drive check and the driving test. It is important to make sure the vehicle you bring to the skills test has valid proof of insurance, is properly registered, is in good running condition, and is clean and safe to operate. You must also have authorization to use it if it does not belong to you.

  Unless you have valid driving privileges, you should come to the skills test in a vehicle driven by a licensed driver. You will not have driving privileges allowing you to drive at any other time until your driver's license is issued.

- **Pre-drive check** - During this part of the test, you will be asked to locate and/or demonstrate the items listed below to determine your knowledge and that the equipment is in good working order:
  - Tires, they must have at least 1/32" of tread on them
  - Brakes, including the emergency brake
  - Headlights, brake lights, and turn signals in both the front and back
  - Windshield and wipers
  - Defroster
  - Gauges
  - Seat Belts
  - Horn
  - Rear view mirror(s)
  - Driver window in good working order
  - Emergency flashers
  - Passenger door; must open and close
  - Arm signals for stopping and signaling to turn

- **Driving test** - During this part of the skills test, you will demonstrate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle and obey traffic laws while performing the following maneuvers:
  - Street parking and backing
  - Parking lot driving
  - Business and residential driving
  - Freeway or highway driving
  - Four right turns and four left turns
  - Eight intersections
  - Driving through a curve
  - Lane changes

You will be tested on proper traffic checks, speed, acceleration and deceleration, starting and stopping distances, lane position, and vehicle spacing. You will fail the skills test if you cannot successfully complete the pre-drive check or if you accumulate more than 15 errors. You will fail the skills test immediately for any collision or near collision, any dangerous action, a serious or persistent violation of law, or lack of cooperation. If you fail the skills test you must wait three days before re-testing. You will need to get another receipt from the county for $3.50 and pay another $11.50 fee to the tester. You are not required to retest with the same tester and may retest with any tester you choose.
No passengers or pets are permitted in the vehicle during the test. Car phones or cellular phones must be turned off or disconnected. Loose or valuable items should not be in the vehicle during the test.

When you have passed your skills test, the tester will give you a sealed envelope containing your test results. **Do not open the envelope**—if you do, the county will not accept your test results.

- **Tips**
  - Be considerate by being on time for your scheduled test. If you are not able to keep your appointment or are going to be late, let the tester know.

  - Wear comfortable and appropriate clothing and have a clean, roadworthy car.

  - Try to relax but remain alert and listen carefully to the tester's instructions. The tester will not ask you to perform an illegal or unsafe maneuver during the test.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The identity and residency documents required to obtain an identification card are the same as those for a driver's license. When applying for an Idaho ID card, you must surrender any ID card and/or driver's license issued to you in another state or jurisdiction. If you are 21 years of age or older, a non-driving ID card is valid for four or eight years. If you are under age 21, see page 1-12 for details. Expiration periods will vary.

RENEWALS, DUPLICATES, AND EXTENSIONS

- **Renewal** - If you are 21 or older, you may renew your Idaho driver's license in person up to 364 days before the expiration date. A renewal is valid for either four years or eight years. If you are between the ages of 21 and 62, you may choose the eight-year renewal. Your vision will be checked, and if the examiner thinks it is necessary, a skills test, visual examination, and/or medical examination may be requested. If your driver's license has been expired for one year or more, you will be required to take the written knowledge test and the skills test. If your CDL is expired for one year or more and you wish to retain CDL privileges, you will need to take the written knowledge test for class D, all written tests pertinent to the CDL, and a skills test in the class of vehicle that matches the class of CDL you are applying for.

- **Under 18 and 21** - <u>If you are 18 to 20 years of age</u>, your driver's license or ID card will show "Under 21 until month/day/year," and your license or ID card will expire five days after your 21st birthday. <u>If you are 15 to 17 years of age,</u> your driver's license will show "Under 18 until month /day/year," and your driver's license will expire five days after your 18th birthday. If you are 17 years of age or younger, your ID card will show "Under 18 until month/day/year," and will expire five days after your 18th birthday.

  NOTE: You may not renew your license or ID card before your 18th or 21st birthday, whichever applies.

- **Renew by Mail** - If you have a valid Class D Idaho driver's license and are between the ages of 21 and 69 years of age, you may be eligible to renew your license by mail. This can be done once every eight years, which means you must go to the driver's license office every other renewal period. If you chose the eight-year license option or your current license had an extension, you are not eligible to renew by mail. An application to renew by mail is sent to eligible drivers 60 days in advance of their driver's license's expiration date. It is mailed to the address currently on file with the department.

  Once your application has been accepted and approved, you will receive a renewed license with the same photo shown on your expiring license. Upon receipt of the new license, destroy your expiring license, as it is no longer valid. There is an additional $1.00 (sheriff's administrative fee) added to the cost of the license when you renew by mail. If you need to make changes to the information that appears on the face of the driver's license, you will need to renew your license in person. You do not have to renew your driver's license by mail. You may always renew it in person.

- **Duplicate Licenses** - If your Idaho driver's license is lost, damaged, or destroyed, you may obtain a duplicate by applying at any sheriff's office. You will need to bring an acceptable photo document (see previous pages for list of acceptable documents). If you find your lost driver's license after a duplicate has been issued, it must be destroyed, or you may surrender the found license to the department or the county sheriff's office. The duplicate driver's license issued to you becomes your license of record.

- **Extensions** - Your Idaho driver's license will expire on your birthday in the fourth year or eighth year, depending on which licensing option you choose, after it is originally issued or renewed. If you are temporarily out of state at that time, you may apply for an extension of up to 12 months for $6.50. If necessary, you can request a second 12-month extension upon reapplication for $6.50. A CDL may be extended, but a hazardous materials endorsement cannot be extended. If you are on active duty or a dependent of active-duty military personnel in the U. S armed forces, you may—during the active-duty period—apply for an extension of up to four years per application for $6.50. For more information or an application, contact the department at the address or telephone number in the front of the manual.

RECORD CHANGES

- **Change of Name** - To change the name that is shown on your driver's license or identification card, you must apply for a duplicate, or if you are eligible, you may make the change as you renew your driver's license. You will need to provide the examiner at the sheriff's office with legal proof of your new name, such as a certified marriage certificate meeting Idaho standards, certified divorce decree, or court documents dated after the current record, and surrender your current driver's license and/or ID card.

- **Change of Address** - You must notify the Idaho Transportation Department within 30 days, anytime your address changes. You may do this by either completing a change-of-address form available at any county sheriff's office, or by notifying the department in writing at the address in the front of the manual. You may also download the change-of address form via the Internet at itd.idaho.gov/dmv/DriverServices /address.pdf.

  If you would like a change of address to show on your actual driver's license or ID card, you will need to apply for a duplicate, unless you are eligible to renew the license or ID card. Your record must show your actual physical address, however a post office box, general delivery, highway contract (HC) route number or rural route, or another address may be given for your mailing address.

YOUR LICENSE/ID CARD AND THE LAW

- Whenever you drive, you must have your license with you.
- Any misuse or mutilation of your driver's license, permit, or ID card is a misdemeanor and you can be fined, sentenced to jail, and/or your license may be suspended. If your license gets worn, broken, or damaged, you need to get a duplicate.
- For your own protection, DO NOT:
  - lend anyone your driver's license, permit, or ID card
  - use anyone else's driver's license, permit, or ID card
  - display or possess a fraudulent/altered driver's license, permit, or ID card
  - allow an unlicensed driver to drive your vehicle (in case of an accident, both the driver and the owner of the vehicle are responsible for damage, injury, or death when permission to drive the vehicle has been given)
  - keep a license, permit, or ID card if it has been suspended or canceled.

- **Providing False Information** - If you knowingly provide false information on a driver's license, ID card, or permit application, you are subject to prosecution for perjury and your license, permit, or ID card will be cancelled. When you apply for a new driver's license or permit, duplicate driver's license, or driver's license renewal, your driving record with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) through the National Driver Register (NDR) will be examined.

  If there are any outstanding license suspensions, revocations, cancellations etc. in any jurisdiction, they must be cleared before you can apply for a driver's license .

- **Donor Designation** - If you are 18 years of age or older, you may request to have the "DONOR" designation appear on your license or ID card. The designation identifies your wish to donate your organs and/or tissues upon your death to those waiting for transplants.

  If you are 16 or 17 years of age, you may have the "DONOR" designation added with permission from a parent or legal guardian.

  Organ donors are required to sign a Document of Gift before the license or ID card can display the donor designation. The Idaho Transportation Department will submit the Document of Gift to the donor registry.

- **Medical Information** - When you apply for a driver's license, permit, or ID card, you can request to have a notation placed on the back of the license regarding any medical condition(s) you have. This may alert emergency personnel or those who may need to assist you in an emergency. You will need to complete a form and sign a statement that the condition exists.

- **Permanent Disability Notation** - Individuals may request the notation "permanently disabled" on their driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card if that person:

  (1) has a permanent disability, and
  (2) presents written certification from a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, or licensed advanced-practice professional nurse verifying that the person's stated impairment qualifies as a permanent disability as provided in Section 49-117, Idaho code, and
  (3) the department determines that the person meets all other requirements for issuance of a driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.

A person with a "permanent disability" is a person unable to walk 200 feet or more unassisted by another person or without the aid of a walker, crutches, braces, prosthetic device, or a wheelchair, or without great difficulty or discomfort due to any of the following impairment types: neurological, orthopedic, respiratory, cardiac, arthritic, blindness, or the absence or loss of function of a limb, and there is no expectation for a fundamental or marked change in the person's condition at any time in the future. A licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, or licensed advanced-practice professional nurse must certify the individual's qualification for the "permanent disability" notation.

Individuals who have received non-expiring disability placards or disability license plates may present the corresponding registration document to the driver's license examiner to have the "permanent disability" notation included on their driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.

- **Accommodation for Applicants with Disabilities** - It is the policy of the Idaho Transportation Department and its agents that reasonable accommodations will be made to provide persons with disabilities equal accessibility to it's facilities, programs, and services in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act when specific needs are requested. Please allow the county driver's license examiner two weeks to complete the arrangements. Persons with hearing impairments may call (208) 334-4458.

- **Selective Service Registration** - Federal law requires all males who are 18 to 25 years of age to register with the Selective Service System. Eligible males will have the opportunity to register when they apply for a driver's license or ID card.

  The Selective Service System receives notification of all applicants who decline the opportunity to register.

CHAPTER 2
TRAFFIC LAWS

Idaho's traffic laws and safe driving practices are the "Rules of the Road" that allow the safe and orderly movement of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. They affect many driving activities, such as stopping, driving speed, yielding the right of way, passing other vehicles, and parking.

Stopping

Idaho law requires you to:

- **STOP** before the stop line or crosswalk at any intersection posted with a stop sign. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection, but close enough to see cross traffic.
- **STOP** for any flashing red signal. It is the same as a stop sign.
- **STOP** for any steady red traffic light and remain stopped behind the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk. You may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. Similarly, when turning left into a one-way street, you may turn after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. In all other cases, wait until the light turns green before proceeding. When a green arrow is shown along with a steady red light, you may proceed only in the direction of the green arrow.
- **STOP** or slow down at an intersection when necessary to yield right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- **STOP** at a railway crossing when a train is coming or when wigwag or flashing signals, gates, or a watchman indicates the approach of a train.

- **STOP** when entering a street from an alley, building, driveway, or private road. Stop before crossing the sidewalk and yield to pedestrians and traffic.
- **STOP** upon the request of any police officer.
- **STOP** for emergency or police vehicles sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights. Pull over to the nearest edge of the road where it is legal to park and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed or the police officer has indicated you may proceed.
- **STOP** for a school bus that is loading or unloading students. On a two-lane road, both following and oncoming traffic must stop and remain stopped as long as the red lights near the top of the bus are

You must stop when approaching a school bus that is displaying flashing red lights while stopped to pick up or drop off children. You must remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again. (Diagrams 1 and 2)

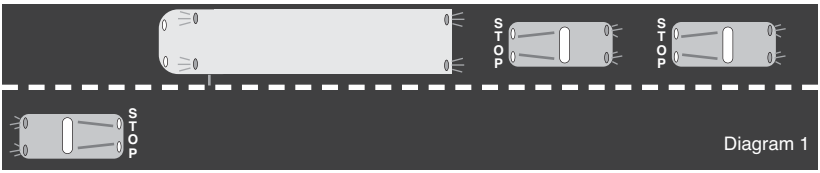


Diagram 1

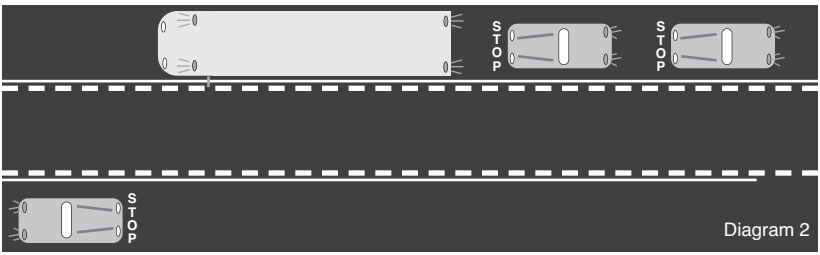


Diagram 2

You do not have to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction on roadways with **four or more lanes** if two lanes are going in each direction. (Diagram 3)

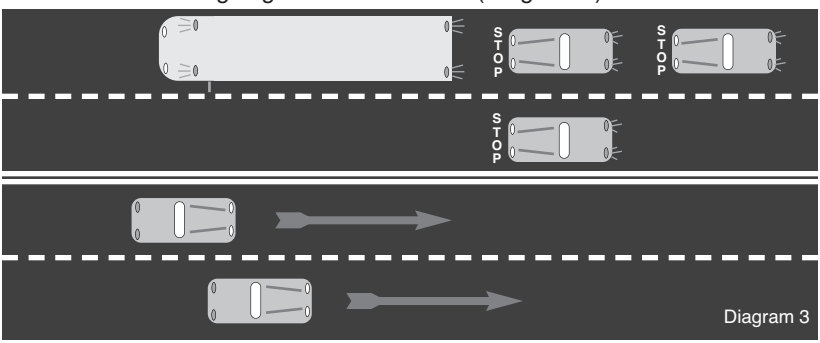


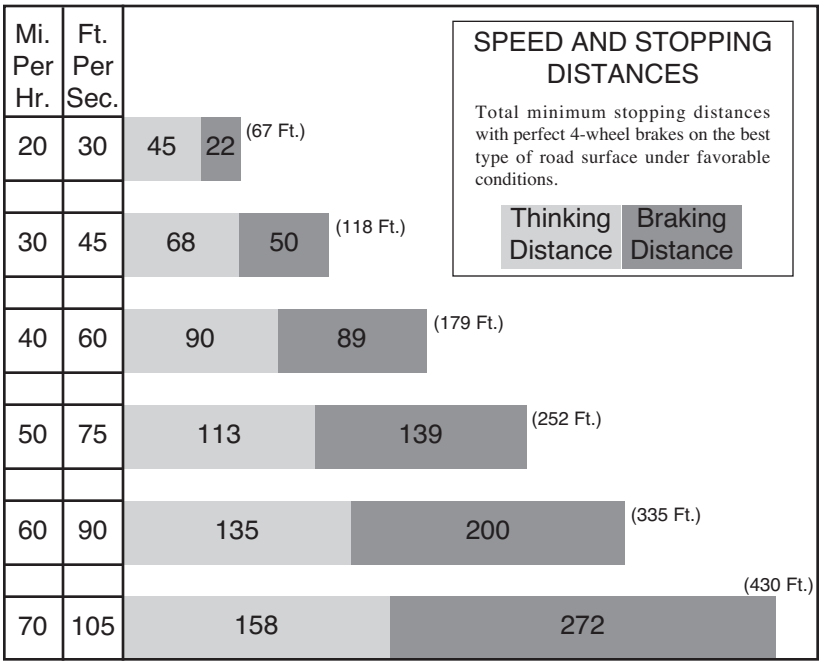
Diagram 3

flashing and/or the stop arm on the left side of the bus is extended. On a highway with two or more lanes going each direction, oncoming traffic is not required to stop when meeting a school bus.

- **STOP** when you are involved in an accident.

Stop signals: When slowing down or stopping, you must give a signal to other drivers. You may use either an arm signal or the brake-operated signal lights on the rear of your vehicle.

Speed: The speed that you are traveling determines how much time you have to react and how long it takes you to stop.



Driving too fast is a major cause of motor vehicle accidents. When combined with other violations, mechanical failure, or errors in judgment, speeding often leads to disaster.

Basic Rule

No matter what the posted speed limit, you must judge the situation and slow down when necessary for safety.

- **Idaho's "basic rule" law:** Idaho law has a basic rule requiring you to drive at a speed that is "reasonable and prudent" at all times. This applies to all streets and highways where maximum speed limits are set by law or posted. Whenever you are driving, you need to think about how your speed affects other traffic (including pedestrians and bicycle riders). You also need to think about the road surface (the presence of ice, snow, rain, or rough pavement), hazards at intersections, visibility, oncoming traffic, curves, and any other conditions that may affect safety. If you drive too fast for existing conditions—even if you are driving under the posted speed limit—you are violating the "basic rule" law.
- **Posted speed limits**: State and local authorities may adjust speeds by posting speed limit signs. It is your responsibility to observe the signs and obey the speed limits.
- **Maximum speeds:** The "maximum" speed limit for passenger vehicles is 75 miles per hour on interstate highways (65 miles per hour for heavy commercial vehicles), 65 miles per hour on state highways, and 35 miles per hour on city streets. Local authorities may set even lower speed limits in residential, urban, or business districts, so remember to observe the "posted" speed limit at all times.
- **Minimum speeds:** It is illegal to drive so slowly that you disrupt the normal flow of traffic.
- **School zones:** Observe posted speed limits in school zones.
- **Construction zones:** Observe posted speed limits in designated danger zones. Violating a construction zone speed limit can result in an enhanced, fixed penalty of $50.

