— 2007 —

TENNESSEE
Driver Study Guide

www.tennessee/gov/safety/

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
1150 Foster Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37249-1000
615-741-3954

Preface

INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY GUIDE IS INFORMATION NEEDED TO PASS THE KNOWLEDGE TESTS FOR A CLASS D TENNESSEE DRIVER LICENSE. BELOW IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THESE TESTING PROCEDURES AND OTHER INFORMATION HELPFUL TO SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THESE TESTS.

THE EXAMINATIONS *(TESTS)*

General Information:

- Your driver license examination will consist of a vision test, a knowledge test, and a road test.
- Driver license tests are given at all driver license stations except for the express service stations. The knowledge tests are administered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Due to the length of time to administer, road tests are taken by **appointment**.
- Road tests are not given in extreme weather (heavy rain/snow, dense fog, hail, high winds, icy roads, etc.)
- During winter months road tests are not given in the dark.
- No test may be repeated on the same day.
- Mandatory 7-day waiting period is required after failing the knowledge test.
- Mandatory waiting periods are required when an applicant fails the road test for the original issuance of a Class D license.
- When you return to take a test over, you must bring back all of the original documents you are required to provide.
- You will be required to pay the $2 application fee each time you take a test and fail. This fee applies to PD, D and H tests.

Determining Which Tests Are Required:

Original License	**Class D or Class H** Full Tests: Vision, knowledge, road **Class PD** Vision and knowledge tests **Exchanging PD to D** Vision and road
Duplicate, Renewal	No Test
Adding For Hire Endorsement	Vision, knowledge
New residents, with out-of-state license	Vision only, if out-of-state license is valid and has not expired; otherwise, full tests.
New residents, from other countries (or no prior license)	Vision, knowledge and road test

Note: See Motorcycle Manual for Class M tests, and CDL Manual for Classes A, B, and C

VISION SCREENING TEST

To determine if a driver can see well enough to drive, a screening test is required before any license or permit is issued. An applicant is required to have at least 20/40 vision in each eye individually and both eyes together. This may be with or without your glasses or contact lenses. If you cannot see this well, you must have an eye specialist of your choice fill out an eye statement for the Department to evaluate.

KNOWLEDGE TEST

You will be given an exam covering knowledge needed to drive safely. The test will consist of multiple choice questions based on information contained in the Tennessee Driver License Study Guide. Roughly speaking, you can expect the test to cover the following areas:

Traffic signs and signals—25 percent
Safe driving principles—25 percent
Rules of the road—25 percent
Drugs and alcohol—25 percent

The knowledge tests are administered in either a written or computerized format depending on the station visited. As a rule, stations that are equipped with the computerized testing machines routinely require that the test be taken in that format on the first attempt.

Stations that have the computerized testing are also currently able to offer the test in 3 alternate language formats of Spanish, Korean or Japanese. Applicants for whom English is not their first language may also use a translation dictionary as long as there are no notes or other handwriting visible within the pages of the book. Electronic Dictionaries or Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) such as Palm Pilots are NOT allowed during testing. Interpreters are NOT allowed to assist with any of the driver license testing.

Oral tests are available by appointment at selected stations for applicants who have a learning disability or cannot read. If the applicant requesting an oral test is under age eighteen (18), a written statement from a physician or educational specialist stating that the applicant has a medical condition or learning disability will be required before the test can be administered in the oral format. In the event the applicant requesting an oral test is deaf, the Department of Safety will furnish a certified sign language interpreter to assist with the administration of the exam.

Any form of cheating by an applicant on a required examination will result in an automatic failure and the applicant will not be allowed to re-attempt the test for thirty (30) days. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Use of any form of written notes (including notes on paper, clothing, body, digital pagers, etc.)

- Talking during the examination (includes cell phone use)
- Attempting to allow another person to take the examination
- All cell phones, pagers or text messaging devices must be turned off during both written and road test administration

When You Don't Pass the Knowledge Test

In order to encourage the applicant to thoroughly study the ***Driver License Study Guide*** and cut down on repeat visits by applicants who are not yet prepared for the examination, a mandatory 7-day waiting period is required after failing any driver license knowledge test.

All applicants will be required to wait a minimum of seven days before returning to any Driver License Station to attempt the knowledge examination again. The date and information on failures is keyed into the Driver License computer system to ensure that all locations are aware of prior test dates and scores.

The **7-day** waiting period outlined above will also be applied to wait times between additional re-testing if the applicant does not pass the examination on the second or subsequent attempts.

ROAD TEST

Appointment Required for Road Test

It is mandatory for all applicants needing a road test to make a pre-scheduled appointment at the Driver License Station of their choice. These appointments may be via telephone or made using the Driver License Appointments system found on our Internet website at: www.tennessee.gov/safety/.

All testing locations will allow 30 minutes for each road test appointment. The appointments will be available beginning 30 minutes after the station's official opening time with the last appointment slot ending 30 minutes prior to the station's official closing time. **NOTE: because road tests are not given in darkness these times will be adjusted during winter hours to compensate for the shortened daylight hours.)**

Most offices will have appointments available through standard lunch hours. However some of the smaller locations with 3 or less staff on duty will not be able to provide appointments for up to 2 hours during mid-day to provide for staff lunch breaks as required by federal labor laws.

All applicants will need to be aware of the following guidelines for road test appointments:

- You must have successfully passed the required knowledge test(s) prior to your road test appointment. If you arrive for your road test appointment and have not passed the knowledge test your appointment will be cancelled.
  - Because of the mandatory 7-day waiting period for retaking failed knowledge tests it is advisable to make sure you successfully pass this well in advance of your appointment date.
- You will be able to make your appointment up to 90 days in advance of your desired test date. When scheduling keep the following mandatory requirements in mind:
  - You must be at least age 16 prior to or on the date of your scheduled appointment.
  - If under 18 years of age you must have held a valid learner permit for at least 180 days by the date of your scheduled appointment AND you must provide the 50 Hour Driving Certificate at the time of your appointment.
  - If you are 18 or younger and exchanging a learner permit from another state, there are additional Motor Vehicle Records requirements and proof of school attendance/progress that you will have to bring to your appointment.
- If you do not already have a valid Tennessee learner permit you will be required to bring proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent residency with you to your appointment. (When getting a CFD (Certificate for Driving) you will need current proof of temporary resident status or Temporary Legal Presence (TLP).)
- You should plan to arrive at the Driver License Station at least ten (10) minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time to allow for paperwork processing and review of your required documentation mentioned above.
- You must speak and understand enough of the English language to communicate with the Examiner during the road test.
- You must provide your own vehicle for use during the road test with all the operational equipment and safety features as outlined in the next section on vehicle inspection.
- If you are five (5) minutes or more late for your appointment time your test will be cancelled and you will need to reschedule for a later date.
- The Department of Safety reserves the right to cancel road test appointments for emergency situations or dangerous weather conditions. Road tests will be given in light to moderate rain, fog or snow. However, they will NOT be given in heavy rain, thunderstorms, thick fog cover, when roads are covered/packed with snow and ice, during severe weather warnings (i.e. tornado) or other similarly dangerous driving situations.

Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection

The motor vehicle you bring for the road test must meet all Tennessee motor vehicle registration (valid tags) and safety law requirements and have equipment in proper working order. In addition, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their ability to use each of the following eight items.

Seat Belts. Any passenger motor vehicle manufactured or assembled in 1969 or later must be equipped with safety belts and must be in good usable condition for both the applicant and the examiner.

Brakes. (Emergency and regular) By law all automobiles must have two separate methods of applying brakes. They must have a regular foot brake and a parking brake.

Headlights. (High and low beam) Motor vehicles must be equipped with at least two headlights but no more than four white headlights.

Tail and Brake Lights. Passenger vehicles must be equipped with a rear license light, two red tail lights, and two red brake lights.

Windshield Wipers. Every vehicle equipped with a windshield should have two (2) windshield wipers for cleaning rain or any other moisture in order to permit clear vision for the driver, unless one (1) wiper cleans to within one (1) inch of the inside of the windshield.

Windshield Defroster and Fan Control. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate how to 'defog' the windshield.

Rearview Mirrors. At least one rearview mirror not interfering with the driver's view of the rear. For applicants with certain vision or hearing impairments, two outside rear view mirrors are also required.
Horns. A horn is required on all motor vehicles.

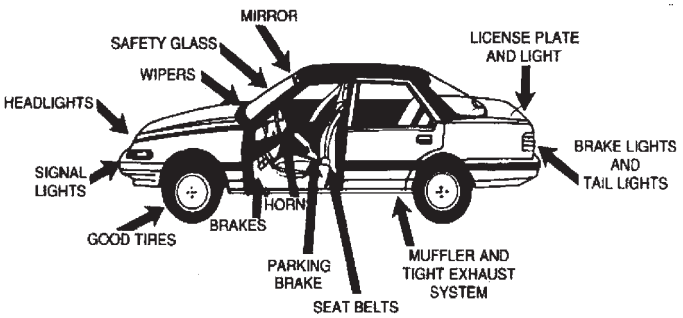
Also required:

Windows and windshields. Clear vision for the driver is required to the front, rear and both sides. It is unlawful to drive a motor vehicle with a windshield that is so cracked, or covered with steam or frost that clear vision is prevented.

No tinting material may be affixed to the windshield of any motor vehicle. Standards for the other windows depend on the vehicle as follows: **Passenger Car**. No material which transmits less than 35 percent of visible light may be attached to any window. **Multi-Purpose Vehicles**: All windows behind the front seat are exempt. Windows immediately to the left and right of the driver must comply the same as for passenger vehicles.

Mufflers. Every vehicle must be equipped with a muffler to prevent excessive or unusual noises and polluting smoke.

Doors. Both the driver door and the passenger door must open from the inside and the outside.