Right-of-Way and Yielding

Idaho law defines when a vehicle or pedestrian must yield the right-of-way, letting another vehicle or pedestrian pass through an intersection first. Always remember that right-of-way is something to be given, not taken.

Pedestrians and Right of Way

Motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians when:

- The pedestrian is in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- The vehicle is entering a street from an alley or driveway.
- The pedestrian is a blind person walking with a white cane or guide dog.

Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles when:

- The pedestrian is crossing a street where there is no crosswalk or intersection.
- Directed to do so by a traffic signal at an intersection or crosswalk.

Yielding to Other Drivers

You must yield to other drivers:

- When directed to do so by a yield sign. As you approach a yield sign, always slow down and be prepared to stop.
- When entering a street from an alley, driveway, or garage after stopping.
- After stopping for a stop sign at a two-way stop, yield to cross traffic.
- At four-way stops. The first vehicle to arrive at a four-way stop has the right of way. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- At an unmarked or uncontrolled intersection (no signs or signals). If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- At an unmarked or uncontrolled three-way "T" intersection, where you will have to turn either right or left. You must stop and/or yield to any drivers approaching from the other two directions.
- When making a left turn. Always yield to oncoming traffic unless directed otherwise by a traffic-control device.
- In construction zones. Yield to all vehicles or pedestrians working on a highway construction project.

Emergency Vehicles

When being approached by an emergency or police vehicle sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights, you must immediately pull to the nearest curb or the edge of the roadway and stop. Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed ahead of you.

When you are approaching an emergency or police vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing, you are required to immediately reduce your speed below the posted speed limit and proceed with caution. If you are traveling on a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction, you are also required to change lanes as soon as possible, if it is safe to do so.

Keep to the Right

In most cases, the law requires that we stay as far to the right side of the road as possible. The exceptions are:

- When preparing to make a left turn.
- When passing another vehicle going in the same direction.
- When on a highway with more than two lanes where the right lane is designated for slow traffic.
- When entering the left lane temporarily in order to avoid an obstruction, a pedestrian, or an animal.

- When traveling on a road restricted to one-way traffic.
- When traveling on a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction.

Passing

Passing and being passed are normal parts of driving, but can increase the chances of an accident. Idaho's mountains and winding river canyons make passing risky on many two-lane highways.

If you must pass, do so only when you won't interfere with oncoming traffic or the vehicle you're passing. Wait until you're certain you have enough time to pass safely. Before returning to your own lane, signal and wait until you can see the vehicle you're passing in your rear-view mirror.

If you start to pass, but decide you can't make it, pull back and wait for another opening. "No Passing" signs and pavement markings can tell you where passing is prohibited or unsafe, but only you can tell when it is safe.

Passing is prohibited when you are in or approaching the following areas:

- Hills, curves or other obstructions on two-lane roads that prevent you from seeing oncoming vehicles that might pose a hazard.
- Within 100 feet of an intersection, unless otherwise indicated by traffic-control devices.
- Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing, unless otherwise indicated by traffic-control devices.
- Within 100 feet of a bridge or tunnel when the view is obstructed.
- When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.
- When a vehicle ahead of you has stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to let a pedestrian cross.
- When you must go off the pavement or roadway to pass.

Passing on the Right

Passing on the right is prohibited except:

- When the vehicle you're overtaking on a two-lane, two-way road is turning left.
- On a one-way or multi-lane street with two or more lanes going your direction.

When Passing Other Vehicles

- Check your mirrors and blind spots—someone else may be trying to pass you. Turn on your left turn signal, then move into the left lane.
- Wait until you have passed the vehicle and can see it in your rear-view mirror before turning on your right turn signal and moving back into the right lane.

- If the vehicle you're passing begins to drift toward you, use your horn.
- You must complete a pass before coming within 200 feet of oncoming traffic.
- You should complete a pass before you reach a "No Passing" zone marked with signs or pavement markings.
- It is illegal to exceed the speed limit when passing.

When Being Passed

- Help other drivers pass you safely. Move to the right side of your lane to give them more room and a better view of the road ahead.
- Don't speed up. Maintain a steady speed or slow down.
- Watch for trouble. If the other driver miscalculates, your quick reaction can reduce the chances of being involved in an accident.

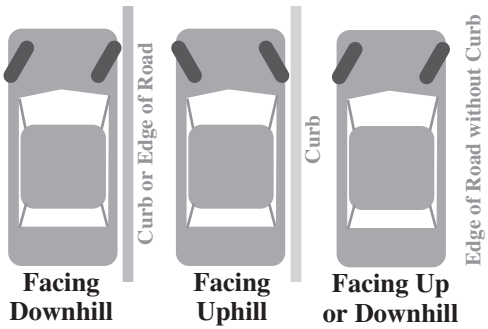
Slow-Moving Vehicles

Any vehicle traveling so slowly that it is delaying three or more other vehicles in a rural area or on a two-lane highway must turn off the road wherever safe to let the other vehicles pass.

Slow-moving vehicles designed to travel no faster than 25 mph may travel on public highways during daylight hours only (30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset), except for snow removal and farm equipment operated on non-interstate highways and equipped with flashing lights visible for 500 feet. All slow-moving vehicles must have a foot brake, turn signals, and must display the approved emblem for slow-moving vehicles.

Parking

When parking on a public road, you must park parallel to and within 18 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, facing in the same direction as traffic on your side of the road.



When you leave your car, secure it. Set the parking brake and, if you have an automatic transmission, shift to park; if you have a manual transmission, leave the car in gear. Remove the keys and lock the door.

Parking on a Hill

To keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic when parked on a hill, turn your front wheels (1) sharply toward and against the curb or edge of the road if you are facing downhill, or (2) if you are facing uphill, turn your wheels sharply away and against the curb (if there is no curb, turn the wheels sharply toward the edge of the road).

No-Parking Zones

Parking is not allowed:

- On sidewalks.
- On the street side of any parked vehicle. (This is known as "double parking.")
- In intersections.
- Within 50 feet of railroad tracks.
- On bridges or overpasses.
- In front of a driveway.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk.
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal.
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway.
- On any controlled-access highway (freeway).
- Where prohibited by signs or a red, yellow, or white "no parking" curb.

Handicapped Parking

The symbol shown here indicates parking spaces reserved for handicapped persons. Vehicles displaying this symbol on their license plate or a special card may park in handicapped spaces. Non-handicapped drivers are prohibited from parking in such spaces and may be fined for violations. A handicapped person may park automobiles displaying the handicapped symbol in public parking spaces without paying and for unlimited time.

Using Your Turn Signals

Always give a turn signal when you:

- Change lanes or pass another vehicle.
- Turn at an intersection or into a driveway.
- Enter or leave a freeway or interstate highway.

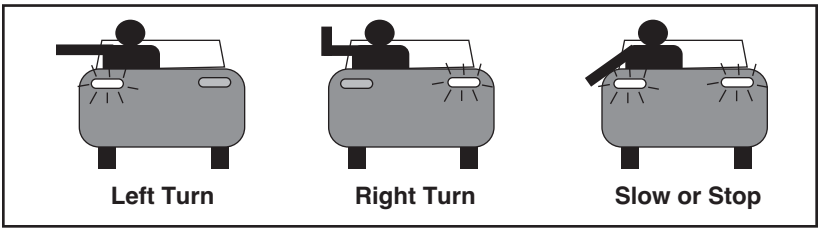
- Pull away from a parked position along a road or street to enter the traffic lane.
- Pull over to the side of the road.

Proper signalling may prevent a rear-end collision. Signals must start at least 100 feet (in business or residential areas) or five seconds (on freeways or highways) before you turn or change lanes. If you plan to turn just beyond an intersection, signal just after you pass through the intersection so you won't confuse other drivers. You may use either electric turn signals or arm signals.

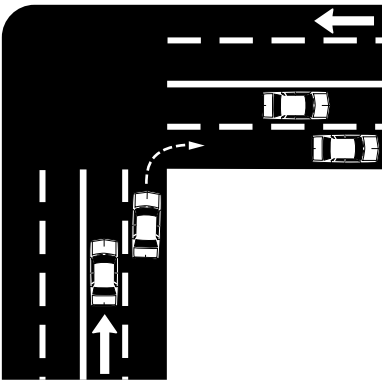
The correct arm signals are:

- **Left:** Your arm and hand extended straight out the window.
- **Right:** Your arm and hand extended upward out the window.
- **Stop:** Your arm and hand extended downward out the window (see illustration below).

You must signal before every turn or lane change.



Left turns.



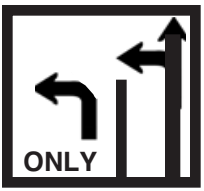
Right turns.

Turns

The diagrams above illustrate the proper lanes for starting and ending a turn unless an intersection is marked otherwise.

- **Right Turns**: Give your signal and approach the intersection in the right-hand lane, staying as close to the right curb as is reasonable. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and vehicles that have the right of way. Watch for bicycles between your vehicle and the curb or that are inappropriately approaching from the right. Then turn into the right-hand lane of the cross street. Do not swing wide.

- **Left Turns:** Give your signal and approach the intersection in the lane closest to the left that is open to traffic going your direction. If you are on a two-lane road, you should move to the left side of your lane. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. When safe, turn into the nearest lane in which traffic moves the direction you want to go. Do not cut the corner.



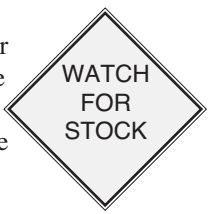
Vehicles in the left lane must turn left. Vehicles in the right lane may turn left or continue straight ahead. Vehicles turning left must remain in their lane of travel until after completing the turn.

- **Turning At a Red Light:** At a steady red light, you may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic—unless otherwise posted. When turning left into a one-way street, you may proceed from a steady red light after stopping and yielding for cross traffic—unless otherwise posted.

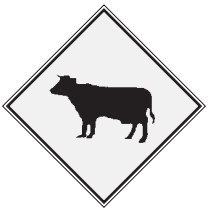
- **U-Turns:** U-turns are not legal everywhere, so first look for prohibiting signs. When making a U-turn near a hill or curve, the law requires that you be able to see 500 feet in either direction. U-turns are prohibited in no-passing zones. Stop and yield to all traffic before completing a U-turn.

Open Range

Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and other livestock under controlled movement over a highway or road have the right of way in Idaho. When you meet or overtake any livestock herds, be careful and cooperate with the workers in charge.



Livestock also run at large in much of Idaho's range country, and they have the right of way. Drivers must be alert for animals grazing unattended on "open range," which means almost all areas outside of city limits and herd



districts upon which livestock by custom, license, lease, or permit, are grazed or permitted to roam. The presence of fences does not necessarily mean that animals are not present or do not have the right of way. Be especially careful driving at night. If you strike and injure or kill livestock or domestic animals that are on the open range or under controlled movement, the owner of the animal(s) is not liable for damages to you or your vehicle. You may be liable for the injuries or death of the animal if you are found to have been negligent.

OPEN CONTAINER LAW

It is against the law for any person in a motor vehicle on a public roadway to drink alcoholic beverages, or to transport open (unsealed) containers of alcoholic beverages. It is a misdemeanor for a driver in actual physical control of a vehicle to violate the open container law—it is an infraction for passengers.

An unsealed alcoholic beverage container may be legally transported in the enclosed trunk compartment or behind the last upright seat of a vehicle without a trunk compartment. Passengers may drink and possess alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of a vehicle designed, maintained, or primarily used to "transport people for compensation," or in the living quarters of a recreational vehicle.

Other Laws You Need to Know

- **Lights:** Headlamps and taillamps must be lighted from sunset to sunrise and when poor visibility makes them necessary for safety. Headlamps must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting and 200 feet before overtaking another vehicle. When lights are needed for driving, use headlamps, not parking lights.
- **Median Strip:** It's illegal to drive across a barrier or unpaved strip that separates two halves of a roadway except at an authorized opening or crossover. This is not allowed on Interstate highways (freeways)—crossovers are for emergency vehicles only.
- **Racing:** It's illegal to engage in any vehicle race, speed exhibition, or speed contest on any public road, street, or highway.
- **Driving on Sidewalks**: Driving on sidewalks is prohibited except to cross into or out of a driveway or alley.
- **Keep Windows and Windshield Clear:** Windows and windshields must be kept clean of signs, posters, and stickers except those required by law. You must also clean windows of ice, snow, or dirt before driving to ensure that you have maximum visibility in all directions.
- **Backing:** Backing is always prohibited on freeways, expressways, and other controlled-access highways including the shoulder.

Elsewhere, backing is prohibited unless it can be done safely and without interfering with other traffic.

- **Obstructing Driver's View:** It is illegal for passengers or freight to obstruct a driver's view or interfere with operation of a vehicle.
- **Overhanging Loads:** When vehicle loads extends four feet or more beyond the rear of a vehicle, a red flag at least 16 inches square must be displayed at the end of the load. At night, the flag must be replaced by a red light visible for a least 500 feet. The vehicle's load must not extend outside the fenders on the left side or more than six inches outside the fenders on the right.
- **Reckless Driving:** You must not recklessly drive a vehicle with willful disregard for the safety of people or property either on a public road or private property.
- **Inattentive Driving:** While driving, you must give your full attention to the safe operation of your vehicle. Failure to do so may cause you to be cited for inattentive driving.

Study Questions

1. True or False. Automobiles must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

2. What must you do before entering a street from an alley, building, driveway, or private road?

3. If you hear an emergency vehicle siren, what action should you take?

4. True or False. When a school bus is unloading passengers on a two-lane roadway, cars traveling the opposite direction don't have to stop.

5. True or False. You may legally drive the posted speed limit no matter what the driving conditions.

6. If two vehicles are stopped at right angles at an uncontrolled intersection, which vehicle has the right-of-way?

7. Under what conditions may you pass another vehicle on the right?

8. How many feet before a turn must you signal your intention to turn?

9. Where should you position your vehicle when preparing to make a right turn?

10. Which lane should your vehicle be in after turning left into a two-lane, one-way street?

11. When must headlamps and taillights be lighted?

12. Does an oncoming vehicle have the right of way when you are making a left turn at an uncontrolled intersection?

CHAPTER 3
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Traffic control devices include traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. Traffic control may also be provided by law enforcement officers, highway personnel or school crossing guards. You must obey directions given by them.

Traffic Signs

There are three types of traffic signs: regulatory, warning, and guide. You should learn to recognize them by color and shape as well as the messages or symbols they carry.

Regulatory Signs – Regulatory signs are generally black and white, although some are red and white, and must be obeyed at all times.

- **Stop:** You must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection ahead. You are required to stop behind the stop line or a crosswalk if there is one.

- **Yield:** Yield right-of-way. You must slow down and yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection you are crossing or roadway you are entering. If necessary, stop before crossing the intersection or entering the roadway. If pedestrians are in or about to enter the crosswalk, stop until they have crossed the roadway, then proceed. Slow down so that you may safely yield the right of way to other vehicles or pedestrians.

- **Wrong Way:** You are approaching a lane of traffic from the wrong way.

- **Do Not Enter:** You may not enter this section of roadway from the direction you are traveling.

- **Speed Limit:** The maximum speed limit on this section of road (under ideal driving conditions).

- **Slow Moving Vehicle:** You are approaching a slow moving vehicle. You should slow down and approach the vehicle with caution. This sign has a red perimeter and orange center and is primarily on off road vehicles (implements of husbandry, construction equipment, etc).

No Left Turn

No Right Turn

No U-Turn

Do Not Pass

Proceed Straight

Left Turn Only

Right Turn Only

U-Turn Permitted

Railroad Crossing: May also tell you how many tracks you may expect a train to appear on.

Warning Signs: Most warning signs are black on yellow and most are diamond-shaped. They also include the fluorescent yellow/green school warning signs, and the orange and black construction zone signs. These signs warn you to slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary; a special situation or hazard is ahead. Some common warning signs are shown below.

- **3 Way Intersection:** You are approaching a 3-way “T" intersection and will have to turn either to the right or the left. You must stop and yield to drivers approaching from the other two directions.

- **Open Range:** You are traveling in an area where livestock have the right of way and are allowed to roam freely and unfenced.

- **Intersection/Crossroad:** There is another road ahead which crosses the road you are on. Watch carefully for cross traffic in your path.

- **Traffic Signal Ahead:** These signs are used on roads with higher speeds or where the view of the intersection or light is blocked. Be ready for an intersection and a stop light.

- **Merging Traffic:** If you are on the main road and see this sign, be prepared for other cars and trucks entering into your lane.

- **Two-Way Traffic:** Keep to the right because you are leaving a one-way street and are entering a two-way street.

- **Lane Ends/Merge Left:** Two lanes of traffic will soon become one lane of traffic. Right lane traffic must yield when merging.

- **School Zone:** You are nearing a school area with a crossing. Watch for children and the marked school crossing. There are increased penalties for violation of school zone speed limits. The color of this sign may be florescent yellow/green.

- **School Crossing:** Watch out for children. Reduce speed. Obey crossing guard signals. Look out for children playing. The color of this sign may also be fluorescent yellow/green.

- **Pedestrian Crossing:** Watch out for people who might walk or run in front of you. Pedestrians have the right of way and you may have to stop for them.

- **Divided Highway Begins:** You are getting close to the place where two-way traffic will be divided by a center strip.

- **Divided Highway Ends:** Two-way traffic ahead will no longer be divided by a center strip. Watch out for oncoming cars.

- **Bridge Clearance:** When a bridge has an overhead clearance less than 14 feet, this sign is posted indicating the actual legal overhead clearance of a bridge or elevated structure.

- **Railroad Crossing:** This sign gives you early warning of a railroad crossing(s) ahead. Be prepared to stop before you get to the tracks if a train is approaching the crossing.

- **Slippery When Wet:** Road ahead becomes slippery in wet weather. Slow down under these conditions.

- **Keep Right of Island:** The road ahead is divided. Stay on the right side of the island or barrier.

- **Hill:** This sign is a warning to all vehicles that the road goes down a steep hill. You should check your brakes before going down the hill.

- **No Passing Zone:** This pennant-shaped sign will be on the left-hand side of the road or highway in addition to a "DO NOT PASS" sign or pavement markings. It warns you of a no passing zone for your lane of traffic.

Guide Signs: Guide signs are either white on green for directional and distance, white on blue for motorists services, or white on brown for cultural, historical, or scenic points of interest.

Barricades: Highway departments and construction crews often perform work that requires traffic lanes or entire roads to be temporarily or permanently closed. If a lane or road is closed to traffic, one of three types of barricades will be placed in the road as a warning to drivers. Barricades are either red and white (permanent) or orange and white (temporary). Even though barricades can be different colors, the instructions they give to drivers are the same.

The V-shaped pattern on this barricade means that the road is closed and traffic can proceed no further.

The lines on this barricade angle down to the left, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the left side.

The lines on this barricade angle down to the right, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the right side.

Traffic Signals

Traffic signals are lights that regulate the flow of traffic mainly through intersections. Most traffic lights have a red light at the top, a yellow light in the middle, and a green light at the bottom.

- **Red Light:** Stop. Come to a complete stop before you reach the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. Remain stopped until the light changes and cross traffic clears the intersection.

- **Yellow Light:** Caution. An amber or yellow light warns that the signal is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection and can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.

- **Green Light:** Go. You may pass through the intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the way is clear.

- **Green Arrow:** Go. You may proceed if it is safe in the direction the arrow is pointing. Oncoming traffic is required to stop.

- **Red Arrow:** Stop. You cannot turn in the direction the arrow is pointing.

- **Flashing Yellow Light:** Caution. You should slow down, look carefully for hazards and proceed with caution.

- **Flashing Red Light:** Stop. You must come to a complete stop, yield to cross traffic or pedestrians, then proceed when the way is clear.

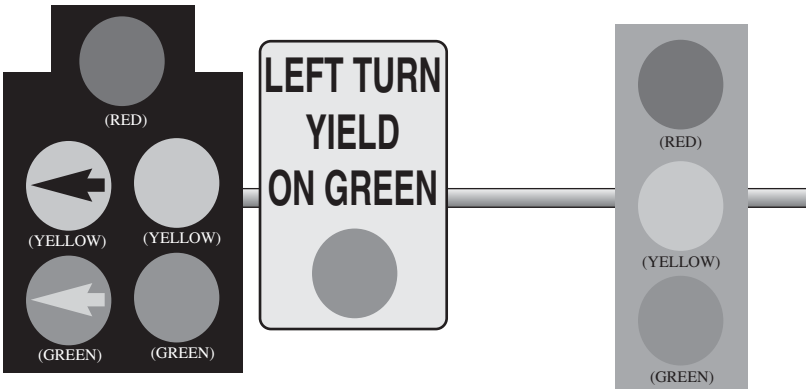
“Dog House” Signals

Idaho highway districts are using new types of traffic signals to improve traffic flow at major intersections. Added to a regular traffic light, the “dog house” signal displays five lights instead of the three standard “red, yellow, and green” lights. The newest of these “dog house” signals includes a flashing yellow arrow in place of the green ball in the lower right side of the signal. This indicates that drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians in crosswalks, before turning.

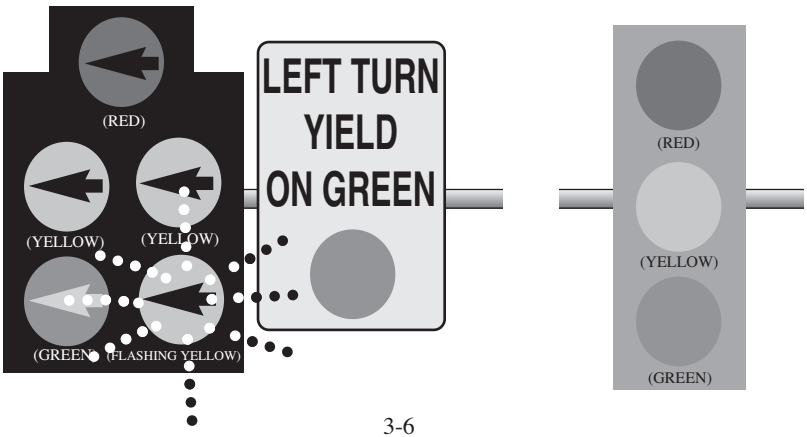
At some locations, instead of installing the “dog house” style signals, a 3-lamp left turn signal with arrows will be used. These signals will be in addition to the regular signal lights at the intersections.

The purpose of these types of signals is to allow more vehicles to make left turns at intersections, if it is safe to do so. The figures below show what the left turn “dog house” and the 3-lamp left turn signals look like:

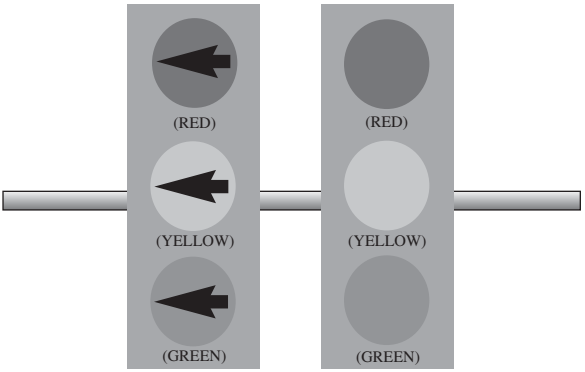
Current “Dog House” Style Left Turn Signal



New Flashing Yellow Arrow Left Turn Signal



3-Lamp Left Turn Signal



What drivers should do as the lights change:

- Red – A single red light means “STOP.”

- Solid Red Arrow - No left turns allowed.

- Yellow – The solid-yellow circular light on the right means the signal is changing. If you have not entered the intersection and you can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.

- Green – The solid-green circular light on the right means that you may proceed forward or if you are in the left turn lane you must yield to oncoming traffic before turning left.

- Green Arrow – The green light on the left with an arrow means that you may turn left and that oncoming traffic is required to stop, regardless of what other lights are lit.

- Yellow Arrow – The yellow light on the left with an arrow means the signal is changing. If you have not entered the intersection and you can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.

- Flashing Yellow Arrow – The flashing yellow arrow in place of the green ball in the lower right side of the signal means left turns are allowed. Drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians in crosswalks, before turning.

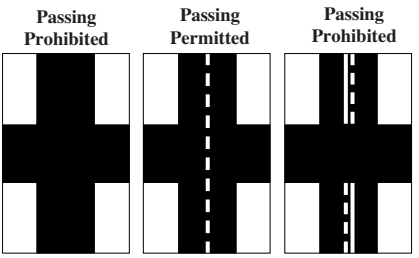
NOTE: Whenever a traffic signal is not functioning, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.

Pavement Markings

The lines and symbols that are painted on the roadways divide lanes, tell you where it is not safe to pass other vehicles, where you may not change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, where pedestrians may walk, and where you must stop for signs or traffic signals.

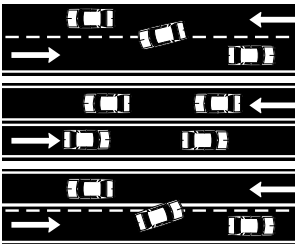
- **Lane Dividers—**This drawing shows three types of lane dividing lines. A dashed yellow line means that vehicles in either lane can cross the line if it is safe to do so. If the dashed yellow line is marked through an intersection, you may pass vehicles in the intersection. Otherwise, no passing is allowed in intersections.

Passing in an Intersection



No Pavement Markings | Center Line Only | Center Line and No-Passing Line

Two solid yellow lines mean that neither lane of traffic can cross the lines unless they are turning (if it is safe to do so). No passing is allowed.



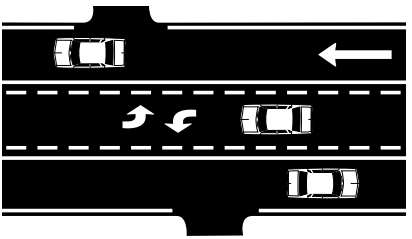
Single Dashed Yellow Line

Two Solid Yellow Lines

Solid and Dashed Yellow Lines

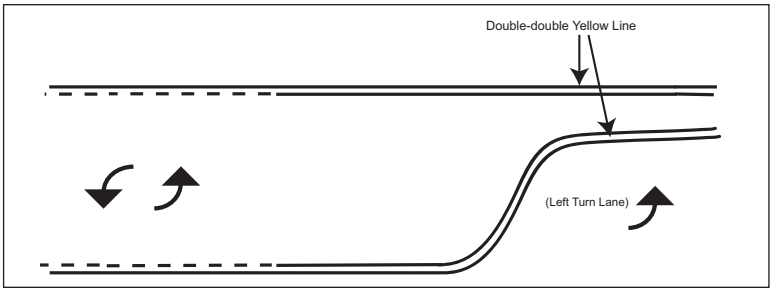
A solid yellow line with a dashed yellow line means that only vehicles in the lane with the dashed line (lower lane in this drawing) can cross the lines to pass other vehicles.

- **Shared Lanes—**Center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) from either direction of travel. Shared center lanes are marked on each side by a solid and yellow dashed lines. You may not travel inthe shared turn lanes or interfere with another vehicle preparing to make a turn from the center turn lane.



Shared Center Lane

- **Double-Double Yellow Lines—**Two double yellow lines are used to indicate maximum restrictions. They can be used to form continuous median islands where there is a need for islands to separate vehicles traveling in opposite directions. These median islands may mark the beginning or end of shared center turn lanes, which are reserved for making left turns ONLY. Shared center turn lanes are not to be used as travel lanes by motorists. Two double yellow lines may be used to guide traffic where the pavement width changes to a lesser number of lanes. Passing is prohibited in both directions through the area marked by the two double yellow lines. The ONLY time a driver is permitted to cross a double yellow line is when turning left into a driveway or entrance to a business.



- **Edge and Lane Lines—**Solid white lines may be located along the side of the road to show where the edge of the road is located. At night or in bad weather, they help you stay on the road.

- **Solid White—**When solid white lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, do not change lanes unless a special situation requires you to change lanes. You should not cross the line except to avoid a hazard or you are turning within the next block.

A solid white line with a bicycle insignia along the side of the road indicates the area is designated for bicycle traffic only. Bicycles must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic.

- **Dashed White Lines—**On roadways with more than one lane moving in one direction, traffic lanes are separated by broken white lines. Drive within these lines. Never straddle them. Cross over them only when it is safe to change lanes.

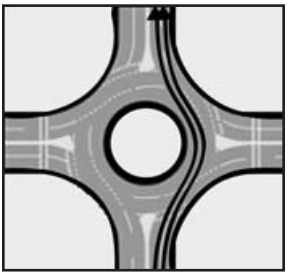
- **Wide Solid or Double Solid White Lines—**Lane changes are prohibited in areas where this type of marking is present.

Roundabouts

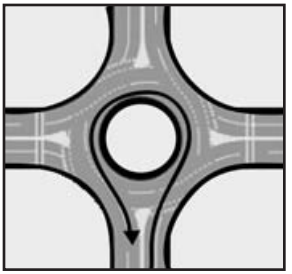
The roundabout is a one-way circular intersection where you must always turn right to enter and exit. The most common sign seen when approaching a roundabout is a warning sign with an arrow in a circle pattern. In a roundabout intersection, all drivers must yield the right of way to vehicles that are already in the circle. Drivers must turn right and merge into the circle whether they need to make a right turn, a left turn, a U-turn or continue forward at that intersection.

In a roundabout, traffic is forced to slow down to navigate the intersection. There are no traffic signals in a roundabout. Depending on the situation, traffic may not have to stop, which can be a more efficient way to move traffic than a signal. Entering traffic yields to circulating traffic, which always keeps moving. A study by the Institute for Highway Safety indicates roundabouts reduce crashes by 75 percent at intersections where stops signs and signals were previously used.

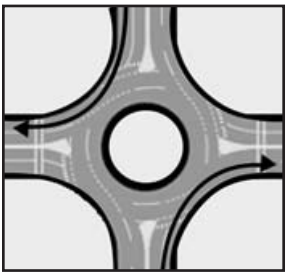
To safely use a roundabout, first, plan ahead. If you need to make a right turn, then enter the roundabout in the right lane and complete the right turn by turning right at your first opportunity.



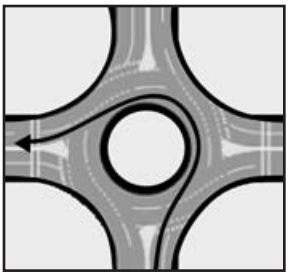
Through Traffic



U-Turn



Right Turn

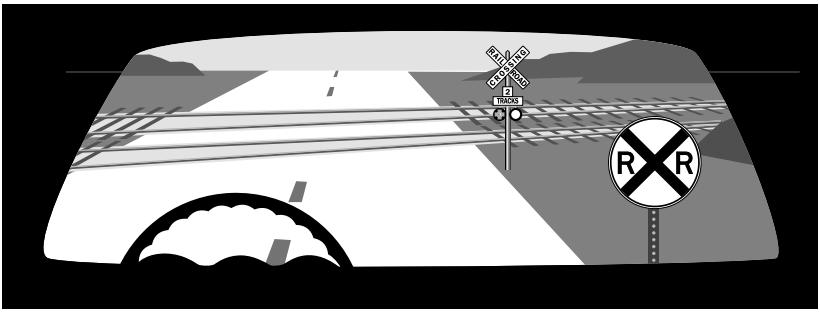


Left Turn

To go straight, enter the roundabout and then either stay in the right lane or merge into the left lane (if it is a two lane roundabout). Once in, stay in that lane until you reach your exit. To make a U-turn or take what would be a left-hand turn at a traditional intersection, enter the roundabout and then merge into the left lane (first looking left and yielding to traffic in the circle). Once in, stay in the leftmost lane (if it is a two lane roundabout), following the lane around until you reach your exit. Then, while using your turn signal, follow the curved line out of the roundabout. There should be no reason to stop, but be prepared to stop for bicyclists, pedestrians, and unyielding cars.

Cars already in the roundabout have the right of way. If another motorist refuses to yield, make another trip around the circle until you can safely make your turn.

Railroad Crossings



Railroad crossings are always dangerous. Drivers should listen and look both ways for an approaching train, and for signals indicating an approaching train. Never proceed until you are certain it is safe to do so. When required to stop, you should do so within 50 feet, but no less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing.

The chance of death or serious injury in a collision between a train and a motor vehicle is 40 times greater than for other highway accidents. The stopping distance for a 150-car freight train traveling 50 mph is 7,000 feet or 1 and 1/3 miles. Trains can't stop, cars can. It's up to you to protect your life and the lives of your passengers at a railway crossing.

Learn the signs and devices that highway departments and railway companies put up to warn you of danger at a crossing:

- Many times, pavements are marked in advance of a crossing with an X and the letters RR.
- Railroad crossbuck signs can be found at most crossings.

- Flashing-light signals are often combined with crossbucks at crossings on busy streets and highways. You must stop and may only proceed when you can do so safely.
- Gates are used to stop automobile traffic at many particularly dangerous crossings. You must never drive through, under or around a crossing gate that is closed or being closed.

You can avoid a tragedy by following a few safety tips:

- Expect a train at any time. Always be careful at a crossing, even if you know few trains pass that way.
- Never start across tracks unless there is room on the other side for your vehicle.
- Never drive around gates or fail to heed a warning signal, even if you can't see a train approaching.
- Never shift gears while driving through a crossing. Doing so may cause your vehicle to stall on the tracks.
- Never race a train to a crossing.
- Watch out for a second train. Do not start up until you're sure no train is approaching on another track.
- Watch out for vehicles that must stop at crossings. Some buses and trucks are required to stop at all railroad crossings.
- Look both ways as you approach a railroad crossing, even if the flasher is not flashing. It may be broken.