Bumpers. Passenger cars must have bumpers within a range of 14 to 22 inches from the ground; 4x4 recreational vehicles must have bumpers with a range of 14 to 31 inches.

Speedometer. Every vehicle must have a working speedometer in order to gauge vehicle speed.

The Driving Test

The examiner will give you directions and evaluate whether or not you can drive safely. You will not be asked to do anything illegal. The only people allowed in the vehicle are you and the examiner (or other authorized personnel). No animal may be in the vehicle.

During the test, the examiner will be observing the following:

1. **How you prepare to drive.** Have you checked your mirrors, fastened your seat belt, turned on any necessary lights or wipers?
2. **How you start your vehicle.** Do you look for other cars? Do you signal and wait until it is safe before entering traffic?
3. **How you control your vehicle.** Do you accelerate smoothly? Do you use your gas pedal, brake, steering wheel, and other controls correctly? Handle curves properly?
4. **How you handle intersections and make left and right turns.** Are you in the proper lane? Do you look both left and right for approaching vehicles? Do you make sure your path is clear before proceeding? Do you simply rely on the traffic signals? Do you signal and change lanes carefully?
5. **How you obey the traffic signals and posted signs.**
6. **How you drive in traffic.** Do you pay full attention to driving? Do you scan carefully for signs, signals, pedestrians and other vehicles? Do you yield and take the right-of-way correctly?
7. **How you stop.** Do you stop smoothly and at the right spot? Can you stop quickly and safely in an emergency?
8. **How you back up.** Do you look over your shoulder? Can you back in a straight line? Can you turn safely while backing? Can you back into/out of a parking space?
9. **How you judge distance.** Do you maintain a safe distance from other cars?
10. **How you communicate to other drivers.** Do you make sudden changes, or signal too late or too early? Do you slow down as early as it is safe to do so, or do you catch other drivers by surprise?
11. **How you share the road with others.** Are you courteous and watchful?
12. **How you change your speed to suit the situation.** Do you take into account the speed limit, other cars, light, weather and road conditions?

Causes for Immediate Failure
The applicant will be failed immediately for any of the following:

- Violation of any traffic law
- Lack of cooperation or refusal to follow directions
- Any dangerous action
- Contributing to an accident

When You Don't Pass the Road Test

Upon completion of the driving test, the examiner will advise you of your errors, how to correct them, and what maneuvers you should practice to improve your driving skill.

You should review the related material and/or practice the driving skills before returning.

Applicants who do not successfully pass the skills test on the first attempt or subsequent attempts are not permitted to take the examination again on the same day. Applicants may be allowed to re-test after mandatory practice times as determined by their total score (number of errors) under the guidelines in Table 4.2. These guidelines are designed to encourage the applicant to thoroughly practice their driving skills and cut down on repeat visits by applicants who are not yet prepared for the examination.

Guidelines for Retesting

Number of errors committed during the skills test:	Allow retest after the following mandatory practice time period:
1 to 6 errors / points	PASS no re-test needed
7 to 9 errors / points	Next (1) Day
10 to 12 errors / points	Seven (7) Days
13 to 15 errors / points	Fourteen (14) Days
16 or more errors / points -OR- Automatic Failure	Thirty (30) Days

NOTE: *The guidelines established above will also be applied to wait times between additional re-testing opportunities if applicant does not pass the examination on the second or subsequent attempts.*

When You Pass

In most cases, after you have successfully completed the required tests, your photo will be taken and you will receive your photo driver license at this time.

INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee Driver License Study Guide is designed for all new drivers. Reading and studying this book will help prepare for the driver license and learner permit tests. The Study Guide explains Tennessee's licensing requirements, driving responsibilities and basic "rules of the road." All drivers need to know the information in this Study Guide to pass the driver license test and become safe, courteous drivers. Alone, the guide will not teach you how to drive. Mastering driving skills is done with a good instructor and plenty of practice.

In order to help users study, there are a few sample questions at the end of each chapter. These are actual questions from the driver license test. There are many possible questions that can be included on the driver license test. These questions are included to help you review the material and get a sense of what the test may cover. Study the chapters and test your understanding of the information by using these questions and test questions available on the internet: (www.tennessee.gov/safety/).

The Tennessee Driver License Study Guide should be used along with the Driver License Program Handbook. The Driver License Program Handbook is available at all Driver License Stations. This handbook will help new and old drivers alike get ready for initial, renewal and other license applications by explaining:

- the different types of licenses available
- the documentation and other requirements for license applications
- details on Intermediate Driver Licenses and how this graduated driver license works for driver license applicants under age 18
- basic descriptions of the tests required for a Driver License

Website Resources: Additional study questions and practice tests are available online at: www.tennessee.gov/safety/. There are four different 15-question practice tests that focus on specific areas of study. Below is a guide to these practice test topics and the related chapters in this handbook where you will find the information/answers.

Practice Test #1 = Alcohol (Chapter 6)
Practice Test #2 = Guidelines for Driving (Chapters 1, 2)
Practice Test #3 = Rules of the Road (Chapters 4, 5, 7)
Practice Test #4 = Signs (Chapter 3)

Also available on the Department of Safety website is the Driver License Program Handbook.

Information about getting a Tennessee Driver License is available by calling the "Driver Information Line" at 615-741-3954 or toll free at 1-866-849-3548 . There is a listing of all Driver License stations following the Introduction in this Guide.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
1150 FOSTER AVENUE, NASHVILLE 37249-1000
www.tennessee.gov/safety/

TENNESSEE DRIVER INFORMATION LINE (615) 741-3954
Or Toll Free –1-866-849-3548.

TDD — Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (615) 532-2281

This Study Guide does not cover all Tennessee traffic laws and may not include the most recent changes in state driver licensing law. It is not a proper legal authority and should not be relied upon in a court of law. Every effort has been made to have all information included in this guide up-to-date and current as of the date shown in the promulgation statement. Misprints or out-dated procedures that may appear within these pages will not over-ride newer law, rules, regulations or policy that may have been implemented since the printing date.

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TENNESSEE DRIVER LICENSE STATIONS

WHERE TO RECEIVE/RENEW YOUR LICENSE:

Urban and most county offices are open Monday through Friday. Some smaller offices are open Tuesday through Friday or Monday through Thursday.

To check service days and hours, go to our website: www.tennessee.gov/safety or call 1-866-849-3548 [TDD-Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (615) 532-2281].

If your county is not listed, your County Court Clerk Office may provide driver license renewal services. See website or call toll free number above.

County	Street Address	City	Phone Number
Anderson	704 N Charles Seviers Blvd	Clinton	(865) 457-3958
Bedford	1304 Railroad Av	Shelbyville	(930) 680-2540
Blount	318 Home Av	Maryville	(865) 981-2359
Bradley	301 James Asbury Dr NW	Cleveland	(423) 478-0346
Campbell	111 Ellison Rd	LaFollette	(423) 566-9638
Carter	206 Cherokee Dr	Elizabethton	(423) 547-5886
Coffee	945 Jack Welch Av	Manchester	(931) 723-5066
Cumberland	31 Daniel Dr - Suite 101	Crossville	(931) 484-1360
Davidson	624 Hart Lane	Nashville	(615) 532-9780
Davidson	6604 Centennial Blvd	Nashville	(615) 741-4560
Davidson	1601 Murfreesboro Rd	Nashville	(615) 741-2541
Davidson	312 - 8th Av (Snodgrass Bldg.)	Nashville	(615) 253-2062
Dickson	207 Bruce Dr	Dickson	(615) 441-6218
Dyer	361 James H. Rice Rd	Dyersburg	(731) 286-8325
Fayette	7027 Highway 64-W	Oakland	(901) 465-6576
Fentress	641 South Main St	Jamestown	(931) 879-6733
Gibson	1211 Highway 45 Bypass West	Trenton	(731) 855-7826
Greene	1209 Hal Hernad Rd	Greeneville	(423) 638-3285
Hamblin	1901 State St	Morristown	(423) 587-7044
Hamilton	6502 Bonny Oaks	Chattanooga	(423) 634-3127
Hamilton	530 Cherokee Blvd	Chattanooga	
Hardeman	200 Harris St	Whiteville	(731) 254-2253
Hardin	880 Pickwick St - Unit 2	Savannah	(731) 926-1581
Henry	1120 Tyson Av	Paris	(731) 642-8863
Knox	7320 Region Lane (Straw Plains)	Knoxville	(865) 594-6399
Knox	207 Center Park - Suite 217	Knoxville	(865) 966-4350
Lawrence	235 East Gaines St	Lawrenceburg	(931) 766-1411
Lincoln	4120 Thorton Taylor Parkway	Fayetteville	(931) 438-1915
Madison	100 Benchmark Circle	Jackson	(731) 423-6622
Marion	103 Oak Av	Jasper	(423) 942-3794
Maury	1701 Columbia Pike	Columbia	(931) 380-2548
McMinn	1865 Highway 30-E	Athens	(423) 744-2812

TENNESSEE DRIVER LICENSE STATIONS

Montgomery	220 W Dunbar Cave Rd	Clarksville	(931) 648-5596
Obion	1420 South First St	Union City	(731) 884-2133
Putnam	4600 Jefferson St	Cookeville	(931) 528-5669
Roane	1064 N Gateway Av - Suite 1	Rockwood	(865) 354-1257
Robertson	4676 Highway 41 N - Suite C	Springfield	(615) 384-1885
Rutherford	1035 Samsonite Blvd	Murfreesboro	(615) 898-8036
Rutherford	5227 Murfreesboro Rd - Suite 103	LaVergne	(615) 793-3941
Sevier	980 Eastgate Rd	Sevierville	(865) 429-7016
Shelby	6340 Summer Av	Memphis	(901) 543-7920
Shelby	3200 E Shelby Dr	Memphis	(901) 543-7920
Shelby	6075 Winchester Rd - Suite 525	Memphis	(901) 543-7920
Shelby	5019 W Union Rd	Millington	(901) 872-0800
Shelby	2714 Union Av Extended	Memphis	(901) 452-7148
Sullivan	3769 Highway 11-W	Blountville	(423) 279-3250
Sumner	855 Bluejay Way	Gallatin	(615) 230-2995
Tipton	220 Highway 51-N - Suite 1	Covington	(901) 425-2517
Warren	167 Cadillac Lane	McMinnville	(931) 668-9073
Washington	4717 Lake Park Dr	Johnson City	(423) 926-4911
Weakley	8598 Highway 22	Dresden	(731) 364-5547
Williamson	4248 South Carothers Rd	Franklin	(615) 790-5515
Wilson	725 Elkins Dr	Lebanon	(615) 443-2757

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Chapter 1 GETTING FAMILIAR WITH YOUR VEHICLE

Be Prepared for the Driving Task

To help you safely prepare for the actual operation of the vehicle, follow the tips below. There is much more to driving than just "grabbing the keys and getting in the car." Give your complete attention to knowing the proper operation of the vehicle's equipment.

Getting Ready to Drive

Vehicle Condition

1. Check around the outside of the vehicle. Look for small children, pets and any other sort of obstruction.
2. Check the condition of the vehicle (windows, lights, body damage, condition of the tires and potential fluid leaks).
3. Enter the vehicle, place the key in the ignition and lock the doors.
4. Identify the location and purpose of all switches, gauges and pedals.
5. Know the location of the following controls even if there is no need to use them at the moment:
   - Horn
   - Turn Signals
   - Emergency/Four-Way Flashers
   - Headlights (on/off and dimmer switch)
   - Windshield Wipers and Washer Controls
   - Parking Brake and Release Lever
   - Air Conditioner/Heater/Defroster Controls
   - Gearshift Location (and clutch if manual transmission)

Seat Adjustments

Adjust the seat and, if equipped, the steering column, for the "Proper Driving Posture"

Align your body to your seat.

- Adjust the seat to a comfortable upright position.
- ***DO NOT DRIVE WITH THE SEAT IN A RECLINED OR SEMI-RECLINED POSITION.*** This is dangerous and reduces both your vision and your ability to react to emergency situations.

Be sure you are the proper distance from the steering wheel and foot pedals.

- The pedals must be easily reached.
- Have good clear vision through the windshield, each side window and all mirrors.
- Your foot should move smoothly from the accelerator to the brake while the heel is kept on the floor.
- Your body should be about 10 to 12 inches back from the steering wheel with or without an air bag. At this distance, an air bag would hit the driver in the chest if there were a collision. Sitting closer could result in serious head or neck injuries from an air bag hitting the chin or face.
- Do not move the seat so far forward or extend the steering column to a point where you cannot easily steer.
- The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the top of the shoulders.

Properly adjust seat head restraints to a level even with the back of the head. Head restraints are designed to prevent whiplash if hit from behind.

Mirror Adjustments

1. Adjust mirrors properly. Remember that all three of the rear view mirrors must be adjusted so that the widest possible view is given. Also, keep blind spots to a minimum.

   - Adjust mirrors after the seat is adjusted correctly. (Always adjust before driving.)

2. Outside mirrors should be adjusted to reduce blind spots and provide maximum visibility.

   - INSIDE Rearview Mirror: Adjust the inside rearview mirror to frame the rear window. To get the smallest blind spot at the right side of the car, turn the inside mirror so that only the edge of the right rear window post is seen.
   - LEFT Side Mirror: Seated in an upright position, lean your head to the left about five inches and adjust the left mirror. The rear fender should be just visible on the left edge of the mirror about a half inch up from the bottom.
   - RIGHT Side Mirror: Seated in an upright position, lean your head to the right about five inches and adjust the left edge of the mirror about a half inch from the bottom.

3. After mirror adjustments, if you lean slightly backward and see more than a glimpse of the rear corners of the vehicle in your outside mirrors, adjust them outward.

4. To make sure mirrors are in the correct position, let a car pass you on the left. As it passes out of view in the inside mirror you should see its front bumper in the outside left (driver side) mirror.

5. Even with properly adjusted mirrors, always turn your head and check blind spots when you want to turn or change lanes.

Seat Belts Fastened

1. Fasten and adjust safety belts (both lap and shoulder if separate belts). Lap belts should be positioned firmly across the hips while the shoulder belt is firmly across the shoulder.

2. Make sure all passengers are using safety belts or child restraints before driving.
   - If you or your passengers are not wearing a seat belt or are not secured in a car seat or booster seat, you may have to pay a fine.
   - Full details on safety belts and child restraints are found in the *Protecting Passengers/Drivers* chapter.

Starting the Vehicle Engine

Check the vehicle owner's manual to determine the proper way to start the specific vehicle. The following are basic tips that apply to most vehicles:

1. Place foot on brake pedal and ensure gearshift selector is in the PARK position for automatic transmissions or in NEUTRAL for manual/standard transmissions.
   - Make sure the parking brake is "on" before starting any manual transmission vehicle. In vehicles with manual transmissions, the clutch must be depressed before the vehicle will start.
2. Place the car key into the ignition switch and turn the key forward to "on." Check dash lights and instruments (anti-lock brake systems [ABS], air bags, fuel level, etc.) for any warnings or alerts.
3. Turn on low-beam headlights, particularly at night or in bad weather. ***NOTE:*** In normal daylight, vehicles are visible at twice the distance when headlights are on.
4. Using an automatic transmission: With automatic transmissions, the driver usually does not need to change gears. The vehicle is put in "R" for reverse when to back-up and in "D" for drive to drive forward. (Some newer cars have an "O" gear selection for overdrive, which is for use when driving on interstates or other expressways where there is very little stop and go traffic.)
   - Most automatic transmissions also have lower gears that will be indicated by an "L", "2", or "1" on the gearshift indicator. These gears are generally not used except for special or emergency situations, such as:
     - Driving down steep mountain grades.
     - Slow speed driving on icy or other slippery roads.
     - Emergency deceleration if there is a brake failure.
5. Using a standard transmission: With a standard or manual transmission, the driver can control the gear-speed ratio and use gears, rather than brakes, to help slow down the vehicle. The following techniques for smooth shifting will help you handle driving vehicles with standard transmissions.
   - Hold the clutch pedal all the way down when starting, shifting gears and when speed drops below 10 MPH as you are coming to a stop.
   - Don't "ride the clutch", meaning don't drive with your foot resting on the clutch pedal if it is not needed to change gears.
   - Practice to get smooth coordination in using the clutch and accelerator pedals.
   - Don't coast with the gears in neutral (it's illegal) or with the clutch pedal pushed down except when shifting gears.
   - When going down steep hills, place the vehicle in a lower gear.

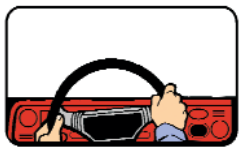
Steering the Vehicle

To begin driving the vehicle, use a relaxed grip on the steering wheel and always drive with BOTH hands on the wheel. A firm (but not tight) grip allows you to "feel" the road (vibrations, etc.) better. Don't develop the habit of driving with your elbow or arm propped on the door or out the window. You won't have full control of the steering wheel and a sideswipe could take off your arm.

You not only steer with your hands, but also with your eyes! Always look where you want to go. This tells your brain what to do with your hands. Your peripheral vision (i.e., your vision to each side) helps you to keep your road position.

The following information outlines the steering methods for safe vehicle operation:

1. Looking at the steering wheel as a clock face, drivers should place the left hand at the 9 o'clock position and the right hand at 3 o'clock position on the steering wheel. This position helps avoid injury from air bag deployment during an accident. When using the turn signal indicators, headlight dimmer and windshield wiper controls, hand placement will change. You should have a slight bend in the elbow when the palm of your hand reaches the top of the steering wheel. Never sit in a position where your elbows are locked in a "stiff arm" type position.
2. Do not let the steering wheel slip through your fingers when turning/steering. Reverse the hand and arm movements made during the turn when coming out of a turn. This "counter-steering" makes for smooth turns and will also help in skids and when driving on snow and ice.
3. Do not cross your arms when steering or turning. It is OK to cross wrists while turning. But crossing arms may cause clothing and jewelry to interfere with safe turning. Also, you would suffer more serious injuries should the air bag deploy.
4. There are two generally accepted steering methods: **Push-Pull and Hand-over-Hand.**
   - The **Push-Pull** method is recommended because it slows down turning movements making for a smoother, safer turn. It also keeps both hands on the steering wheel through the entire maneuver. Both hands move in an up and down motion on the sides of the steering wheel—the right hand on the right-hand side and the other on the left-hand side.



- **Left Turn:** Start with your hands at the proper placement of 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Pull down with your left hand to approximately 7 o'clock, and then push up with your right hand until it reaches approximately 1 o'clock. As your left hand pulls the wheel down, during the same movement you will move the right hand down to the three o'clock position so it is ready to take over. The right hand then pushes the wheel up as you reposition the left hand up to repeat this pattern until you complete your turn. Counter-steer to straighten out the vehicle.
- **Right Turn:** Start with hands at the proper placement of the 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Pull down with your right hand to approximately 5 o'clock. Then, push up with your left hand until it reaches approximately 11 o'clock. Repeat this pattern until the turn is completed. Counter-steer to straighten out the vehicle.