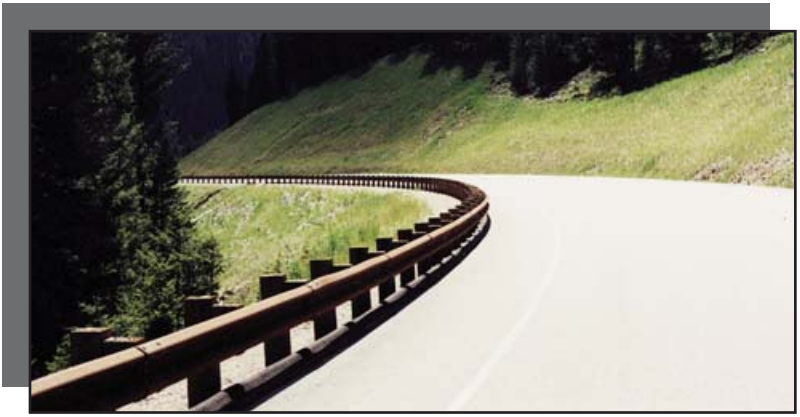
Study Questions

1. What does a STOP sign mean?
2. What does a YIELD sign mean?
3. What should you do when you approach an intersection and the traffic light changes from green to yellow?
4. How may you proceed at an intersection that has a green arrow in combination with a red light?
5. What does a flashing red light mean?
6. What does a flashing yellow light mean?
7. Is it legal to pass on a two-lane, two-way road when you have a solid yellow line on your side?

Know Your Traffic Signs

You must also be able to identify and show the meaning of all the traffic signs in this section.

CHAPTER 4
THE DRIVING TASK



When you slide in behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, you take responsibility for the lives of people around you. To be a safe driver you must know the rules of the road and respect them. You also must know and follow proper driving procedures. Just as importantly, you must have a good attitude. Courtesy and consideration are essential to good driving.

Professional drivers will tell you it takes more than basic skills to make a good driver. After mastering those skills, a driver still must learn the fine points of good driving—including the mental and physical conditions that affect performance on the road.

Driver error causes more than 90% of highway crashes. Your ability to drive safely depends not only on what you know, but how you feel and what you were doing before you sat behind the wheel.

Your Mood Effects Your Driving

You should be aware of how getting behind the wheel can affect your behavior. Taking control of the power and speed of a car often reveals a person's character. You soon see whether you're inclined to be a bully, a thoughtless lawbreaker, or a reliable and courteous driver. To drive safely, you must find the maturity to share the road and help your fellow travelers.

If you're worried or distracted, you can't count on being alert enough to drive safely. Quarrels, misunderstandings, financial problems, illness in the family, personal fears or over-confidence make you far more likely to have an accident. If you're upset, let someone else drive.

Concentration is vital to safe driving. The driver's seat is no place for daydreaming, window shopping, intense conversation, or looking at scenery. There have been too many crashes after which the surviving driver said, *"I don't know what happened."*

Distracted Driving (Not Paying Attention)
If you do not give your full attention to driving a vehicle, bad things can happen very quickly. Seeing and reacting safely to sudden changes can keep you from having an accident. To drive safely, you must pay full attention at all times. That will give you enough time to react. People's lives are in your hands.

Things That Can Distract Your Attention
Anything that draws your attention away from the road can distract you. Distractions like the ones below can cause accidents:

- Eating
- Drinking
- Reading
- Writing
- Lighting a cigarette
- Changing a CD or radio station
- Looking for things inside your vehicle
- Dealing with children or pets
- Applying makeup
- Shaving

If something distracts you, even for a few seconds, you may not see a hazard ahead that can cause an accident. Think how quickly a small child can run into your traffic lane from between parked cars. Think how fast a bicycle rider can zoom into your path. They need you to see them before it is too late.

Ways To Keep From Getting Distracted
- Pre-set your favorite radio stations before you begin to drive.
- Load your tapes or CDs before you begin to drive.
- Keep the stereo volume low enough so that you can still hear things outside your car. You must be able to hear emergency sirens, car horns, screeching tires, and other sounds outside your car. They can alert you to danger and keep you from getting in an accident.
- Have someone in the front seat act as your co-pilot. They can look at maps and tell you where to turn or what to look for ahead. If you are driving alone, make sure you know the route you want to drive "before" you get in the car.

- Do not eat while driving.
- Teach children to behave well while in a car. It's hard to pay attention to the road while tending to children.
- Place pets in a pet carrier to make sure they do not cause problems while you are driving.
- If you are lost in thought and not paying attention, pull the car to the side of the road and stop. Taking a short break can make your drive safer and much more enjoyable. This is the reason rest areas are placed along highways.

Cell Phones

Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous. It's against the law in some states. Many accidents are caused by people who try to use or dial cell phones while driving.

If you must use a cell phone, park in a safe place before making the call.

Fatigue and Highway Hypnosis

Stop driving when you feel drowsy. Pull off the highway at the first rest stop or service area. A cup of coffee and a bit of stretching may be enough to wake you. If you're really sleepy, get off the road and take a nap. Drowsiness is one of the greatest killers in interstate highway driving. Don't rely on "stay awake" drugs. They can make your driving even more dangerous. On long trips, exercise your eyes as you drive. Freeway drivers often suffer highway hypnosis—drowsiness brought on by monotony and the drone of wind and tires. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus them on various objects—near and far, left and right. Even reading road signs can help you stay awake.

Good Habits

Developing good driving habits is as easy as falling into bad ones. Start out by establishing sound habits and you can drive safely all your life. Below are some tips on how to cultivate a safe-driving routine.

Starting Out

Before you get into your vehicle, always look in front and back of it to see if there is a child or obstacle you might run over. Once inside, take a moment to get ready for driving. Adjust your seat and mirrors, buckle your safety belt, and check to see passengers are properly seated so they won't interfere with your driving.

Develop a routine for starting your car, too. With the hand brake set, shift to park or neutral and start the engine. Holding the foot brake (and clutch if you have one), shift to the proper gear. Then release the parking brake and prepare to pull out.

There is an important, five-step procedure to follow when you start from the curb, pull into a parking space or change lanes. Always:

- Check mirrors.
- Signal for the required five seconds or 100 feet before moving your vehicle.
- Glance over your shoulder in the direction you're going to move.
- When it is safe to do so, make your move gradually and smoothly.
- Cancel the turn signal.

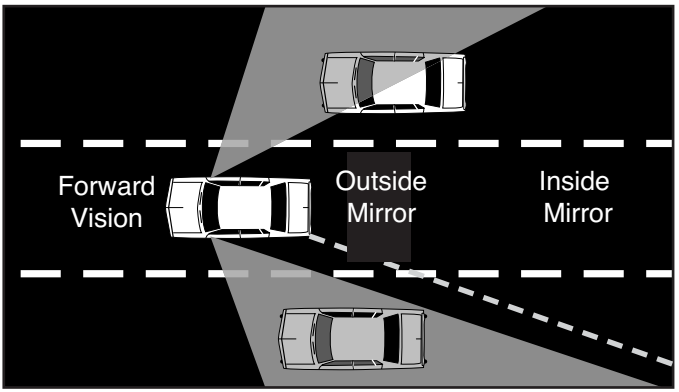
Defensive Driving

Most accidents are caused by driver error. Be prepared to react promptly to emergencies by driving with both hands placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel at approximately the nine o'clock and three o'clock positions. Check your owners manual for proper hand placement if your vehicle is equipped with airbags.

You can reduce your chances of an accident by knowing and using the standard accident prevention formula:

- **Scanning**: To be a defensive driver, you have to see what is going on. Avoid a fixed, straight-ahead stare that may let you drift off in daydreams. Keep your eyes moving and learn to read the road.
- **Look Ahead**: Good drivers keep an eye on what's happening about ten to 15 seconds ahead. That's about a block in city driving. By doing this, you'll avoid the kind of last minute lane changes, turns, and stops that often cause accidents.
- **Look To The Sides**: As you approach any place where other cars, people or animals may cross your path, look to both sides. Don't rely on traffic lights or stop signs. Always watch out for other drivers—they may run the light.
- **Look Behind**: Check the traffic behind you frequently—several times a minute—so you'll know if somebody is tailgating, coming up too fast or trying to pass. Most rear-end collisions are caused by vehicles following too closely.
- **Blind Spots**: These are areas near the left and right rear corners of your vehicle that are not visible in your mirrors. If your vehicle does not have a right side view mirror, the right blind spot will be larger than the one on the left. Never rely on your mirrors alone. Before you make any move to the side, quickly turn your head to see if your blind spot is clear. Also avoid driving in someone else's blind spot. It's as important for other drivers to see you as for you to see them.
- **Identify**: Scan the road ahead for potential hazards such as a vehicle, pedestrian, animal or situation that could force you to slow down, speed up or turn.

- **Predict**: After spotting a potential hazard, predict what will happen. Generally, it's safest to predict the worst. For example, if you see children playing on a street corner, prepare for one of them to run in front of you.
- **Decide What To Do**: The key to defensive driving is making a sound decision ahead of time rather than reacting to danger at the last second.
- **Execute**: The final step is to execute your decision in a smooth, predictable manner—in time to avoid an accident.



Light-gray areas in illustration indicate driver's blind spots.

Make Things Easy for Other Drivers

"Talk" to other drivers with all the signals you can. Be in the lane that shows where you intend to turn. Use turn signals to tell the other driver what you're going to do. Pump your brakes so your brake lights show you're slowing down or stopping.

Also get in the habit of catching the other driver's eye. Some times, you must use your horn to warn them of your location.

Most important, be patient. Try not to let heavy traffic get on your nerves. Never change your mind at the last minute or act too quickly. Don't rely on warnings or signals from other drivers. Depend on your own alertness, not theirs.

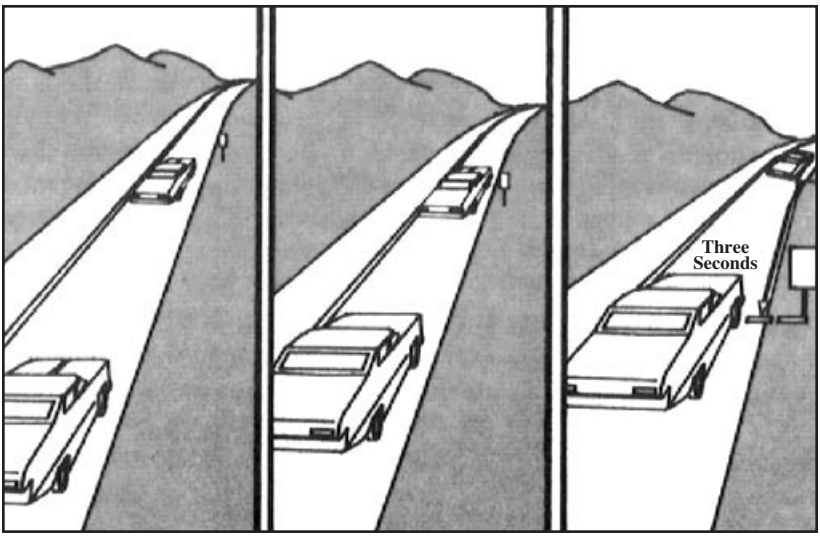
Keep a Space Cushion

To avoid a collision you need time to react to danger. Try to keep plenty of space between your car and others on all sides. Stay in the middle of your lane and always make sure there is enough room ahead to stop or pass safely. If a car follows too closely, slow down and let it pass.

Following Distances

"Tailgating" (driving too close to the car ahead) is a common cause of accidents. When following another car, you must leave yourself enough space to stop in any situation. You must also be sure your brakes are in good shape. Know how quickly they will stop you under any conditions. Test them often, particularly when the road is wet, icy or snowy.

There is no perfect formula for following distance, but the three-second following distance rule is the minimum recommended safest procedure to use. At high speeds or in bad weather you will need to increase your following distance.



The three-second rule is explained in the illustration above. It works like this:

- Choose a fixed object such as a sign or tree ahead of the car in front of you.
- As the car ahead passes the object, count off three seconds (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three).
- If it takes at least three seconds before you pass the object, you have enough distance for a sudden stop.
- In bad weather, the three seconds should be increased several times to give an extra margin of safety.

Stopping Behind a Vehicle

When stopping behind another vehicle, a safe driving habit is to leave enough distance between the vehicles to see the rear tires (where they touch

the ground) of the vehicle in front of you. This may keep you from hitting the vehicle in front of you if someone crashes into the rear of your vehicle or allow you room to go around a stalled vehicle without backing and causing a traffic hazard.

Backing

Backing requires extra caution because it is difficult for drivers to see behind their vehicles. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back up:

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
- Put your right arm on the back of the seat and look over your shoulder directly through the rear window. Don't rely on your mirrors.
- Back slowly. Your vehicle is more difficult to control while backing. Continue looking back until you come to a complete stop.

Whenever possible, avoid backing in traffic. If you have passed your exit on an interstate, never back or try to turn around. Go on to the next exit.

If You Have Car Trouble

When your car breaks down on the highway, make sure other drivers can see it. Many accidents occur because a driver didn't see a stalled vehicle.

When your car stalls, follow these rules:

- If possible, pull all the way off the road.
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Lift the hood to let others know you have a problem.
- If you can't get off the road, stop where people have a clear view of you and your car from behind. Don't stop just over a hill or around a curve.
- If you have emergency flares, place them 200 to 300 feet behind your car to give others lots of warning.
- If you don't have flares, stand by the side of the road and wave traffic around. Use a white cloth or flag if you have it. Stay off the roadway.

Unattended Vehicles

Unattended vehicles on the traveled portion of a highway at any time create a potential danger to public safety and are subject to immediate removal (towing).

Unattended vehicles that are off the traveled portion but are on the paved portion of a highway create a potential danger to public safety during darkness (especially if the vehicle has no lights on or lit warning devices

nearby). Vehicles, if left unattended, must be removed prior to darkness or be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

Watch for Problem Drivers
Give a lot of room to drivers who may not see you. These include:

- Drivers entering from intersections or driveways where the view is blocked by buildings, fences, trees, or other cars.
- Drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces.
- Drivers whose windows are covered with ice or snow.

Allow extra room for people who may be distracted by something they're doing. For example:

- Delivery men.
- Construction workers.
- Children playing.
- Drivers who are talking, tending children, or looking at maps.
- Tourists trying to figure out a complicated intersection.
- Drivers looking for a house number.

Sometimes you also must give extra room to a driver who gets in trouble. If other drivers make mistakes, help them out. Watch out for:

- Drivers who pass as you approach a curve, hill, or an oncoming car. Slow down and let them back into your lane quickly.
- Make room for any driver who is about to be forced into your lane by a car, pedestrian, bicyclist, obstacle, or a reduction in the number of lanes.

Handling Emergencies
Emergencies appear suddenly, and you may have only a fraction of a second to make the right move. Lives may depend on your ability to react quickly. Be prepared for hazards and know what to do when they show up. Think before you act. Often, an instinctive reaction, such as slamming on your brakes while skidding, may be the wrong thing to do.

Below are some tips on common driving emergencies.

Stopping Quickly
Many newer vehicles have an anti-lock braking system (ABS). Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS may allow you to stop without skidding. In general, observe the following if you need to stop quickly with ABS:

- During an emergency stop that requires hard braking, apply continuous pressure on the brake pedal. Do Not Pump The Brake Pedal as this will defeat the system's design, reduce the effectiveness of the ABS, and increase the distance required to stop the vehicle.
- The ABS will activate immediately, allowing you to retain full steering control during hard braking and on slippery surfaces—however, ABS does not decrease stopping distances.
- During hard braking with ABS, the system actually pumps the brakes for you at a higher rate than you could do yourself. This pumping action causes a noise from the ABS pump motor, and you may feel a noticeable pulse through the brake pedal.
- Do not be concerned by the noise and pulsation, because this is normal and there is no reason for concern. Knowing you will hear the pump motor and feel the pulse will help you resist the natural instinct to remove your foot from the pedal.

Here are instructions for stopping quickly without ABS:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can without locking the brakes and bring the vehicle to a quick, safe stop. (You may lock the brakes and cause the vehicle to skid if you brake too hard.)
- If the brakes lock, you will feel the vehicle begin to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, press down on the brake pedal again and repeat this press and release cycle if necessary until the vehicle has stopped.

Skidding

Prevention: Be alert to slick road conditions that may cause skidding, especially during the winter. When you must stop, slow down in advance. Never hit the brakes so hard you lock the wheels or you could lose control of your car.

In most skids, the rear wheels lose their grip on the pavement and slide left or right. Skidding occurs most often on ice or packed snow. It can also happen on wet pavement or even on dry pavement when traveling at high speeds or stopping quickly.

Recovery: When a skid starts, don't panic and don't hit the brake. Immediately take your foot off the gas pedal, then steer in the direction of the skid. For example, if your rear wheels slide to the right, turn your front wheels toward the right.

Before traveling on ice or snow, prepare for trouble by practicing stops and skid recovery in a safe place, preferably on private property.

Tire Blowouts

Blowouts are usually unexpected and the driver's natural response is to hit the brakes hard. Instead of stomping on the brakes:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the car headed straight down the road.
- Ease your foot off the gas pedal, but do not apply the brakes until you have complete control.
- When the car is under control, brake gently and pull off the road at the nearest spot where it's safe.

Gas Pedal Sticks

When your gas pedal sticks causing your engine to run too fast:

- Keep your eyes on the road.
- If you have time, lightly tap the accelerator pedal a few times to see if your engine speed returns to normal.
- If tapping fails, try prying it up with your toe. If you don't have time, push the clutch in on a manual transmission or push the gear shift lever of an automatic transmission into neutral and brake to a safe stop. Then turn the ignition off. If you must turn the ignition off before you can stop, DO NOT turn the key to lock, because the steering will lock and you will not be able to steer the vehicle. Also remember that power steering assist and power brake assist do not work when the engine dies—so get a firm grip on the wheel because steering will be harder and it will take more pressure on the brake pedal to stop.

Running off the road

Know what to do if the wheels drop off the pavement.

- Grip the wheel tightly and steer straight ahead. Stay on the shoulder if there are no immediate obstacles.
- Take your foot off the accelerator and apply the brakes gently.
- Once you've slowed down, check traffic for an opening and then, when it is safe, steer onto the pavement. Be careful not to oversteer and shoot out across the center line.

Brake Failure

If your anti-lock braking system (ABS) fails, you may still have normal brake functions. Drive and brake as you always have. If those brakes fail:

- Pump the brake pedal hard and fast. This may activate the brakes enough to slow you down or stop you.
- Shift to a lower gear.
- Apply the emergency brake gradually, but be ready to release it if you go into a skid.
- If none of the above work, look for something such as an embankment or ditch against which you can slow down. Also look for an escape route across open ground.
- Don't drive your vehicle again until the brakes are fixed.

Avoiding Collisions

To avoid a collision, you have two choices, (1) change direction by steering, or (2) change speed by braking or accelerating.

Steering: If you don't think you can stop in time, try to turn out of the way. If possible, stay off the brakes while you turn—you'll have more control.

Braking: Many drivers slam on the brakes to avoid a collision. Don't, unless you have anti-lock brakes. Locking your brakes may throw you into a skid and make things worse. Instead, you should pump your brakes hard and fast. You'll have more control and stop faster.

Acceleration: When another car is about to hit you from the side or rear, accelerating may soften the impact or prevent the collision.

Oncoming Car in Your Lane

If you're threatened with a head-on collision and have some time:

- Slow down and try to warn the other driver by flashing your lights and honking your horn.
- Pull to the right as far as possible. Don't go left. The other driver may recover and hit you broadside.

If you can't avoid a collision, steer so the cars will hit at an angle and avoid a head-on crash.

Protecting Yourself in a Collision

If you can't avoid a collision, try to protect yourself in the following ways:

- The best protection is to buckle your seat belt or shoulder harness BEFORE you start your trip. Your chance of avoiding serious injury or death is better if you are wearing your seat and/or shoulder harness properly.

- If you're about to be hit from the rear and have a headrest, press the back of your head against it. Be ready to brake to avoid hitting cars ahead of you.
- If you're about to be hit from the side, be prepared to steer to recover from the impact.
- If you're about to be hit from the front and you're wearing a seat belt and shoulder harness, use your arms and hands to protect your face. If you're not wearing a seat belt or harness, throw yourself across the seat to avoid hitting the steering wheel or windshield. This is one of many good reasons to always wear your seatbelt.

Accidents and the Law

No matter how safely you drive, chances are someday you may be in an accident. Even if you're not at fault, you must know what to do. If you're involved in an accident, you are required to:

- Stop as near to the scene as possible without blocking traffic. You may move vehicles that pose a traffic hazard before the police arrive. Idaho's "Quick Clearance" law requires anyone involved in a crash (on an interstate or major divided highway), that does not cause a death or injury, to safely move the vehicle to a shoulder, median or emergency lane.
- Give any help you can if someone is injured. Idaho's Good Samaritan Law protects you from civil liability if you act in good faith. However don't try to move an injured person from a wrecked vehicle unless you have the necessary medical training or there is an immediate danger, such as fire.
- Call for police and medical help as soon as possible. You must report to police any motor vehicle accident in which someone is injured or property damage is more than $1,500. Exchange information at the scene with other people involved in the accident, including names, addresses, and driver's license numbers of other drivers; names and addresses of any people injured; names and addresses of any witnesses; and names, addresses, and insurance policy numbers of the other vehicle owners. If you provide false information you may be guilty of a misdemeanor. A police officer, when present, will help you exchange information with the other driver.

At the Scene of the Accident

Someday you may come upon a traffic accident where there are serious injuries and people need help. If police or medical help is already there, don't stop. Move on as officers direct.

If you're the first one to arrive, you should stop and try to do everything you can to help the victims. Even if you know nothing of first aid, you can still be of assistance by warning other traffic and sending for medical help. Do what you can, then wait for qualified help to arrive.

Accident With an Uninsured Driver

If you have recently been in an accident with an uninsured driver and have been unsuccessful in collecting damages, you may request that the driving privileges of the uninsured driver be suspended. After a court judgment has been entered, the department may suspend the driving privileges of the uninsured driver until you have been paid, or for up to six years. For more information, contact any city, county, or state law enforcement agency, or the Idaho Transportation Department.

If You Hit an Unattended Vehicle

You must make a reasonable effort to find the owner of an unattended vehicle or other property damaged in an accident in which you are involved. If the owner cannot be located, leave a note telling about the accident, your name, address, and license plate number. You must also notify police if the damage was more than $1,500 or someone was injured.

Study Questions

1. What is the rule for determining a safe following distance between your car and the car in front of you?

2. What motor vehicle accidents must be reported to police?

3. What is the correct procedure for maneuvering your car out of a skid?

4. What is the correct arm signal for a left turn? A right turn? A stop?

5. What should you do before changing lanes or turning?

6. Is keeping your eyes straight ahead a defensive driving practice?

7. What should you do if one of your tires blows out while you're driving?

8. What are the proper actions to take if your wheels drift off of the pavement onto a soft shoulder?

CHAPTER 5
SHARING THE ROAD

At times, the experience of having a mix of cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians using the roadway complicates driving and increases hazards for everyone. The keys to minimizing those hazards are courtesy, respect for the rights of others, and a heightened awareness of potential problems. Caution and awareness on your part may save others from serious injury or death.

Motorcycles

Motorcycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as other highway users, and they must obey the same traffic laws.

Motorcycles are smaller and harder to see than cars. They're easily hidden in a car's blind spot. Because it may be hard to judge the distance to motorcycles, or to tell how fast they are moving, be alert to their presence and be extra cautious. Approximately one-half of all motorcycle crashes involve another motor vehicle, so it is important to practice safe driving in order to help avoid collisions.

Here are some situations that call for special attention when motorcycles are around.

- **Left turns**: Cars turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle cause nearly 40 percent of serious car/motorcycle crashes. Drivers may fail to see a motorcycle rider in the traffic scene. Or a driver may fail to judge the speed of an oncoming motorcycle. As a driver, the correct precaution is for you to look and then look again. Make sure you see the motorcycle and know its speed before you make a left turn.

- **Turn signals**: Most motorcycles do not have turn signals that turn off automatically. At times, motorcycle riders may forget to switch the signal off. Before you make a turn in front of a motorcycle with a signal flashing, be sure the motorcycle is turning and not continuing straight into your path.
- **Lanes**: Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as all other vehicles. Good motorcycle riders are constantly changing positions within the lane so they can see and be seen, and to avoid objects in the road. Never move into the same lane alongside a motorcycle, even if the lane is wide and the motorcyclist is riding far to one side.
- **Bad weather**: Weather conditions and slippery surfaces can be serious problems for motorcycles. Allow even more following room when it's raining or the road surface is slick.
- **Road surface**: Unusual road surfaces and irregularities in the road that don't affect other vehicles can create problems for motorcycles. Gravel, debris, pavement seams, small animals, and even manhole covers may force a motorcycle rider to change speed or direction.
- **Visibility:** Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic or an intersection. Motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always use turn signals and brake lights to signal your intentions for turning, changing lanes, merging, slowing and stopping. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position. Allow more than 3 seconds following distance between your vehicle and the motorcycle. This allows you and the motorcyclist enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

Large Vehicles

Safely sharing the road with large trucks and buses requires knowledge of their special limitations. Generally speaking, the bigger they are:

- The bigger their blind spots
- The more room they need to turn or change lanes
- The longer it takes them to stop
- The longer it takes them to pass
- The more likely you're going to be the loser in a collision

When you are near large vehicles on the road, pay special attention to the following:

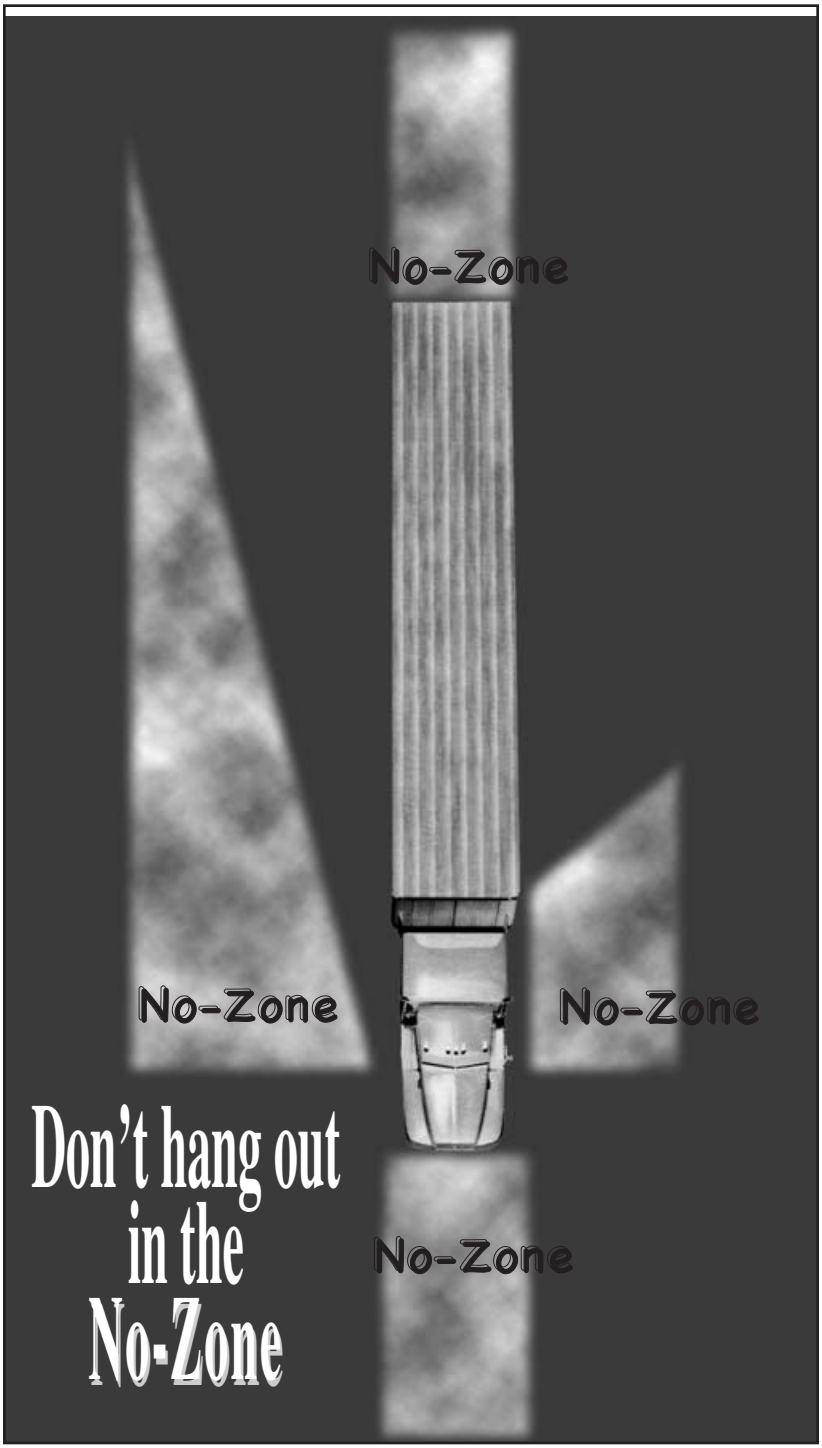
- **Snow plows:** Use extra caution when you encounter snow removal equipment; snowplow blades force snow up and off the road, potentially causing blizzard-like conditions and reduced visibility for drivers

following too closely. See more information about sharing the road with snowplows in Chapter 6 under *Winter Driving*.

- **Blind spots**: Stay out of blind spots. If you are following a large vehicle and you cannot see the driver's mirrors, then the driver cannot see you either. There are blind spots behind and on each side of large vehicles. Avoid driving alongside large vehicles for prolonged periods.
- **Visibility**: Large vehicles can block your vision of the road ahead. When following large vehicles, adjust your following distance so you can see most of the roadway ahead.
- **Passing**: When cars cut in too soon after passing, then quickly slow down, drivers of large vehicles are forced to react with little time or room to spare. Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should keep a steady speed when passing and be sure you can see the cab of the vehicle in your rear-view mirror before moving back into the lane.
- **Speeding up and stopping**: Large vehicles cannot gain speed or stop as quickly as smaller vehicles can. For example, it takes a loaded truck with properly adjusted brakes 290 feet to come to a complete stop when traveling 55 mph on a dry road. Allow extra space for large vehicles to speed up or stop. The operators of these vehicles adjust the space between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead to allow for a safe following distance. When passing them, be sure to allow for this increased safety zone when returning to your lane of travel.
- **Turning space**: When making sharp turns, large vehicles sometimes require more than one lane to complete the turn. Be sure to allow enough room for these vehicles to safely complete their turns. When turning right, these drivers may angle into the left lane so they can make the right turn without running over the curb or hitting something. Do not try to squeeze by on the right side when a large vehicle is making a turn like this. It is a frequent cause of accidents involving large vehicles.
- **Hazardous Materials**: Avoid driving near vehicles carrying hazardous materials. These vehicles will be placarded to identify what they are carrying. All vehicles carrying hazardous materials must stop at all railroad crossings, so be prepared to stop if you are following one.
- **Long, Steep Grades**: When traveling up or down steep grades, large vehicles travel slowly. On four-lane roads, they will use the right lane. Be prepared to encounter slow vehicles in the right lane, and do not park in or near "escape" or "runaway" ramps. These ramps should only be used to stop vehicles whose brakes have failed.

The "No Zone"

The No-Zone represents danger areas around large vehicles where crashes are more likely to happen (see diagram on next page).


No-Zone
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Don't hang out
in the
No-Zone

Bicyclists
Every year the number of bicycles increases on Idaho roadways. Cycling has become an important means of transportation as well as recreation.

Bicyclists are legally allowed to ride on all Idaho roadways, have the same rights as motorists, and are required to ride with the flow of traffic. They must ride as close to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway as safety allows, except when passing, turning left, avoiding an obstacle, or when the roadway does not allow a bicycle and vehicle to travel safely side by side.

To increase the safety margin when passing a bicyclist, move into the left lane if possible. If you are not able to change lanes, pass with as much clearance as possible—a safe margin is at least three feet. This may require waiting for a break in oncoming traffic. When passing children on bicycles, slow down, and be aware that they may unpredictably swerve into your lane.

In Idaho, cyclists do not need to come to a complete stop at stop signs. They must, however, yield the right-of-way to vehicles in or already at the intersection, and then proceed with caution through the intersection.

Bicyclists may proceed with caution through a red light after stopping and yielding the right of way to vehicles already in the intersection. They do not need to come to a complete stop when turning right on a red light. However, they must yield the right of way to vehicles already in the intersection.

Cyclists are relatively unprotected compared to motor vehicle operators and most collisions result in injury to the cyclist. Therefore, motor vehicle operators should be alert and use caution when encountering them.

Idaho Bicycling Street Smarts and the *Idaho Bicycle Commuter Guide* are avilable from the Idaho Transportation Department. You may order copies from the website at itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/Commuter_StreetSmarts.html. For more information, contact Idaho's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator at (208) 334-8272.

Pedestrians
Vehicle-pedestrian collisions account for approximately 12 percent of all traffic deaths. When driving a vehicle, you must be aware of pedestrian activity, particularly in residential areas, near schools, school crossings, trail crossings, parking lots, intersections, crosswalks, bus stops, playgrounds, and parks.

You always need to be alert and use caution when driving near pedestrians. Pedestrians are unpredictable and highly vulnerable to injury.

Children at Play

Take extra care when driving in residential areas and school zones and at times and places where children are likely to be found near the roadway. Before getting into your vehicle, walk around it to be sure no children are playing near it that you may not be able to see from the driver's seat.

When backing out of a driveway, watch for children who may run behind your vehicle. ***OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT*** and be alert when vehicles are parked along the roadway. Darting into traffic from between or around a parked car is a common cause of serious injury to children. They are often too short to be seen easily when playing near parked cars, so use extra caution when you see any children near the roadway. They may have an unseen playmate who cannot see you either.

Horseback Riders

People riding horses are allowed to use most public roads. They also have the same rights as motor vehicle operators and must obey the same rules.

When approaching someone riding a horse, take care to avoid frightening the animal—slow down and allow plenty of room when passing. Never sound your horn because you may frighten the horse and cause an accident. If you encounter a rider that is having difficulty controlling an animal, be sure to use extreme caution when going around them. Stop if necessary to prevent becoming a part of the hazard.

Funeral Processions

If you see a funeral procession on the road, do not drive between or join vehicles in the formation unless you are authorized to do so by a police officer. Do not pass the procession in the right lane on a multi-lane highway unless the procession is in the farthest left lane.