- The **Hand-over-Hand:** When turning the vehicle with this method, be careful to keep speed down. Steering this way crosses the hands at the top of the wheel. This method allows for quicker wheel movement, but there will be times when only one hand is on the wheel. Also, loose clothing or jewelry can get in the way, and the body can become unbalanced. For these reasons, the **Push-Pull** method is recommended for normal everyday driving.
  - For a right turn, start with hands at the proper 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Lean forward and grasp the outside of the rim at the 1 o'clock position with the right hand palm down. Lean back and pull with the right hand to the 5 o'clock position. Lean forward and grasp the outside of the rim with the left hand, palm down at the 1 o'clock position. Lean back and pull to the 5 o'clock position with the left hand. Repeat the process until the front wheels of the vehicle are at the desired angle. Before you straighten out, return hands to the original 9 and 3 o'clock positions. Counter-steer to straighten out the vehicle.
  - For a left turn, simply follow the steps above, reversing the hand references and steering wheel references to the opposite of what is indicated above in each step.

Backing, Moving Forward and Stopping

The following instructions are for vehicles with automatic transmissions:

1. **Backing** - Common mistakes committed by new drivers when backing are (a) moving too fast, (b) providing too much steering input and (c) turning the steering wheel in the wrong direction.
   - With foot on the brake, move gear selector lever to "R" for reverse.
   - Grasp steering wheel at 12 o'clock position with left hand.
   - Turn to the right and place right arm over the back of the seat.
   - Look over your shoulder through the rear window for a safe, clear path.
   - Use idle speed or accelerate gently and smoothly, keeping a slow speed.
   - Turn the wheel to the right to back to the right; turn to the left to back to the left.
   - Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.
2. **Moving Forward** -Learning to avoid sudden or quick jolts forward will take some practice as follows:
   - With foot on brake, move gear selector lever to "D" for drive.
   - Check forward for safe, clear path.
   - Check for traffic to the sides and behind.
   - Signal if pulling away from a curb.
   - If safe, pivot foot to accelerator and press down gently.
   - Look at least one block ahead and steer toward a reference point.
3. **Stopping** - Planning ahead for smooth stops will help you avoid brake wear and potential rear-end collisions. Like most states, Tennessee reports that rear-end collisions are the most common type of accident recorded annually.
   - Check mirrors to the side and rear for traffic.
   - If moving to the curb or other lane, check over the right (or left) shoulder and signal intention.
   - Release accelerator and pivot foot to brake pedal slowly.
   - Press down on the brake pedal with a steady pressure for a smooth stop. Do not "stomp" on the brake pedal.
   - If stopping at stop sign or traffic signal light, stop two feet behind the sign, stop line or crosswalk as appropriate.
   - If stopping at a curb, move to within 18 inches of the curb for proper parking.

Keeping Yourself in "Driving Shape"

It is important to stay in shape physically, mentally and emotionally for safe driving. The following are the major issues a safe driver should always be aware of:

- **Vision:** Good vision (distance and peripheral) is essential to safe driving. Just because your vision is good at age 16 when you get your

first license doesn't mean it will remain the same always. Have your vision checked every year or two by an eye specialist.

- **Fatigue:** Awareness and staying alert to traffic and road conditions are vital to responsible driving. Never drive when you are sleepy, exhausted or taking medicines that may cause drowsiness.
- **Health:** If you are suffering from any illness or health problem that may cause you to be temporarily inattentive, distracted or physically deficient (i.e., severe flu, broken arm/leg, etc.), you shouldn't drive unless absolutely necessary. For your own safety and that of others, let someone else drive you when possible.
- **Emotions:** You will likely not be able to give your full attention and concentration when you are overly worried, excited, afraid, angry or sad. Give yourself time to get your thoughts and feelings under control BEFORE driving. Take as much time as needed to get "calm, cool and collected" before getting behind the wheel.
- **Alcohol and Drugs:** No one can drink alcohol (or take drugs) and drive safely, even experienced drivers with years of practice. While driving, always remain alcohol and drug free.

As you may have noticed, driving is a complex and detailed activity that requires your complete attention. The "safest" thing you can do is to make sure you don't let your attention to driving safety decline after you have become competent.

Staying Safe AFTER The Test

Learning about driving laws and developing safe driving practices is NOT something that ends when you receive your Tennessee driver license. Always be aware of new laws, rules of the road and improved safety practices throughout your lifetime as a driver. Remember, when you are behind the wheel of a vehicle, you have control over an object that weighs thousands of pounds. Your inattention or loss of safe control and operation of a vehicle could result in injury or death to yourself and others.

1. **Aim High In Steering:** Look as far down the road as possible to uncover important traffic information and make appropriate decisions.
2. **Get The Big Picture:** Maintain the proper following distance to comfortably determine the true hazards around your vehicle. Don't tailgate others.
3. **Keep Your Eyes Moving:** Scan - don't stare. Constantly shift your eyes while driving. Active eyes keep up with changing traffic conditions.
4. **Leave Yourself An "Out":** Be prepared. Surround your vehicle with space in front and at least on one side to escape any chance of collision.
5. **Make Sure They See You:** Communicate in traffic with your horn, lights and signals to establish eye contact with motorists and pedestrians. Be reasonably sure of people's intentions.

The information in this chapter covered how to become "prepared for the driving task." It will take some practice for new drivers to translate these written details into common habits for safe driving. Therefore, review this information frequently. Once you are comfortable with the operation of the vehicle, you will be ready to drive in various traffic situations, such as interstate driving.

Chapter 1– Chapter Sample Test Questions

Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. The page number is shown for where the correct answer can be located for each question. Also, answers to all study questions can be found in the back of the book.

1. If you have an argument with another person and you are angry, before driving a car you should:
   A. Play the radio loud so you won't think about it
   B. Take a few minutes to cool off.
   C. Drive on the interstate so you can let off steam.

   Page 4
2. The driver should drive with both hands on the steering wheel approximately in the:
   A. 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions
   B. 11 o'clock and 6 o'clock positions
   C. 7 o'clock and 5 o'clock positions

   Page 2
3. When adjusting the driver's seat for best driving posture, set the seat in an upright position where your body is about how far from the steering wheel?
   A. 6 to 8 inches
   B. 10 to 12 inches
   C. 18 to 24 inches

   Page 1

Be Aware of Hazardous Conditions

There are several driving events that require intense concentration by the driver. **A driver must always be on the defensive—thinking about what other drivers might do AND be prepared to respond with proper reactions.** In addition, certain conditions, especially bad weather, trigger the need for special knowledge and skills.

1. **Avoiding collisions:** In the case of a crash, you may avoid it or reduce the impact by being alert to these options.
   - Stop
   - Turn
   - Speed Up

2. **Winter Driving:** Several steps should be taken to lessen the effects of snow, sleet or ice. They include:
   - Keep the windshield clear as possible: (a) keep a quality ice scraper in the car, (b) be sure the heater-defroster is in good condition, (c) have wiper blades in excellent condition, (d) have the outside mirrors clear and ice free.
   - Be alert to poor traction: start slowly and never over-power and spin the wheels.
   - Keep speed steady and slow (but not too slow). **In deeper snow, you have to use the vehicle's momentum to keep moving.**
   - Never over-brake and slide the wheels. DO NOT pump the brake pedal. Instead, APPLY steady pressure.
   - Never over-steer and skid the front wheels. The front tires should have good treads.
   - If your car starts to skid, always turn into the direction of the skid.

In summary, continuous hard braking on snow and ice can result in the locking of the front brakes, causing a loss of steering. Always maintain a safe speed for these conditions to avoid excessive breaking.

3. **Driving in Rain, Fog and Other Severe Weather Conditions.**
   Wet pavement can be as treacherous as snow and ice. To drive under these conditions:
   - **Slow down.** The pavement is particularly treacherous when it first begins to rain. Dirt and oil accumulations make a greasy film on the roadway, and it takes several minutes for it to wash away.
   - **Avoid hydroplaning.** A lot of water standing on the road during a heavy rain causes tires to lose all contact with the road, even if driving under 50 m.p.h. **If the vehicle starts to hydroplane, slow down by letting up on the gas. Never suddenly apply the brakes.**
   - **Improve your vision:** (a) keep windshield wipers in good condition, (b) wait a few minutes after the rain starts so the rain/wipers can remove dust and grime, (c) use the defroster/air conditioner to keep windows/mirrors clear. **Most Important: Use headlights on low beam so the light will be on the road where needed.**
   - **Avoid fog if possible.** But if you must drive—never put your headlights on high beam because the light will be reflected into your eyes.

WHEN DRIVING THROUGH DENSE FOG, HEAVY RAIN OR SNOW DURING THE DAYTIME, TURN ON LOW BEAM HEADLIGHTS.

   - **Heed warning signs:** Some highways mark sections that are more hazardous than others. They may include bridges or overpasses that may freeze before other roadway sections.

4. **High Water and Flooding Dangers**
   Each year, more deaths occur from flooding than any other weather-related hazard.
   - Never try to drive through a flooded road (even if it is only 18 to 24 inches deep). The force of flash flooding can sweep most cars and many trucks away from safe ground.
   - **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.**
   - Respect "road closed" barriers.
   - If you lose control, release your seat belt.
   - Be very cautious at night when it is harder to recognize the dangers.

5. **High Winds from Severe Thunderstorms or Tornados**
   - Please listen to your radio and be alert.
   - DO NOT try to outrun a tornado. Instead, find shelter in a ditch or low-lying area and lie face down to protect yourself from flying debris.
   - Slow down.
   - Be conscious of crosswinds.
   - If pulling a trailer or other vehicle, the car may sway. Make steering corrections as necessary.
   - When facing winds, you may have to speed up. Or, with a strong tailwind, you may need to slow down.

6. **Night Driving:** The distance you can see at night is greatly reduced. The chances of a serious crash are much greater at night, even with less traffic.
   - Drive slowly and **never outrun your headlights**.
   - Adjust speed so you can stop within the distance you can see.
   - Look for dark shapes on the road.
   - Avoid looking directly into oncoming headlights, as this can cause momentary blindness from the glare.
   - Always dim headlights at night when meeting or overtaking vehicles within 500 feet.
   - When parking on a road at night, never leave headlights on even if you plan to park for a short time period. These lights might confuse approaching

drivers as to where the road is located.
- Always leave your emergency and parking lights on.