You may not enter an intersection when the procession is proceeding through (regardless of the color of the traffic light) unless you can do so without crossing the path of the procession. Always give funeral processions the right of way.

All vehicles in a funeral procession are required to have their headlights and tail lights turned on. The first and last vehicles in the procession must also have their warning lights flashing to indicate the beginning and ending points of the formation.

CHAPTER 6
ADJUSTING TO DRIVING CONDITIONS

Driving conditions change with the weather, light, or terrain. Study the suggestions below so you can react quickly and properly when the driving conditions change.

Night Driving

About 90% of driving choices are based on what you see. At night, your vision is reduced. To make sure you have time to react to danger, always drive slowly enough so you can stop within the distance you can see ahead. This distance is about 350 feet when using the high beams of your headlights, and about 100 feet when using the low beams.

Below are some other tips to make your night driving safer.

- Increase the following distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
- Turn on your headlights (not just your parking lights) when driving between sunset and sunrise, or when visibility has been reduced to below 500 feet. The grey hours of twilight and dawn are the most dangerous times of the day.
- Watch for slow-moving or unlighted vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and animals.
- Allow more distance and time for passing.
- Don't drive or keep driving if you're tired.
- Never wear sunglasses when light levels are low.
- Keep your windshield clean, both inside and out.
- Keep your headlights clean. Dirt will dim their light and may distort the beam.

- Avoid looking into the headlights of oncoming vehicles. Instead, shift your eyes down to the lower right side of your traffic lane. This keeps the light from hitting your eyes directly.
- Dim your headlights to low beam when approaching or following another vehicle or on lighted roads.
- If you must park on a highway shoulder at night, turn on your emergency flashers or parking lights.

Fog, Smoke, Dust, or Rain

You are required to turn on your headlights in the daytime when vision is reduced to 500 feet or less. Low beams are best at such times. When you first turn on your headlights, be sure they are adjusted to low beams.

It is safest not to drive in fog, dust storms, or in heavy rain. If you must drive during these conditions, reduce your speed. For safety reasons, you should not use cruise control if the road is wet and/or icy. Slow down more when you see red taillights ahead. The car may be stopped or creeping along. If conditions get too bad, pull off the road and stop. Don't creep along; somebody else may crash into you. Also avoid using your four-way flashers while moving—other drivers may think you've stopped.

Rain and Hydroplaning

Wet roads can be as dangerous as icy roads. Always reduce your speed in wet weather. You'll need more distance for stopping and you may skid on quick turns. For safety reasons, you should not use cruise control if the road is wet and/or icy.

Remember, roads are more dangerous at the start of a light rain when road oil and water mix to form a greasy film on the road.

At speeds up to 35 miles per hour, most tires grip the road surface even when it's wet. As speed increases, the tires can't grip the road as well. At 55 miles per hour, the tires may lose all contact with the road. They start to "hydroplane" or ride on top of a film of water like a set of water skis. When that happens, you can't brake, accelerate, or turn. A gust of wind, a curve or even a lane change can cause a skid.

To reduce the chances of hydroplaning, you should:

- Slow down during rainstorms or when roads are slushy.
- Slow down if the road has standing water or puddles.
- Replace tires as soon as they become worn.
- Keep tires properly inflated.

If you are about to drive over a slippery area or you think your car has started to hydroplane:

- Maintain a steady speed and keep moving in a straight line.
- Slowly take your foot off the gas pedal.
- Don't try to stop or turn quickly until your tires are gripping the road again.
- If you have to use your brakes, pump them gently (unless your car has an anti-lock braking system [ABS]).

Flash Floods

Flash floods are caused by intense rain that falls in a short amount of time. Idaho averages seven flash floods a year, and they generally occur during or right after a severe thunderstorm.

In some cases, small streams a few feet wide by a few inches deep can swell to over 12 feet deep and 80 feet wide in less than 5 minutes. To put things in perspective, remember that water is one of the most powerful forces of nature. As little as six inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet. Fast-moving water two feet deep can wash away a vehicle.

If the National Weather Service issues a Flash Flood Warning, or you observe water rising quickly, you should take action immediately.

- Get far away from areas subject to flooding (dips, low spots, canyons, dry creek beds, or along a stream). Seek higher, safer ground.
- Avoid areas near rivers or streams and areas that are already flooded. Roads that are underwater may no longer be intact. NEVER drive through flooded roadways.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and sweep it away.
- Be very careful at night when it is harder to see flood dangers.
- Do not park your vehicle or camp along streams or dry streambeds during threatening conditions.

Winter Driving

Winter driving calls for special skills. On slippery roads, the keys to safety are slower speeds, gentler stops and turns, and longer following distances. Here are some safe-driving tips that will help you when roads are slick with ice or snow:

- Keep your vehicle in the best possible driving condition. The lights, tires, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, and radiator are especially important for winter driving.
- Keep your windows clear. Don't start driving until the windows are

defrosted and clean—even if you're going only a short distance. Keep your windshield washer reservoir filled with a non-freezing solution all winter.

- For safety reasons, you should not use cruise control if the road is wet and/or icy.
- Buckle up. All occupants are required to wear safety belts and/or shoulder straps when riding in a vehicle equipped with them.
- Get the feel of the road by starting out slowly and testing your steering control and braking ability. Avoid spinning your tires when you start by gently pressing your gas pedal until the car starts to roll. Start slowing your car down at least three times sooner than you normally do when turning or stopping.
- When stopping, avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel and pump the brake gently. (Check your vehicle owner's manual; if the vehicle has anti-lock brakes, you may apply steady pressure to the brake pedal.)
- Use tire chains on very slippery roads. (Some states require chains to be carried during winter months; check for specific information before driving in other states.)
- Be aware of potential icy areas such as shady spots, bridges, and overpasses. Ice may form sooner or remain on bridges and overpasses longer, since they are exposed on their undersides and are deprived of ground warmth. Snow and ice also stay longer in shaded areas.

Snow Removal Equipment

Use extra caution when encountering snow removal equipment; snowplow blades force snow up and off the road, potentially causing blizzard-like conditions and reduced visibility for drivers following too closely.

Use caution when driving in winter conditions, and cooperate with highway workers clearing the roads. Drivers should follow these additional tips for safe winter driving:

- Remain two car lengths behind snowplow trucks for every 10 mph you drive. Sand being spread by trucks can damage your vehicle.
- Do not pass a snowplow unless it is absolutely necessary.
- If you must pass, do so only when you can clearly see the road ahead. Do not pass on the side where the plow is spraying snow. If you do, the snow's force can knock your car out of control. Do not cut back immediately in front of a snowplow truck. The plow blades are often covered with snow and can be difficult to see.
- Do not brake suddenly if you are traveling in front of a snowplow. The heavy vehicle cannot stop as quickly as your automobile.

- Do not abandon your car unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must, leave it as far off the road as possible. Abandoned cars can interfere with the road clearing process and can be extremely hazardous to snow removal equipment and the operators if they are hidden or buried by snow.

Getting Stranded During Winter Weather

Idaho winters can be severe, particularly in the mountains. When traveling in winter months, be prepared in case your vehicle breaks down or you get into an accident. You should keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car. The kit should include:

- flashlights with extra batteries
- a first aid kit
- a pocket knife
- at least one blanket or sleeping bag
- an extra set of gloves
- socks and a wool cap
- a small sack of sand or cat litter for generating traction under the wheels
- a small shovel
- bottled water
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- energy bars or other non-perishable food items
- a brightly-colored scarf to attract attention in case of an emergency
- waterproof matches or cigarette lighter
- a map of the area where you plan to travel.

If you run your car for heat make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow. If available, tie a scarf or bright cloth on the car antennae for snow crews to see.

Let someone know your travel plans, including estimated departure and arrival times, route, and where you will stay when you reach your destination. Be courteous and call those who may be worried when you arrive at your destination. Keep in contact. If you have a cell phone, make sure it is charged, and carry a list of emergency phone numbers. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle if heavy snow is falling. Most deaths occur when people leave their car, get lost, and freeze.

In case of medical emergencies in areas where roads have not been plowed, call the local or state police. These agencies will work with search and rescue personnel and the Idaho Transportation Department to respond to emergencies.

Idaho's 511 Traveler Services

For travel information, dial "511" or go to 511.idaho.gov for up-to-date information on:

- weather-related road conditions
- traffic incidents and delays
- emergency road closures
- highway roadwork projects
- tourism

If your phone company does not support 511, simply call 1-888-IDA-ROAD (1-888-432-7623) to access the 511 system.

Mountain Driving

Idaho's mountains are beautiful, but they create special problems for drivers. When driving in the mountains, you should:

- Pay special attention to speed limit signs and signs warning of curves, steep hills, or other hazards.
- Stay close to the right edge of the road to be away from oncoming traffic.
- Use a lower gear to control speeds while going down long hills.
- Never coast downhill by shifting into neutral or disengaging the clutch.
- Watch for a solid yellow line in your lane marking a no-passing zone. Sound the horn when approaching any curve on a narrow road where the view is obstructed.

Wildlife Areas

Small animals in the road are dangerous because motorists sometimes lose control while trying to avoid the animals. When you see a small animal in the road, think of your own safety. Don't try to dodge it unless you're sure it is safe to do so.

Big game animals, such as moose, elk, and deer, can cause severe damage to a vehicle. When you see a large animal on or near the road, slow down and proceed with caution. These are herd animals, and others are usually nearby.

Animals can move into the path of a vehicle so quickly that it's impossible to slow down enough to safely avoid hitting them. In this case, you must consider running over it as the safest alternative, even though the crash may damage your vehicle and will likely kill the animal. Concentrate on keeping control of the vehicle before, during, and after the collision.

Work Zones

Work zones are hazardous areas for both workers and motorists. The work zones are commonly identified with orange signs, cones, drums, barricades, or flashing arrow panels. Here are some tips for travel through work zones:

- Pay attention. Many hazards exist in work zones, such as uneven pavement, narrow lanes, heavy equipment, and loose gravel.
- Watch for signs. Regulatory signs are generally black and white or red and white, and must be obeyed at all times. Warning signs in a construction zone are orange and black. Do not go around or move any barriers or signs to cross over a road that is closed to traffic.
- "Road Closed" signs mean that the construction zone cannot be entered except by authorized personnel.
- "ROAD CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC" or "ROAD CLOSED, LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY" signs mean that the construction zone is open to local residential or commercial traffic, but the traffic must not use the construction zone as a travel route unless they have a reason to stop within the construction zone. When closure signs are properly placed, continuous trips through a construction zone are prohibited. Other signs should be available to direct you around the construction zone.
- Slow down. Fines for speeding are increased in work zones if the signage indicates so.
- Watch where you are going. Workers are just inches away from traffic; over 52,000 injuries occur nationally in work zones each year. Road crews work both night and day. Four out of five fatalities are motorists.
- Do not follow too closely. Leave plenty of space between you and the car ahead.
- Speeding, inattentive driving, failing to yield the right of way, and improper lane changes also contribute to accidents in work zones. Plan ahead — allow for the few extra minutes a construction project may add to the commute, and minimize distractions such as a cell phone or the car stereo.

Study Questions

1. Why is night driving more dangerous than daytime driving?
2. At night, how can you reduce the problem of glare from the headlights of oncoming vehicles?
3. When driving through heavy daytime fog, should you drive with your headlights on high beam?
4. True or false: In the winter time, it is okay to leave frost on your windshield and windows during short trips.
5. What must you do to reduce the chances of hydroplaning when roads are wet?

CHAPTER 7
FREEWAY DRIVING

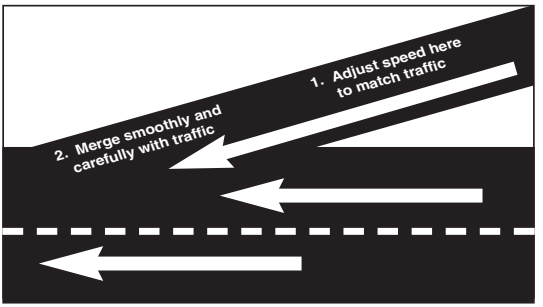
Freeways, interstates, expressways, and toll roads offer fast and efficient routes of travel. They're usually safer than other kinds of roads because they have one-way traffic, a limited number of entrances, and other special safety features. On the other hand, they can encourage boredom and fatigue that the driver must guard against. Where designated as permissible by federal law, vehicles may travel at speeds up to 75 mph on rural interstates (65 mph for heavy trucks), and up to 65 mph on urban interstate highways, unless otherwise posted. At these speeds, a single error can be disastrous.

Travel Plans

Before starting a long freeway trip, make yourself a travel plan. Plan for food, rest, and fuel stops. On short trips, know the name, route, entrance, and exit numbers.

Entering a Freeway

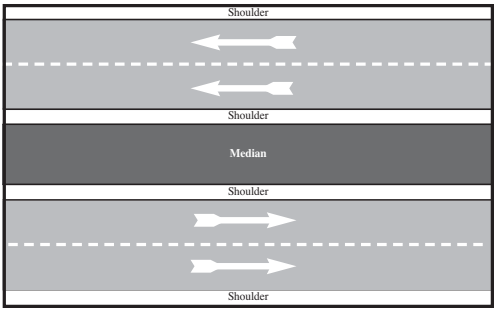
Freeway entrances usually have three basic parts: an entrance ramp, an acceleration lane, and a merging area.



While on the entrance ramp you have a chance to observe traffic conditions on the freeway. The ramp will straighten out into the acceleration lane where you should accelerate to the speed of freeway traffic. In the merging area, you must blend into the flow of traffic on the freeway's outside lane.

Follow these procedures:

- Before you enter the ramp, make sure it's the one you want. If you enter the wrong entrance by mistake, never try to back up or turn around through the median. **Freeway median crossovers are for highway maintenance or emergency vehicle use only. It is illegal for any other vehicles to use them.** If you need to get off the freeway or change directions, wait until the next exit to do so.



- Once on the ramp, check traffic around you and on the freeway. Signal and begin looking over your left shoulder for a gap in the traffic large enough for your vehicle to fit into without crowding anyone.
- As the ramp straightens, accelerate to the speed of the freeway traffic so you can blend in smoothly. Remember, you must yield to the traffic already on the highway.
- Once you're traveling at the speed of traffic, you can make a simple lane change, merge with the flow of vehicles, and turn off your turn signal.

Possible Entrance Problems

The suggestions above were written with an ideal freeway entrance in mind. Sometimes on older freeway entrances or freeways built with limited space, the ramp, acceleration lane, or merging area may be shorter than ideal. In such places, or when traffic is heavy, you may have to take extra precautions.

For example, in heavy traffic gaps are hard to find. If there's no opening, you may have to slow down before reaching the end of the acceleration lane.

Sometimes a short acceleration lane combined with heavy traffic will force you to stop. When that happens, be sure to leave enough room ahead so you can accelerate up to the speed of freeway traffic as you merge. Wait until there is a gap large enough for you to reach cruising speed without interfering with oncoming vehicles. Then signal your entrance and accelerate as rapidly as you can to blend in with the traffic flow.

Don’t Drive Too Fast or Slow

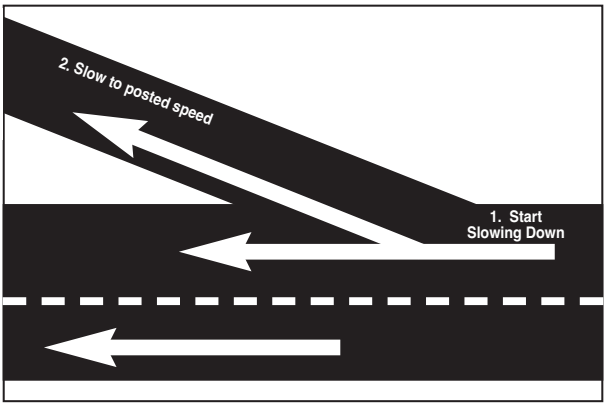
Once on the freeway, you should maintain a steady speed and keep up with the flow or traffic. Where designated as permissible by federal law and as weather conditions permit, vehicles may travel 75 mph on freeways/rural interstates, and 65 mph on freeways/urban interstates, unless otherwise posted. Since it’s dangerous to drive slow when other traffic is going fast, a minimum speed may also be posted. If you can't or don’t want to drive at the posted speed on a freeway, choose another kind of road to travel on.

Changing Lanes

Most of the time you should drive in the far right or center lane of the freeway. The left lane is for higher-speed traffic and passing. During rush hours, you should avoid the right lane to allow room for drivers entering the freeway. Always signal for at least five seconds before making a lane change or exiting a freeway.

Leaving the Freeway

Getting off a freeway can be a simple maneuver if you know which exit to take, and follow the signs marking the lane for that exit.



Leaving a Freeway

Follow these steps:

- If you are not already in the correct lane, about a half mile before the exit, signal and move into the lane nearest the exit. Signal, then move into the deceleration lane provided to let you slow down without interrupting the flow of traffic.
- An exit speed may be posted. Adjust your speed accordingly as you drive through the ramp.

- As you leave the ramp and enter another thoroughfare, you may be driving in more complicated, dangerous traffic than on the freeway. Be alert and adjust to the new conditions and slower speeds.

Study Questions

1. Why are minimum speeds posted on some freeways?

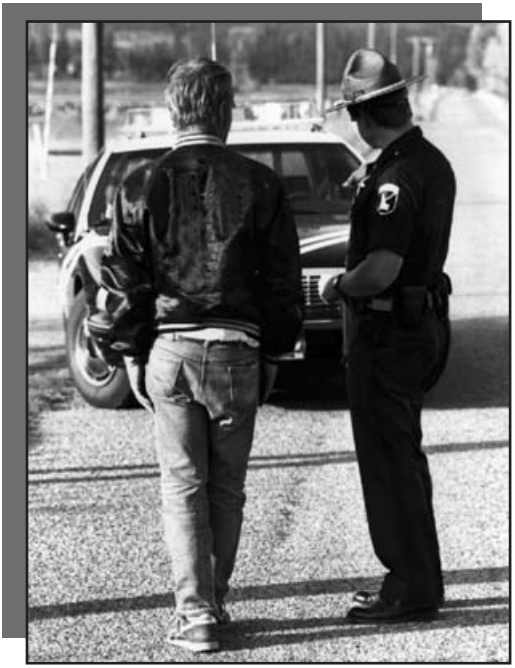
2. What is the purpose of a freeway acceleration lane?

3. What should you do if you miss your exit off of a freeway?

4. How do you enter a freeway with a very short acceleration lane?

5. How long should you signal for when changing lanes on a freeway?

CHAPTER 8
HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGE



Your driving privileges can be suspended, canceled, or revoked if you break certain laws or become a careless driver—even if you have not been issued a driver's license. Your future driving privileges can be affected because driving records are maintained even for drivers who have not been issued a license. The Idaho Transportation Department keeps a record of your accidents and moving violations, including those occurring in other states.

The Driver License Compact
Idaho is a member of this compact, which is an agreement among states to promote driver compliance with driving laws, ordinances, and administrative actions in member states.

Membership is a major step necessary to maximize law enforcement efforts against drunk drivers and other serious traffic offenders. Under this compact, serious offenses and minor moving violations will be sent to a driver's home state and action will be taken as if the violation occurred in the driver's home state. If you are convicted of a traffic offense in another state, the information on that offense will be sent to Idaho and placed in your driving record. If it is a suspendible offense, your driving privileges will be suspended by the Idaho Transportation Department.

The Non-Resident Violator Compact
Idaho is also a member of this compact, which is an agreement among states to suspend drivers for failure to pay traffic citations issued by other member states. Under this compact, the issuing state will send a notice of non-compliance to the driver's home state. The home state will suspend

the driver's privileges until the terms of the citation have been complied with.

The compact has several benefits for drivers. It allows them to be released on personal recognizance, and does not require them to appear before a judge or post a bond at the time citations are issued.

Graduated License Penalties

All drivers under 17 years of age are subject to the following penalties:

- A warning letter upon the first conviction for a moving traffic violation. (This letter provides warning that future violations may result in the suspension of your driving privileges.)
- A 30-day suspension of driving privileges for a second conviction for a moving traffic violation.
- A 60-day suspension of driving privileges for a third or subsequent conviction for a moving traffic violation

These penalties are in addition to the permit cancellation during the supervised instruction period, or any other suspension that may be ordered by a court or the department. The GDL penalty suspension periods are absolute, and allow NO DRIVING PRIVILEGES OF ANY KIND.

Suspension and Point System

Your driving record is evaluated by a point system in which you receive one to four points for each moving traffic violation on your record. For additional information about point violations, visit our web site at dmv.idaho.gov.

Under the point system, the department may take the following action(s) against you:

NUMBER OF POINTS	PENALTY
8 to 11 in any 12 months	Warning letter
12 to 17 in any 12 months	30-day suspension
18 to 23 in any 24 months	90-day suspension
24 or more in any 36 months	6-month suspension

Once every three years, you may remove three points from your point total by completing an approved defensive-driving class. To receive a point reduction, the points must already be on your driving record before you complete the class. If you remove points from your record by completing one of these classes, you will not be able to do so again until three years after the date you completed the class. Completing a defensive-driving class will not remove a driving conviction from your record. If you want to

avoid suspension, you must take the class before you're suspended (once you lose your license, it's too late for the class to affect that suspension).

Defensive-driving classes are offered in several Idaho cities and online. Contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise for information at (208) 334-8736.

Other Reasons for Suspension

The Courts and the Idaho Transportation Department are authorized by law to suspend, disqualify, deny, cancel, or revoke the license of drivers convicted of breaking certain laws. Those violations include:

- Driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Using a motor vehicle to commit a felony.
- Leaving the scene of an accident in which you were involved, when the accident caused property damage.
- Making false statements—oral or written—to the Idaho Transportation Department while under oath.
- Reckless driving.
- Driving with a suspended license.
- Failing to pay a judgment for damages in an accident.
- Administrative license suspension (automatic license suspension for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the violation).
- Refusing to take an evidentiary test.
- Failing to pay a fine for conviction on an "infraction" charge. (Infractions include minor traffic violations and parking tickets.)
- Fleeing from or eluding a peace officer.
- Leaving the scene of an accident resulting in injury or death.
- Unlawful use of a driver's license or identification card.
- Failure to carry motor vehicle insurance.
- Alcohol-age violation (possession, use, or procurement).
- Violation of restriction (daylight only, lenses, no freeway, etc.).
- Underage possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia.
- Failure to attend school or comply with school requirements.
- Failure to pay child support, or comply with visitation rights, or failure to comply with a subpoena for a paternity suit.

Restricted Driving Permits

If your Idaho license is suspended, you may qualify for a restricted permit allowing you to drive to and from work, medical treatments, etc. If you were suspended by the department, you may apply for a restricted permit at the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise. If you are suspended by the

court, you must apply for restricted driving privileges from the court that convicted you.

Getting Your License Back

When your suspension or revocation period ends, you may get your license back by applying to the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise. You will be required to pay a reinstatement fee of $15.00 to $180.00, depending on the nature of the suspension. If your license was suspended for certain serious offenses, (reckless driving, driving under the influence, etc.) you must also provide proof, for three years, that you are able to meet financial obligations arising from any accident. The acceptable form of proof of financial responsibility is a certified statement of liability insurance coverage from your insurer (an SR-22 certificate).

If you violate Idaho's no-insurance laws, you will—for a first offense—be required to provide proof of financial responsibility for one year. If you commit a second offense in a five-year period, you will be required to provide proof of financial responsibility for three years. For more information, contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise at (208) 334-8736.

Alcohol and Driving

Most adults drive and many adults drink. The combination of drinking and driving accounts for approximately half of all fatal traffic accidents. Alcohol kills over 25,000 people a year on U.S. highways.

In recent years, due to public demand, lawmakers have passed tougher laws on driving under the influence of alcohol. You can avoid an accident and serious legal problems by not driving when you have been drinking.

Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

When you're out with friends or giving a party, be a good friend. If they drink too much, don't let them drive. Drive them yourself or call a taxi. You also have some legal responsibilities. If a person gets drunk at your house and has a traffic accident, you may be held liable in a lawsuit.

How Drinking Affects You

Alcohol passes directly through your stomach and small intestine into the bloodstream, where it flows to all parts of your body. On an empty stomach this process takes place almost immediately. On a full stomach, it takes somewhat longer. In either case, when the alcohol reaches your brain, it promotes relaxation. In large amounts, it dulls the parts of your brain that control inhibition, judgment, and self-control. As a result, you may feel stimulated, lively, and a bit giddy or foolish.

After two to four drinks, alcohol begins to impair your reaction time, coordination, and balance. Your vision and ability to judge distance suffers too, making it harder to react to dangers ahead.

In heavy doses, alcohol can be a mood changer producing sudden shifts in mood all the way from elation to anger. Studies show a combination of alcohol and anger is responsible for much of the reckless, aggressive driving that often causes fatal highway crashes.

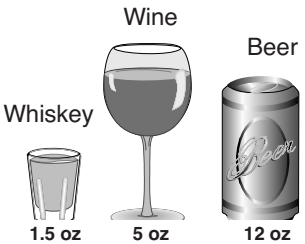
Food can slow down the absorption of alcohol. This delaying action prevents large amounts of alcohol from going to your head immediately. But eating won't prevent the absorption of alcohol into your system.

Once alcohol is in your bloodstream, neither aspirin, black coffee, deep breathing, a slap in the face, exercise, nor eating will sober you up. Only time will return you to normal.

How Much is Too Much?
You cannot trust yourself or your friends to judge the quality of your driving after you've had a few drinks. Your ability to drive may be impaired long before you or anyone else notices outward signs.

If you drink enough to increase your alcohol concentration past .05, be careful. At slightly above .05, the risk of causing an accident doubles. At .10, the risk is six times as great. At .15, the risk is 25 times as great.

Is Beer Safer Than Whiskey?
A jigger (1.5 ounces) of 80-proof whiskey, five ounces of table wine, or 12 ounces of beer all contain approximately the same amount of alcohol—about an ounce each. Studies have found the greatest percentage of people arrested for driving under the influence had been drinking beer.



How Drinking Affects Driving

Drinking affects your thinking. It also slows your reaction time. By making you feel good, alcohol may also give you false confidence. Such factors affect your driving in ways that a trained law officer can detect. Some signs of drunken driving are:

- Speeding: Drinking drivers often think they can drive safely at high speeds.
- Weaving: Even though drivers may stay in their lane, they may have trouble steering straight.
- Slow driving: Drinking drivers may be overly cautious and drive slower than normal traffic.
- Jerking motion: Drinking drivers often have short mental lapses revealed by jerky steering or acceleration.
- Quick stops: Drinking drivers may make sudden stops at traffic signs or lights, rather than easing up to them.

Driving Under The Influence

Under Idaho law you are considered to be driving under the influence if your blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) is .02 or more if you are under 21 years of age, .04 or more if you are operating a commercial vehicle, and .08 or more if you are 21 or older. An alcohol concentration of .20 or more carries even stiffer penalties. Even if your BAC is less than .08, you may be convicted of driving under the influence of other intoxicating substances.

If you're convicted, the criminal penalties are:

- For a first conviction: Up to six months in jail; up to a $1,000 fine; and mandatory driver's license suspension of at least 90 days and up to 180 days (one year if you are under 21), with absolutely no driving privileges for the first 30 days.
- For a second conviction within 10 years: Mandatory jail sentence from 10 days to one year (30 days if you are under 21); up to a $2,000 fine; and a mandatory driver's license suspension of one year (two years if you are under 21).
- For three or more convictions within 10 years: Mandatory jail sentence of from 30 days to five years; up to a $5,000 fine; and mandatory driver's license suspension from one to five years. This conviction is a felony.

There are enhanced penalties for CDL drivers who drive under the influence, up to the lifetime loss of CDL privileges.

Ignition Interlock Device

If you have been convicted of driving under the influence the court may order that an ignition interlock device be installed in any vehicle that you drive. This device requires the driver to provide a breath sample in order to

start the vehicle. If the sample indicates an alcohol content at or above a preset level, the vehicle will not start.

The ignition interlock device is an option used by the court for first-time offenders. For those convicted of two or more DUIs within ten years it becomes mandatory. The ignition interlock device must be installed at the end of any mandatory suspension period and through the probation period. The cost of installation and monthly fees are paid by the driver.

Alcohol Tests Refusal

If you are arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicating substances, you will be asked to take an evidentiary (breath, blood, or urine) test. If you refuse to take the test as requested, your license will be seized by the arresting officer.

The officer may issue you a temporary driving permit good for 30 days or until a hearing in court is held on the seizure of your license. If the court upholds the officer's findings, your license will be suspended for one year with absolutely no driving privileges of any kind for refusing to take the alcohol concentration test if it is your first offense.

A second refusal within 10 years will result in a two-year suspension. This penalty is in addition to any penalty you receive in court for the DUI conviction.

Administrative License Suspensions

If you are arrested for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances and you fail an evidentiary test by having an alcohol concentration over the legal limit, a peace officer will serve you with a Notice of Suspension. This notice is an Idaho Transportation Department imposed administrative driver's license suspension (ALS), that is issued in accordance with Section 18-8002A, Idaho Code. You have the right to request an administrative hearing on the suspension before a hearing officer designated by the department.

The Administrative License Suspension penalty is a civil penalty and is separate and apart from any criminal penalties imposed by the court system. If you receive an Administrative License Suspension, you must comply with the ALS requirements, and also appear in court on your appointed date regarding the criminal DUI charges brought against you.

Your notice of suspension becomes effective thirty (30) days after the date of service (the date you received the notice). For a first failure, your driving privileges will be suspended for a period of ninety (90) days. You will have absolutely no driving privileges during the first thirty (30) days of that

ninety (90) day suspension. Your driving privileges will be suspended for one year with absolutely no driving privileges of any kind for a second failure of the test within five (5) years.

Drugs and Driving

If you have to drive, you should avoid taking any drug that might hamper your ability to operate your vehicle.

- Prescription drugs: When your doctor writes out a prescription, ask the doctor if it will make you drowsy or otherwise affect your driving. If so, let someone else drive while you are taking the drug.

- Over-the-counter drugs: Over-the-counter drugs include such things as pain relievers, lozenges, and cough and cold remedies. By law, these drugs must provide directions for use. Read the label. If driving is discouraged, don't get behind the wheel.

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs come in three varieties: stimulants that speed you up, depressants that slow you down, and hallucinogens that affect the way you see things. All three can be dangerous when mixed with driving. Here's a brief look at some common drugs and their effects:

- Amphetamines are stimulants. Fatigued people, including drivers, sometimes use them to stay awake. The danger is that amphetamines often give a false sense of alertness and increased self-confidence, which may increase a person's willingness to take risks.
- Cocaine is a stimulant. In moderate doses it may result in extreme stimulation and hallucination.
- Tranquilizers are depressants. They slow down the nervous system and cause drowsiness. Besides decreasing alertness, they can affect sight, coordination, and driver reaction.
- Barbiturates slow down the nervous system. They can make thinking difficult, affect emotions, and cause drowsiness. Alertness, attention, judgment, and reaction time may be affected for several hours after taking barbiturates.
- Marijuana is a mild hallucinogen that delays a driver's response to sights and sounds so it takes longer to react to a dangerous situation. Marijuana causes a severe loss of night vision that is compounded by vehicles with tinted windshields. Together, the two can cause a combined loss of up to 70% of night vision.

The ability to perform a series of tasks can also be affected by smoking marijuana. As a result, a marijuana smoker's biggest driving problems occur when faced with unexpected events, such as a car approaching from a

side street or a child running out from between parked cars. The greater the demands of a driving situation, the less able the marijuana smoker will be able to cope.

Driving without Privileges

Driving without privileges is a misdemeanor. If you are convicted of driving without privileges because your license is suspended, revoked, or disqualified in any jurisdiction, you may be subject to the following penalties:

- Mandatory minimum jail sentence for a period of not less than two (2) days and not more than six (6) months.
- Fine not to exceed $500.
- Six-month court-ordered driving privilege suspension (following the end of any current suspension).

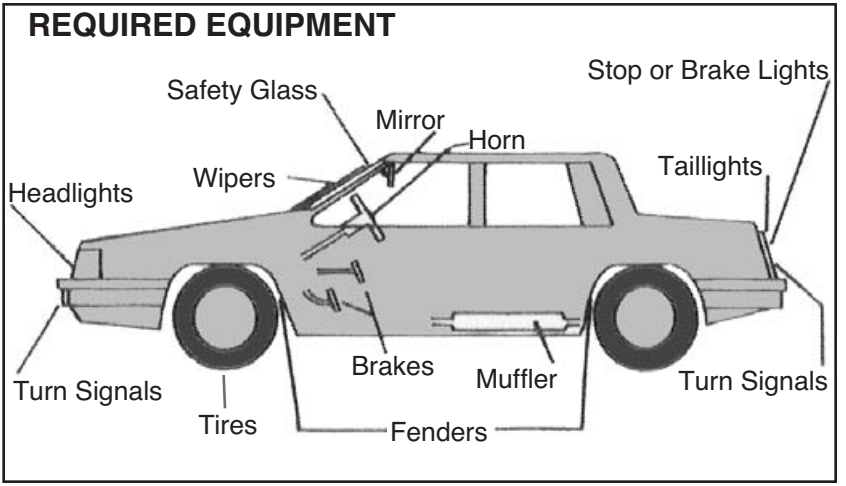
CHAPTER 9
VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

Under Idaho law,you may not drive any vehicle that is mechanically unsafe. If your vehicle needs repairs, lacks vital equipment, or presents some other danger, you are responsible for correcting the problem.

Idaho does not require an annual safety inspection, but if you are stopped by a police officer who finds your vehicle is unsafe or lacks proper equipment, the officer may issue you a citation.

Required Equipment

- **Brakes:** All vehicles must have two brake systems designed so that if one fails the other still works. Foot brakes must stop a vehicle that is traveling 20 mph on dry pavement within a distance of 25 feet. The emergency or parking brake must stop the vehicle within 55 feet under similar conditions, and must hold the car stationary on a hill when parked.
- **Headlights:** Two headlamps (with high and low beams) are required and must be aimed to light the road without blinding oncoming drivers. High beams must allow the driver to see people and vehicles at least 350 feet away. Low beams must light the roadway at least 100 feet ahead. Headlights must not be covered with any reflective, opaque, or non-transparent material.
- **Stop or Brake Lights:** All motor vehicles must have functioning red or amber brake lights visible for at least 100 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. Brake lights must be designed to come on when you apply the foot brake. Keep the brake light lenses clean of dirt and snow.