7. **Pedestrians/Walkers are hard to see.** If you are walking at night, do everything you can to make yourself visible to drivers.
   - Carry a flashlight.
   - Wear clothing reflectors.

Tennessee Safety Belt Laws

"It's the Law"

The use of safety belts, child restraint safety seats and child booster seats are required by Tennessee law. These can help save you and your passengers' lives in the event of a traffic crash. Tennessee law enforcement officers can stop drivers and issue citations for failure to observe the seatbelt or child restraint laws. Officers can stop and ticket drivers solely for disobeying Seatbelt and Child Restraint Device (CRD) laws.

A. Seat belts are required for ALL drivers and all passengers in the FRONT seat, any time the vehicle is in motion.
B. Seat belts are also required for BACKSEAT passengers in the following situations:
   - If the passengers are 16 or 17 years old.
   - This provision no longer applies when back seat passengers are 18 years or older.
   - If the driver has either a learner permit or an intermediate license, and when the passengers are between four and 17 years old.
   - If the passenger is four through eight years old and is shorter than four feet, nine inches in height. These passengers must be in a child booster seat at all times. Children in booster seats must be in the back seat of a vehicle, if the vehicle has a back seat. (This booster seat must meet federal motor vehicle safety standards as indicated on its label.)

Child Safety Restraint Rules

Tennessee was the first state in the country to pass a Child Passenger Protection Law requiring children to be restrained in child safety seats (car seats and booster seats).

A. A child under one year old, or any child weighing less than 20 pounds, must be in a child passenger restraint system (car seat) that is facing the rear of the car.
B. Children who are one through three years old, and who weigh more than 20 pounds, must be in a child passenger restraint system that is facing forward.
C. Children who are four through eight years old and whose height is under four feet, nine inches, must be in a belt positioning booster seat system (child booster car seat) and wearing a seatbelt.

NOTE: These seats should be in the rear seat of the car, if possible.

All child passenger restraint systems (car seats and booster seats) referenced above must meet federal motor vehicle safety standards and be used consistently with the manufacturer's and the vehicle's instructions.

D. Children are further protected by the law, which makes the driver responsible for their protection up to the age of sixteen (16). If children under age 16 are not properly restrained, the driver may be charged and fined $50.00 for violation of the law.

   If the child's parent or legal guardian is present in the car but not driving, then the parent or legal guardian is responsible for making sure that the child is properly transported and may be fined for non-compliance.

   If the violation is one relating to not using a car seat or booster seat for children under nine years old or whose height is less than four feet, nine inches, the punishment is greater. The driver can be charged with a Class D misdemeanor, required to attend a class on the safely transporting children and required to pay possible fees and fines.

E. Provision is made for the transportation of children in medically prescribed modified child restraints. A copy of a doctor's prescription should be carried in the vehicle utilizing the modified child restraint device (CRD) at all times.

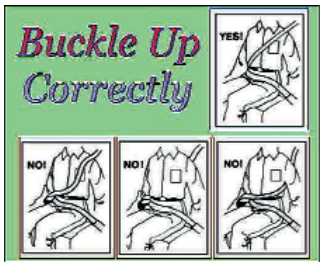
SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES

SAFETY BELT FACTS

Seat belts and child safety seats help prevent injury five different ways, by:

1. **Preventing ejection:** Ejection greatly increases the chance of death or serious injury. The chance of being killed in a crash by being ejected from a vehicle is one in eight. Safety belts virtually eliminate ejection. The belted driver stays inside the car and is better protected from injury.
2. **Shifting crash forces to the strongest parts of the body's structure. To get the most benefit from a seat belt, be aware of the following points:**
   - The lap belt should be worn low over the pelvis with the bottom edge touching the tops of the thighs snugly.
   - The shoulder belt should be worn over the shoulder and across the chest, not under the arm and over the abdomen. Make certain that the shoulder belt is not worn so loosely that it slides off the shoulder.
   - Pregnant women should wear the lap belt below the abdomen and the shoulder belt above the belly.
3. **Spreading crash forces over a wide area of the body.** Safety belts reduce the possibility of injury from

"hostile" surfaces inside the car (steering wheel, dashboard, windshield, controls, etc.). Even if the belted driver collides with some of these surfaces, it happens with much less force and often results in less serious injury.



4. **Keeping the body more closely in the "proper driving posture."** The belt keeps the driver "in the driver's seat." The belted driver is better able to deal with emergencies and often avoids more serious trouble.
5. **Protecting the head and spinal cord.** The belted driver is less likely to be stunned or made unconscious by the crash and is better able to cope with the situation. Research has found that proper use of lap/shoulder belts reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent (for occupants of light trucks, 60 percent and 65 percent respectively).

VITAL STATS

- In the U.S., a person was injured in a traffic crash every minute and a half in 2005. An average of 119 people died in car crashes every day in 2005, or one death every 12 minutes. Crashes are the leading cause of death for every age from three to 33 years old.
- Seat belts are the most effective safety devices in vehicles today, reducing the chance of injury or death in a crash by 45 percent and saving an estimated 15,632 lives in 2005.
- Failure to use a seat belt contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety-related behavior.
- In 2005, traffic crashes on Tennessee's roadways killed 1,270 people. Sadly, many of those deaths could have been prevented if the victims had taken the time to buckle up.

Common Fears and Misconceptions About Seat Belts:

Many people still have "bad information" about using safety belts. For example:

"Safety belts can trap you inside a car." It takes less than a second to undo a safety belt. Crashes seldom happen where a vehicle catches fire or sinks in deep water and you are "trapped." Only one-half of one percent of all crashes ends in fire or submersion. Even if they do, a safety belt may keep you from being "knocked out." Your chance to escape will be better if you are conscious.

"Some people are thrown clear in a crash and walk away with hardly a scratch." Most crash fatalities result from the force of impact or from being thrown from the vehicle. Your chances of not being killed in an accident are much better if you stay inside the vehicle. Safety belts can keep you from being thrown out of a vehicle and into the path of another one. Ejected occupants are four times more likely to be killed as those who remain inside the vehicle.

BUCKLE UP AMERICA
There's Just Too Much to Lose

BUCKLE UP

IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT

"If I get hit from the side, I am better off being thrown across the car, away form the crash point." When a vehicle is struck from the side, it will move sideways. Everything in the vehicle that is not fastened down, including the passengers, will slide toward the point of the crash, not away from it.

"Safety belts are good on long trips, but I do not need them if I am driving around town." Over half of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Many occur on roads with posted speeds of less than 45 m.p.h.

Tennessee's Child Passenger Protection Laws

By promoting child passenger safety, Tennessee attempts to protect children from needless death and injury. Many of these needless injuries result in permanent disabilities, such as paralysis, brain damage, epilepsy, etc. Why needless? Consider the following:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages three to 14. An average of five children are killed and 640 are injured in crashes EVERY DAY in the United States.
- Infants (under one year old) who are properly secured in safety seats survive almost 75 percent of the crashes that would otherwise be fatal. Toddlers (one-to-four years old) who are properly secured in safety seats survive more than half of the crashes that would otherwise be fatal.
- The proper use of child restraint devices could prevent nine out of 10 deaths and eight out of 10 serious injuries to child passengers under the age of four. If child safety restraint seats were used properly 100 percent of the time, the percentage of children who survive crashes would go up by 23 percent.

Set a Good Example – Always Buckle Up

Think about what your child sees you do in the car. Do you wear your safety belt? Children follow their parents' examples. Studies show that children's behavior in the car improves when they learn how to ride in a child restraint device. Make it a habit for you and your child.

Tips For Using Seat Belts With Children

When your child "graduates" from the child restraint system to seat belts, it is very important for the belts to lie across the correct area of the child's body.

Basically, a child is big enough to use the vehicle lap and shoulder belt when (1) they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat back and (2) their knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat. The lap belt should lie securely on the child's upper thigh, low and snug around the hips. The shoulder belt should fit snugly across the chest and rest between the neck and shoulder. NEVER put the shoulder belt behind the child's back or under their arms.

"Belts to Bones"

The pelvic bone and the collarbone should bear the pressure of the seat belts. If the safety belt system rides too high on the child's stomach, or if the shoulder harness lies across the face or neck area of the child, go back to using a booster seat or a high back booster model that uses the vehicle's existing safety belt system.

Air Bag Safety

Air bags can HELP save your life. Air bags combined with safety belts are the best protection currently available in a car or trunk. There have been over 800,000 air bag deployments, and air bags have been credited with saving more than 4,011 lives since 1987, according to information provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Air bags help protect adults in a frontal crash, but don't provide protection in side or rear impact crashes or in rollovers.

Remember: Most tragedies involving air bags can be prevented if air bags are used in combination with safety belts.

Air bags were developed to prevent occupants from striking the steering wheel or dashboard. The air bag deploys and immediately deflates—faster than the blink of an eye.

If you drive, own or ride in a vehicle equipped with either a driver-side and/or passenger side air bag, you should follow the following safety points:

Air Bags and Children

CHILDREN ages 12 and under are safer in the back seat of a vehicle.

- "The Back Is Where It's At" for children 12 and under. While air bags have a good overall record of providing supplemental protection for adults in the event of a crash, they pose a severe risk for children ages 12 and under. Research shows that children and air bags simply do not mix.

- Children are safer when they are properly restrained in a child restraint device or seat belt in the back seat of a vehicle, regardless of whether the vehicle is equipped with a passenger side air bag.
- **Never place a child safety seat in the front seat where a front mounted passenger air bag is present.**
- Infants in rear-facing seats should **NEVER** be placed in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag. If a child must ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag, the seat should be moved back as far as possible, and the child should be properly buckled up.

Air Bags and Adults:

- Always wear the lap AND shoulder safety belts.
- If you have an adjustable steering wheel, always try to keep it tilted down in a level or parallel position.
- Sit as far as possible from the steering wheel (or dashboard on passenger side) to give the air bag room to deploy and spread its energy. Ten (10) to twelve (12) inches between the chest and the air bag module is recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Air Bag Deactivation?

Should air bags be deactivated? No, not unless you meet one of the four following criteria:

1. The driver cannot sit 10 to 12 inches from the steering wheel/air bag module and drive the car safely.
2. The driver and/or passenger(s) has a medical condition or physical condition that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has found makes the risks associated with the air bag greater than the air bag's benefits (see www.safercar.gov).
3. The driver must transport children under 12 in the front seat because the car has no rear seat or because of a car pool situation (applies to on-off for the passenger side only).
4. An infant in a rear-facing infant seat must be transported in the front seat because the car has no rear seat (applies to on-off for the passenger side only).

Vehicle owners and lessees can obtain an on-off switch for one

or both of their air bags only if they meet one of the four risk groups above. To be considered for an on-off switch, a NHTSA Request for Air-Bag On-Off Switch form must be filled out and returned to the NHTSA. Forms may be requested by contacting NHTSA's Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236) or visiting the NHTSA website at http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov. The forms also may be available from automobile dealerships and repair shops. Always notify your car insurance agent when deactivating air bags.

It is a Class A misdemeanor for any person to knowingly install or re-install anything in the place of a federal safety regulation approved air bag. Each make, model and year of a car has air bags and "standard inflatable restraint systems." A non-approved alternative may not protect the driver and passengers.

Other Child Passenger Protection Laws

It is against the law to allow children under the age of 12 to ride in the bed of a pickup truck. The only exceptions are:

1. When the vehicle is being used in an organized parade, procession or other ceremonial event.
2. When the vehicle is being used for agricultural purposes.
3. For certain local areas where children over age six, but not yet 12 years old, are in pickup trucks traveling on local streets and roads. These road exceptions should be checked locally.

Even with these exceptions, if a child under the age of six is in the pickup truck bed, the
vehicle must travel 20 miles per hour or less.

Each year, more than 200 people die as a result of riding in the cargo area of pickup trucks. More than half of these deaths are children and teenagers.

Chapter 2 – Chapter Sample Test Questions

Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. The page number is shown for where the correct answer can be located for each question. Also, answers to all the study questions can be found in the back of the book.

4. Highway pavement is particularly treacherous and will be most slippery:
   A. If it has been raining several hours.
   B. If it has just begun to rain.
   C. If it has been raining from one to two hours.

   Page 5

5. When driving in fog or mist, never put your headlights on high beam because:
   A. The light will reflect back into your eyes.
   B. Approaching vehicles might not see you.
   C. Vehicles behind you may follow too closely.

   Page 5

6. The safest place for children 12 and under to ride in a vehicle equipped with air bags is:
   A. The front seat
   B. The back seat
   C. The bed of a pick-up truck

   Page 8

Traffic Signs

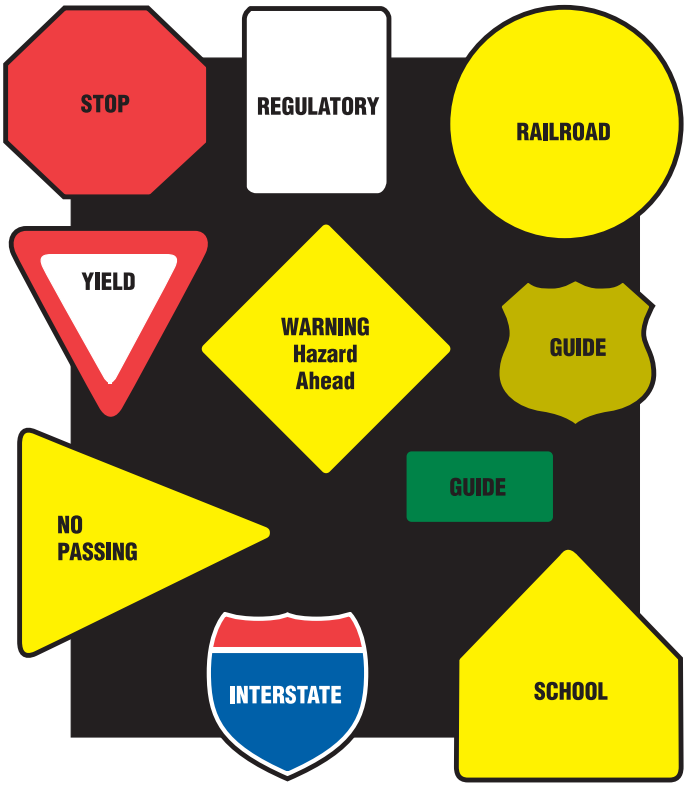
Traffic control devices include traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. Traffic control can also be provided by law enforcement, highway construction personnel or school crossing guards. Drivers must obey directions from these individuals, even if the directions are different than what the traffic lights and signs indicate.

Traffic signs give you information about the road, the highway system, traffic flow and the local regulations and laws. They warn you about hazards, identify your route and direct the speed and movement of traffic. These signs also provide directions and let you know about places of interest, from the huge overhead green interstate signs to the little blue rectangles that direct you to a library or hospital.

Every traffic sign has a definite shape and colors that announce its purpose and specific meanings. You should be able to recognize them immediately. Even if a stop sign is damaged or blocked by dirt, limbs or snow, you should know by the octagonal shape and red color that you must stop.

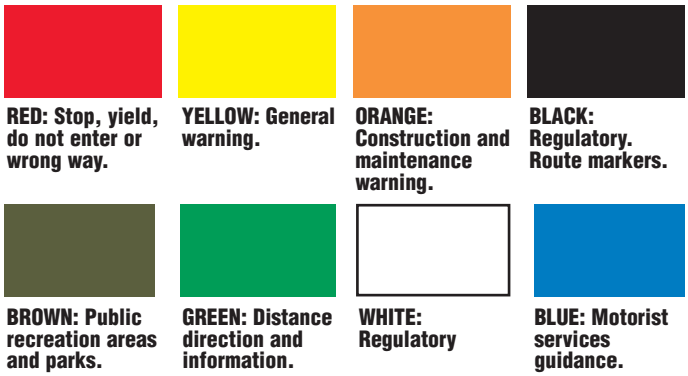
Sign Shapes and Colors

Learn the standard colors and shapes (shown below) so you know what a sign means, even at a distance. For example, a rectangle is always a regulatory sign, telling you about laws and regulations or giving you instructions such as speed limits or lane uses.



Color Codes on Highway Traffic Signs

The meanings of the eight basic background colors of signs should be memorized. The colors used on standard signs are as follows:



RED is used only as a background color for STOP signs, multiple supplemental plates (FOUR-WAY or ALL WAY), DO-NOT-ENTER messages, WRONG WAY signs and on Interstate route markers. Red is also used as a legend color for YIELD signs, parking prohibition signs and the circular outline and diagonal bar prohibitory symbol.

BLACK is used as a background on ONE-WAY signs. Black is used for a message on white, yellow and orange signs.

WHITE is used as the background for route makers, guide signs, the Fallout Shelter Directional sign and regulatory signs, except STOP signs and for the legend on brown, green, blue, black and red signs. Whenever white is specified as a sign color, this is referencing the silver-colored reflective coating and other materials that reflect white light.

ORANGE is used as a background color for construction and maintenance signs and shall not be used for any other purpose.

YELLOW is used as a background color for warning signs, except where orange is specified, and for school signs.

BROWN is used as a background color for guide information signs related to points of recreational cultural interest.

GREEN is used as a background color for guide signs (other than those using brown or white), mileposts and as a legend color with a white background for permissive parking regulations.

BLUE is used as a background color for information signs related to motorist services (including police services and rest areas) and the Emergency Route Marker.

IMPORTANT: Whenever white is specified as a sign color, it includes silver-colored reflecting coating or elements that reflect white light.

Traffic signs are placed to help you and to instruct you in the best and safest use of the highway. All signs must be obeyed at all times, unless a policeman or other traffic officer directs you to do otherwise. Study and learn the following signs and notice the shape of each sign has a general or specific meaning.

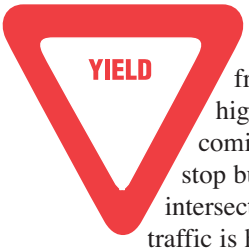
Octagon Shape — Stop

This sign is the only eight-sided sign on the highway. It always means that there is danger. It will always be red with white lettering. It tells you that you are approaching an important street or highway and that you must bring your car to a complete stop, not going beyond the crosswalk. IF you cannot see, then proceed cautiously to a point where you can see, and then go only if you can do so safely.

Four-Way or All Way: Red Rectangle - Added below a stop sign, it means all traffic approaching this intersection must stop.

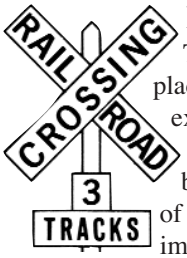
Triangular Shape — Yield

This three-sided sign means that you are approaching an intersection and must stop and wait when other vehicles are approaching from the right or left on the other highway. If you are sure no other cars are coming you need not come to a complete stop but you must slow down and enter the intersection with caution. Always stop when traffic is heavy.



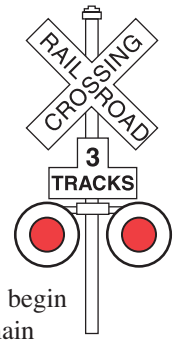
Round Shape — Railroad Ahead

This circular sign always means that you are approaching a railroad grade crossing. You must slow down and be ready to stop. This sign tells you that it is up to you to stop if you see a train coming. NEVER TRY TO "BEAT" THE TRAIN. YOU WILL USUALLY MISJUDGE ITS SPEED. More than 200 traffic crashes occur each year at railroad crossings. Do not play with your life trying to "beat the train."