- **Taillights:** Vehicles built before January 1, 1956, and motorcycles must have at least one red light mounted on the rear. All other motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers must have at least two red lights mounted on the left and right rear. These taillights must be visible at least 500 feet to the rear.
- **Turn Signals:** All motor vehicles built after January 1, 1955, must have flashing electric left-turn and right-turn signals on the front and rear with a switch that can be controlled by the driver. The front signals must be white or amber and the rear signals must be red or amber.
- **Tires:** Each tire should have at least 1/32" of tread groove.
- **Horns:** All motor vehicles must have a horn that can be heard at least 200 feet away. Horns with unreasonably loud or harsh sounds are prohibited.
- **Windows and Windshields Must:**
  - be made of approved safety glass;
  - be replaced when damage to the glass hampers the driver's view;
  - be kept free of signs or stickers not required by law;
  - not be blocked by any object placed or hung in the vehicle;
  - be kept free of frost, snow, dirt, or anything else that obscures the driver's visibility; and
  - not be treated with a mirror surface or other substance that makes them difficult to see through, even from the outside.
- **Windshield Wipers:** All motor vehicles must be equipped with wipers to keep the windshield clear of rain, snow, or other moisture.
- **Mirrors:** All motor vehicles must have a rear view mirror that provides a view of the highway for at least 200 feet to the rear. If a load or trailer obscures the driver's normal view through the rear

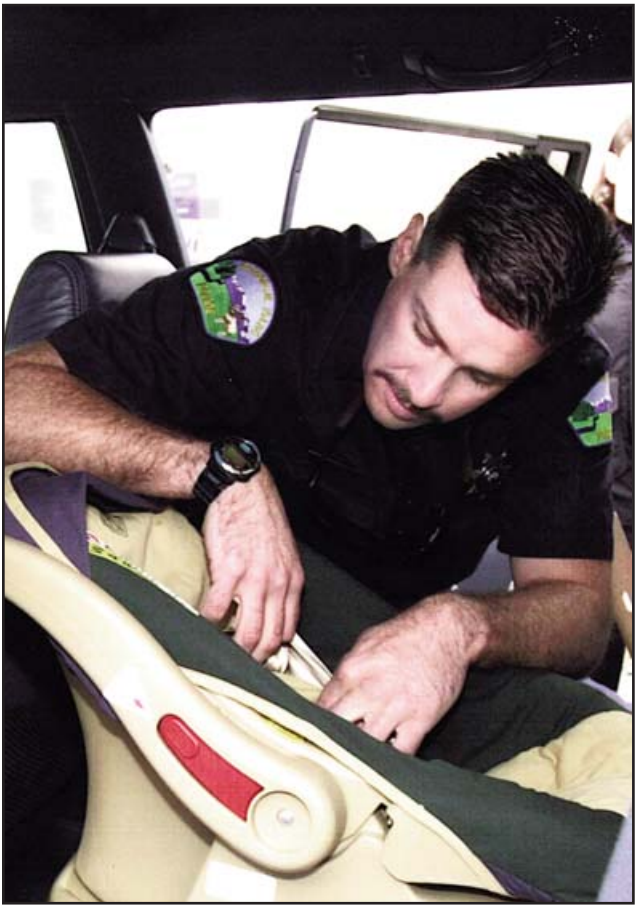
window, the vehicle must have two additional rear view mirrors, one on each side of the vehicle.

- **Mufflers:** All motor vehicles must have a muffler that is in good working order that prevents loud or unusual noise.
- **Fenders and Flaps:** All motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers must have fenders, wheel covers or flaps to prevent mud, water, or other material from being thrown from the wheels up onto other vehicles.

Child Restraints are Required

Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for American children over one year of age. Some 1,500 children die in auto accidents each year. Another 100,000 are injured.

Most of these deaths and injuries can be avoided if parents take the time to buckle their children into an approved child restraint system.



Approved Child-Restraint System.

Idaho law requires anyone carrying children six years of age or younger in a non-commercial motor vehicle to properly protect children in approved child car safety seats. The law applies to cars manufactured with car safety belts after January 1, 1966.

Proper protection means:

- Using approved safety seats (seats that meet federal safety standards).
- Child must be snugly fitted into safety seats with the straps that are attached to the seat.
- Safety seat must be fastened to the automobile with the car safety belt.
- Using safety seats on every trip.

Seat Belts and Shoulder Straps

Idaho law requires all occupants to wear safety belts and/or shoulder straps when riding in a motor vehicle equipped with these devices by the factory. Studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that when worn, safety belts:

- reduce your chances of serious injury in an auto accident by 50%.
- are 60-70% effective in preventing fatalities in auto accidents.

Safety belts also help drivers maintain control of their car on winding or rough roads or when trying to avoid a collision.

WARNING!

WHEN IT IS HOT OUTSIDE, DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN IN A VEHICLE UNATTENDED.

On hot summer days, the inside of a car can become dangerously hot in a short period of time. One study found that with the windows up and the temperature outside at 94 degrees, the inside of a car can heat to 120 degrees in just 30 minutes, and up to 132 degrees after one hour.

Studded Snow Tires

Studded snow tires may be used only from October 1 to April 30. Some years, the Idaho Transportation Department adjusts the dates due to weather conditions.

Equipment Not Allowed

- Red or blue emergency lights. These are authorized for emergency vehicles only.
- Sirens, bells, and whistles.
- Any muffler cut-out or bypass that makes the exhaust system amplify or increase noise.
- More than two spotlights.
- More than two auxiliary lights in front.
- More than two fog lights in front.
- More than two cowl or fender lights.

Antique Vehicles and Street Rods

Equipment requirements for antique vehicles and street rods may vary from the requirements for regular passenger vehicles. Please contact the Idaho Transportation Department's Vehicle Services Section in Boise for additional information.

Study Questions

1. Which of the following are required equipment on motor vehicles in Idaho: brakes, stop or brake lights, headlights, taillights, horns, mufflers, turn signals, rear view mirrors?

2. When do you need outside rear view mirrors on your car or truck?

3. What color must front turn signals be? Rear turn signals?

4. True or false: When traveling in a vehicle equipped with safety belts, drivers are required by Idaho law to protect children who are six years of age or under by placing them in approved child safety seats.

CHAPTER 10
VEHICLE TITLE AND REGISTRATION

A title is the legal ownership document for a vehicle. It displays the name and address of the owner and any lien holder (i.e. a bank or credit union) that financed the vehicle, and to whom money is currently owed.

The registration is a document showing that the proper fees have been paid. It authorizes the vehicle to be operated on Idaho roads or authorizes vessels to be operated on Idaho waters. Before registering your vehicle, you will need to have it titled in your name in Idaho, or you must submit the documents necessary to apply for an Idaho title in your name.

Who must title and register their vehicles in Idaho?

Idaho residents must title and register their vehicles before operating them on Idaho roads. You are considered to be an Idaho resident, for titling and registration purposes, if you have obtained a driver's license in Idaho. You are an Idaho resident if your domicile (home) has been in Idaho continuously for at least 90 consecutive days, and you are not a full-time student who is a resident of another state. (A domicile does not include a person's workplace, vacation or part-time residence.) You may also declare residency even if you have moved to Idaho less than 90 days ago, or if you are a full-time student who is a resident of another state.

Within what timeframe must a vehicle be titled?

Idaho residents must title a vehicle that is purchased in Idaho within 30 days of the purchase. Applying for a title after that period will result in a $20 late-filing penalty.

Idaho residents must title a vehicle that is purchased outside of Idaho within 30 days of entering Idaho to avoid the $20.00 late-filing penalty.

Vehicle owners moving to Idaho who have had their vehicles titled in their names in another jurisdiction must apply for Idaho titles upon becoming Idaho residents.

What is titled and registered? What is not?

Generally, any vehicle that is operated on Idaho roadways **must be titled and registered**. This includes:

- Passenger cars
- Trucks (utility, commercial, motor homes, etc.)
- Motorcycles
- Recreational trailers and pickup-mounted slide-in campers
- Utility and boat trailers weighing 2,000 lbs or more (unladen weight)
- Construction or wrecking cranes (registered as a commercial vehicles)
- Drilling rigs (registered as commercial vehicles)
- All-terrain and off-road vehicles (registered through the Idaho Division of Parks and Recreation) also registered for highway use if operated on highways.
- Snowmobiles (registered through the Idaho Division of Parks and Recreation).
- Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV)

Some items **cannot be titled or registered**. These include:

- Construction equipment other than cranes
- Wheel-mounted equipment (air compressors, wood chippers, tar buckets, tow dollies, portable toilet trailers, combines, discs, hay balers, etc.)
- Bicycles
- Golf carts
- Self-propelled wheelchairs, invalids' tricycles, wheelchair conveyance units

Some items **may or may not be titled and/or registered**, depending on circumstances. For these, you will need to contact your county auto licensing office for clarification:

- Mobile homes and manufactured homes
- Office trailers
- Concession stands
- Street sweepers
- ATVs and off-road vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes
- Boats
- Mopeds

Utility trailers under 2,000 lbs **are required to be registered, but are not titled**.

How Much Liability Insurance Must I Have?

All motorized vehicles operated on Idaho roadways, whether registered or not, must carry liability insurance providing the following minimum coverage:

- $25,000 for injury or death of one person;
- $50,000 for injury or death of two or more people; and
- $15,000 for property damage.

When you register your vehicle, you must sign a statement certifying that the vehicle is and will be insured as required by Sections 49-117(18), and 49-1229, Idaho Code.

How Do I Get My Vehicle Titled and Registered?

If you purchased your vehicle from an Idaho dealer, that dealer is required to prepare and submit the documents necessary to obtain a title in your name. Take your copy of the dealer's title application paperwork to your local county assessor's office to register your vehicle.

If the vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was financed by an Idaho financial institution, that institution will usually prepare and submit the documents necessary to secure a title in your name, showing the financial institution's lien.

If the vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was financed by a financial institution from another state, that financial institution will usually forward the titling documents to the county assessor auto licensing office in your county of residence. You will then need to go to this office to sign a title application and apply for vehicle registration.

If the vehicle was purchased from a private party or an out-of-state dealer, and was not financed by a financial institution, you will normally need to take the previous owner's titling documents to a county assessor vehicle licensing office to have a title application completed and filed. Find the vehicle licensing office in your area by consulting your telephone directory. Look under the listings for your county assessor or under "county government" or visit the itd web site at:

itd.idaho.gov

What documents must be surrendered to obtain an Idaho title?

If you are filing for a title in your name at the county assessor's office, you will need to provide the following documents:

1. **A title or manufacturer's certificate of origin for the vehicle.** This is your legal ownership document. If you purchased a new vehicle from an out-of-state dealer, you should have a manufacturer's certificate of origin (MCO) for the vehicle. If you purchased a used vehicle, you should have the title that was issued in the seller's name. Either document should be properly assigned to you by the previous owner shown on that document. If the previous owner had a lien recorded on the title, the lien must be released either on the title or on a separate form.

   Note: If the previous owner was an Idaho resident, he must have a title *issued* in his name before you can obtain an Idaho title. If he appears as the purchaser on a title, MCO, or any other title document, you may not apply for a title until he has first titled the vehicle in his name.

2. **A Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) affidavit of inspection.** If the vehicle is new or was titled by another state or jurisdiction, a VIN inspection must be provided. This is to ensure that your new title is issued with the correct description, and most importantly, the true VIN. This inspection may be completed by an officer of the law or a county deputy assessor. For boats, a hull identification number (HIN) affidavit of inspection would be required under the same circumstances.

3. **An odometer disclosure statement** (does not apply to boats)**.** The seller must provide you with this if the vehicle is motorized, less than 10 years old, and under 16,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight. An odometer disclosure statement is a declaration of the odometer reading, along with a designation as to whether the reading reflects actual mileage, not actual mileage, or if the odometer has exceeded its mechanical limits. The disclosure must be made on the title as part of the seller's release.

4. **A Bill of Sale.** The seller must provide you with a bill of sale for the vehicle, in which he declares the amount of money for which the vehicle was sold to you. Sometimes the title has an area for this information (i.e. most blue Idaho titles). Otherwise a separate bill of sale form must be submitted, which is signed by the seller, shows you as the buyer, and lists the vehicle year, make, identification number, selling price, date, and seller's address.

5. **Documents authorizing a signature.** Whenever someone has signed for someone else, the documents which authorize that person to do so must be submitted. For example, if the seller appointed someone else to sell the vehicle for him by power of attorney, and that person signed the title on behalf of the seller, the power of attorney must be submitted. Either the original or a copy verified to be a true copy of the original must accompany the title.

6. **An application for title.** This document is available at any county assessor auto licensing office. It will be prepared for you by a deputy assessor at the time you submit your other titling documents.

7. **Sales tax, title fee, and other fees.** Six percent sales tax is due on the purchase price of the vehicle, unless you qualify for a special exemption. An $8.00 title fee must also be paid at the time the title application is prepared. If the county completed a VIN inspection for you, a $3.00 fee will be due. Additionally, if you were an Idaho resident when you purchased the vehicle, and it has been more than 30 days since you made the purchase, a $20.00 late filing penalty is also due.

What is the difference between leasing a vehicle and purchasing a vehicle?

If you purchase a vehicle, and title it in your name, you become the owner of the vehicle. If you finance the purchase, you remain the owner, and the lienholder becomes the legal owner. If you lease a vehicle, you should be shown on the title as the lessee, but you are not recognized as being the owner. The lessor is the owner.

At the end of a lease, you may have the option of purchasing the vehicle. If you exercise the option, and retitle the vehicle in your name, removing the name of the lessor, you will become the owner of the vehicle.

What are the titling requirements for leased vehicles?

Titling requirements for leased vehicles are the same as for other vehicles. If you are leasing a vehicle from an Idaho leasing company, that company should address these requirements.

If you have been leasing a vehicle in another state, and have moved to Idaho, you will need to make arrangements with the lessor to send the title to the county assessor auto licensing office you wish to visit. The lessor must have an Idaho seller's permit number so that he can collect the Idaho sales or use tax due on your lease payments.

What Should I Do When I Sell a Vehicle?

1. **Give the Buyer the vehicle's title, issued in your name.** Unless you have a dealer's license issued by the Idaho Transportation Department, you must title the vehicle in your name before selling it. Enter your signature on the "seller's signature" line, and enter the date of the sale in the "date sold" field.

   If the vehicle is less than ten years old, the odometer reading should also be filled in (does not pertain to boats). Enter the number shown on the odometer device. Check the "in excess of mechanical limits" box if the odometer device has "turned over" or "flipped" and some multiple of 100,000 should be added to the number shown on your device to arrive at the correct mileage. Check the "not actual" box if the mileage shown on the odometer device does not reflect the actual number of miles the vehicle has been operated (i.e., the device is no longer working), or it was not working during an earlier period of time.

   If there is a place to enter the "selling price" on the front of the title, do so. If not, create a bill of sale (see below).

2. **Give the Buyer a Bill of sale.** If you create a bill of sale, be sure to enter a statement of sale ("I hereby sell. . ."), a full description of the vehicle (year, make, model number, and vehicle identification number), the buyer's name, the selling price, your signature, and the date.

   You may wish to keep a copy of the bill of sale (signed by the buyer) for your own records. List the time and date of delivery as proof of when you gave up possession and control of the vehicle.

3. **File a Release of Liability Statement.** Section 49-526, Idaho Code, requires motor vehicle owners to file a release-of-liability statement with a $2.00 filing fee upon sale or transfer of a vehicle within five days of delivery. This must be done whether you are selling to another individual or trading the vehicle in to a vehicle dealership.

   Filing a release-of-liability statement relieves you from liability for injury or damage to person or property that may occur from the negligent operation of the vehicle after it has been delivered. It will also relieve you from responsibility for motor-vehicle infractions that occur after the vehicle has been delivered, including parking tickets and abandoned vehicle infractions.

If a vehicle has been abandoned, and has not been claimed from the tow company yard within seven days of the tow, the owner of record is presumed to be guilty of an infraction if he has not properly filed a release of liability. The owner of record may receive a citation, which would require payment of $193.00 in fines and court costs. If the fee isn't paid, the owner's driver's license is suspended. If the owner of record has properly filed a release of liability, the buyer or transferee on the release of liability is presumed to be guilty of the infraction.

Release-of-liability forms are available as a tear-strip on the bottom of most titles and on the back of vehicle registrations. It is also available from the ITD web page at www.state.id.us/itd/dmv/index.htm, as well as at all county assessor motor vehicle offices. The form and fee can be mailed to the address indicated, or filed with any county assessor motor vehicle office.

4. **Remove your License Plates from the Vehicle.** The license plates are your property, they do not go with the vehicle. You may transfer the plates to another vehicle that you buy or already own.

Refueling Assistance

Any retail outlet offering only self-dispensed motor fuel will provide refueling assistance to disabled people upon request, if each of the following three conditions are met:

- The vehicle displays handicapped or disabled veteran license plates or a handicapped placard, and
- There is no able-bodied person in the vehicle, and
- There is more than one attendant on duty at the retail outlet.

This sign, visible to any driver seeking refueling services, is posted at refueling stations:

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