Broad "X" Shape — Railroad Here

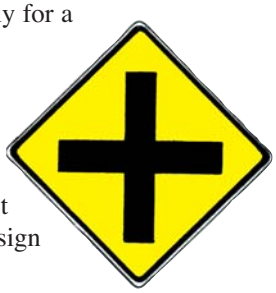
This is known as a crossbuck sign. It is placed at all railroad grade crossings and shows exactly where the tracks are located. Notice the smaller signs placed on the post directly below the crossbuck. They show the number of tracks at a particular crossing. This is very important because, when there are two or more tracks, one train passing might hide the approach of a train from the other direction.



Some crossbucks are equipped with two lights underneath the "X." Flashing lights on a crossbuck mean that a train is coming. Always stop when the lights are flashing. Remain stopped until the train has passed. If there is more than one track, be sure all tracks are clear before crossing.

Some crossbucks are equipped with both flashing lights and a gate. Stop when the lights begin flashing and before the gate comes down. Remain stopped until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing.

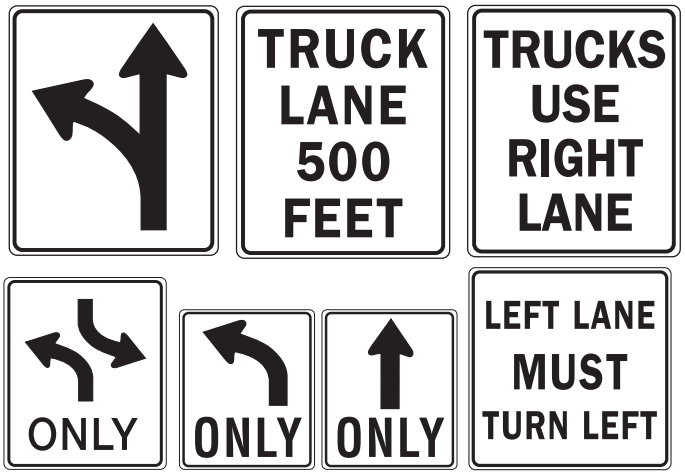
Diamond Shape — Hazardous Or Unusual Condition Ahead



These signs call for caution and usually for a slower speed. Some carry written information. Others are miniature symbolic road maps that warn of highway conditions ahead. This sign tells you that you are approaching an intersection. The black lines show just what kind of intersection this is. This sign tells you it is a crossroad.
(See more examples of warning signs on pages 12-13)

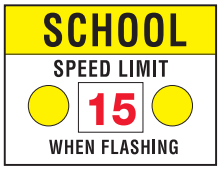
Rectangular Shape - Special Laws, Regulations or Important Information

Lane Control: The signs below indicate that traffic in the respective lanes must either move straight through or turn left. They may also direct certain vehicles (such as trucks) to the lane in which they must travel. Variations of these signs will limit turns by showing an arrow with the word "Only," and others will indicate that traffic must turn right. These signs are sometimes mounted overhead.

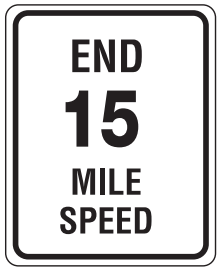


This sign (High Occupancy Vehicle) indicates lanes reserved for buses and vehicles with the minimum number of occupants specified on the sign.

Speed Control: These signs show the maximum speed allowed, the minimum speed required or a change in speed limit. The sign on the far right is used whenever children are within walking distance of school. It tells you that children may be crossing the street on their way to and from school. This type of sign is controlled by a time clock and flashes yellow lights while illuminating the speed limit. Failure to obey the posted school zone limit could result in serious injury or loss of life.

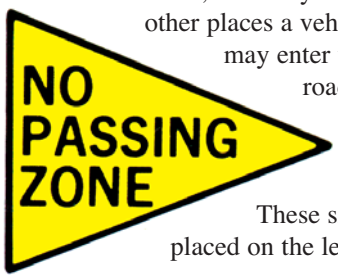


Regulatory Signs



This sign is used on a highway that has four lanes or more. It means that you must drive in the extreme right lane unless you want to pass a slower moving car or make a left turn. Never straddle lanes or drive in the center lane when moving more slowly than other traffic around you.

No Passing Signs: These signs tell you where passing is not permitted. Passing areas are based on how far you can see ahead. They consider unseen hazards such as hills and curves, intersections, driveways and other places a vehicle may enter the roadway.



A triangular No Passing Zone sign can also be used. These signs are yellow or orange and placed on the left side of the roadway.

Signs having a white background and a red circle and a line diagonally through them mean "NO" according to what is shown behind the red symbol. For example:

NO TRUCKS

NO BICYCLES

NO LEFT TURN

NO U TURN

This sign tells you that, in the area where this sign is placed, parking is forbidden.

This sign tells you that you are approaching a one-way street and that you must not enter from the direction you are traveling.

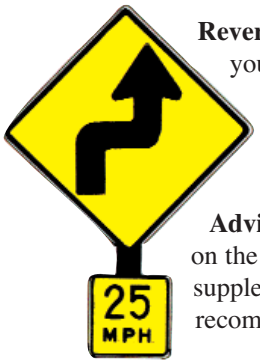
In Tennessee, it is illegal to stand on a roadway to solicit a ride. Hitchhiking is not only dangerous for the pedestrian, but also to the driver of the vehicle who stops to pick up a stranger. It is recommended that you neither hitchhike nor pick up hitchhikers.

Warning Signs - Diamond Shape (Yellow)

These signs are to be carefully observed, always using slower speeds. As seen below, there are numerous messages to know. Become familiar with these signs so that each message can be quickly understood and followed.

This sign tells you to be prepared for a rather sharp turn to the left. The turn sign is used to mark turns with a recommended speed of 30 m.p.h. or less.

Curve Sign: This sign tells you that you must be prepared for a curve to the right. The curve sign is used to mark curves with recommended speeds in the range between 30 and 55 m.p.h.



Reverse Turn Sign: This sign tells you that you must turn right, then left. The reverse turn sign is used to mark two turns in opposite directions that are less than 600 feet apart.

Advisory Speed Plate: The smaller sign on the post beneath this sign is used to supplement warning signs. It gives you the recommended maximum safe speed.

You will see this sign — or one saying, "SLIDES" in some hilly areas. Both of these signs warn of rocks that may be in the road, not of rocks which may strike you from overhead. Watch the roadway, not the hill.

This sign indicates that there is a STOP sign just ahead that you cannot yet see. At this point, start to slow down. A similar sign using a symbol shaped like a traffic light and the black arrow indicates there is a "traffic signal ahead."

This sign indicates that there is a YIELD sign just ahead that you cannot yet see. At this point, start to slow down.

This sign warns you that the road ahead narrows, and that you must plan to move into the left lane. Don't forget to check behind you before beginning this move. And be sure to signal your intentions.

This sign alerts you to the possibility of traffic blending into the main stream of travel. After checking to your rear, you should move into the other lane, if possible, to allow the merging motorist a clear path.

This sign tells you that the bridge is too narrow to be safe at average passing speeds. Slow down and drive cautiously when crossing a bridge that displays this sign.

You will see the following sign near school grounds or buildings. It warns you to slow down, drive with caution and watch for children. This sign is placed as you approach a school.

SLIPPERY WHEN WET

CATTLE CROSSING

TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

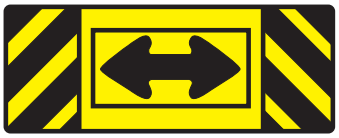
LEFT LANE ENDS

BIKE CROSSING

WINDING ROAD

LOW CLEARANCE
Shows the distance from road surface to the bottom of a bridge or overpass

T-INTERSECTION AHEAD



T-INTERSECTION
You must turn right or left. Be prepared to yield.

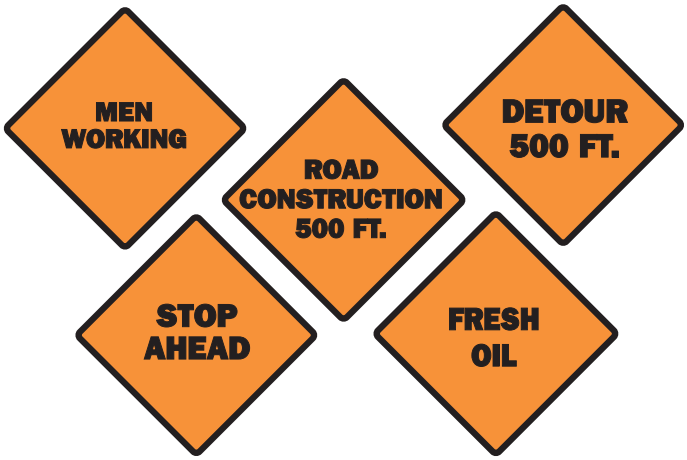
CHEVRON
A sharp change in direction ahead

Work Area Signs

These construction, maintenance or emergency operations signs are generally diamond or rectangular shaped, orange with black letters or symbols and warn you that people are working on or near the roadway. These warnings include reduced speed, detours, slow moving construction equipment and lane closures. In work areas, a person with a sign or flag may control traffic. You must obey the directions of these persons.

Construction Signs

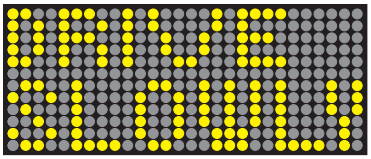
Construction signs are generally **diamond** or **rectangular** shaped and **orange with black letters symbols**. Their purpose is to warn that people are working on or near the roadway. The warnings include reduced speed, detours, slow moving construction equipment and lane closures.



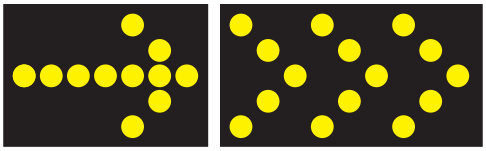
Channeling Devices

Barricades, vertical panels, concrete barriers, drums and cones are the most common devices used to guide drivers safely through work zones. When driving near these devices, keep your vehicle in the middle of the lane and obey the posted speed limit. As you leave the work zone, stay in your lane and maintain your speed. Don't change lanes until you are completely clear of the work zone.

Electronic Message or Arrow Signs: These are mobile devices that are often used on some roads to give advance warning of construction zones, special traffic directions, road closures or in some cases weather hazards.

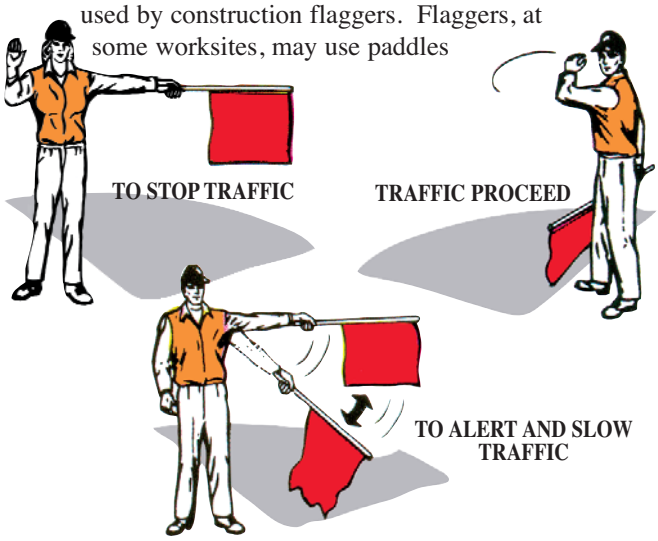


Flashing arrow panels alert approaching drivers of lane closures. You must begin to merge into the remaining open lane(s) well in advance of this sign.



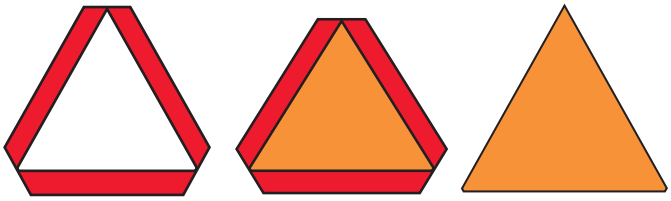
Highway Flaggers

You will see flaggers, such as the ones pictured below, at numerous construction sites along highways. Please learn these three simple signals, since they are the most commonly used by construction flaggers. Flaggers, at some worksites, may use paddles



with the word stop on one side and slow on the other, instead of red flags. The basic hand movements for stop and proceed remain the same, whether a flag or paddle is used.

Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem



RED REFLECTIVE BORDERS | SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM KIT | ORANGE FLUORESCENT CENTER

Recognize this sign. Some day (or night) it may save your life. Look at it!

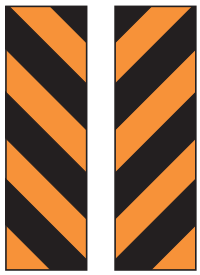
During daylight, the bright fluorescent orange solid triangle in the center of the SMV emblem is highly visible. At night, the SMV emblem glows brilliantly in the path of approaching headlights.

You may see this emblem on slow-moving vehicles, such as farm tractors, machinery, construction equipment or horse-drawn vehicles.

Object Marker

These markers warn you of objects, not actually in the roadway, but so close to the edge of the road that need marking.

Typical applications include bridge ends, underpass abutments and other obstructions closely adjacent to the edges of roadways.



Hazard to left | Hazard to right

Guide Signs for Highways

A sign, such as the one to the right, will show two highways are coming together or separating.

PRIMARY ROUTE
(Primarily Connects Cities)

The sign to the left denotes a state secondary highway, while the one above and to the right indicates a U.S. highway that will reach into another state. Drivers should become thoroughly familiar with route numbers and signs they must follow when beginning a trip from one area to another. Approach signs, such as the one above with caution, and be alert for drivers nearby who are not familiar with the area highways.

Interstate Route Marker

Blue and red signs, like the one on the right, indicate that the route is part of the national system of interstate and defense highways. These highways join centers of population and defense establishments. They also join with the major international highways at the Mexican and Canadian borders. They are part of a nationwide network of the most important highways.

Guide Signs On Highways

These are signs to help you while driving on Tennessee's Interstate and Defense Highways. The signs are above or to the right of the highway with the arrows pointing to the lane you should be in if you intend to enter or leave the road.

This sign is seen on Interstates and Expressways. The background is green with white letters and/or numbers visible at some distance. Such signs give information vital to selection of lane, proper exits, etc.

If an interstate guide sign is marked with the above sign, all traffic in the lane(s) directly below the arrows MUST exit.

Service Signs

The blue color of these signs directs motorists to service facilities. Word message signs will also be used to direct motorists to areas where service stations, restaurants and motels are available.

Handicap Symbol

Parking spaces displaying this blue sign are reserved for vehicles bearing disabled veteran or handicapped license plates, or a special handicapped decal. The convenience and availability of these spaces is important for disabled citizens. The use of reserved handicapped spaces by others is prohibited by law.

Directional Signs

The green background signs indicate that the message is providing directional information. Directional signs point to bike and hiking trails.

Emergency Reference Markers

RAMP SIGN

In order to help motorists better identify their location on urban interstates, the state has installed interstate reference markers every 1,000 feet along heavily traveled sections. These have been installed in Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, Jackson and Chattanooga. The signs display information about the route number, direction of travel and the "log mile" in tenths of a mile. Most are mounted on median dividers. Motorists with mobile phones who notify emergency operators about incidents can give an accurate description of the exact location where assistance is needed. This will help emergency personnel respond more rapidly, and possibly make the difference between life and death. It will also help clear the highways more quickly. In the sample (at right), this sign indicates the location as: ***West Bound on Interstate 40 at mile marker 223 and six tenths.*** So the driver would be between mile markers 223 and 224.

MAIN LINE SIGN

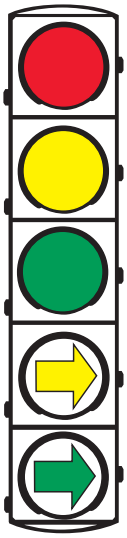
Uniform Highway Markings

The information in this chapter is based on the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which all states' highway agencies must use in marking and signing roadways. Because states are at different points in updating signage to conform with the federal requirements, drivers may encounter both old and new markings and signs. BE ALERT and follow directions.

Traffic Signals

Traffic Signals are used to control vehicle drivers and pedestrians at some intersections and crosswalks. Signals promote better movement of traffic on busy roads by assigning right of way.

Traffic Signals are usually placed at heavily traveled intersections. These lights tell you when or where to stop and go. A green light means you can go if it is safe. A yellow light means caution—prepare to stop for the red light. The red light always means stop. Standard traffic lights are red, yellow and green, from top to bottom respectively.



RED: Stop behind crosswalk or stop line. Unless otherwise posted, you may turn right on red after coming to a complete stop and when no pedestrians or cross traffic are present.

YELLOW: Caution—prepare to stop. The red stop signal will be exhibited immediately after the yellow light appears. Adjust speed immediately to come to a smooth stop. You must stop if it is safe to do so. ***Do not speed up to beat the light.*** If you are already IN the intersection when the yellow light comes on, do not stop, but continue cautiously through the intersection. Tennessee law only requires the yellow light to be exhibited for a minimum of **three seconds before the red light.**

Collisions often happen at intersections on yellow lights. Not only is it dangerous to ignore the yellow light, you may hold up oncoming traffic that receives the green light. Please be aware that some drivers often "jump the green" and start through an intersection, because they have seen the yellow light come on from the crossing directions. ***If you try to "beat the yellow" and another driver decides to "jump the green" the results could be deadly!***

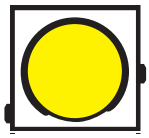
GREEN: Go **IF** the intersection is clear. You must yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in the intersection at light change. The green signal gives permission to proceed, BUT you must still observe the laws of the right-of-way. Yield to oncoming vehicles if you are turning left. Never attempt to "jump the gun" by starting through the intersection early or by making a quick left turn in front of oncoming traffic. This is extremely dangerous!

PROTECTED ARROWS: At many intersections, you may see what is called a "protected turn arrow." When the arrow is green, you have the right-of-way and may drive the vehicle only in the direction of the arrow, after yielding to vehicles and pedestrians already in the intersection. When the arrow changes to yellow, prepare to yield to oncoming traffic. When

the arrow is red or your lane has the red light, all turns are prohibited. This is true even if other lanes of traffic have a green signal and your path through the intersection appears to be clear.

When traffic lights have added lights with directional arrows, drivers may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow. The light for your lane controls the direction in which you may lawfully proceed.

If traffic circumstances have left you in an intersection waiting to make a left turn, and the light turns red, you should complete the turn when the traffic clears. Do not try to back up or stay in the intersection blocking traffic. Better yet, don't find yourself in this situation! You should not pull into an intersection to make a turn until your path is clear.



FLASHING YELLOW

Slow down and proceed with caution at the intersection.

FLASHING RED

Complete stop. Same as stop sign. Look both ways, yield to traffic and pedestrians and proceed when it is safe to do so.

Malfunctioning Traffic Light:

What to do when the light is out!

Tennessee state law requires that if a signal is not working, the intersection is to be treated as if it were a four-way stop intersection. Stop as you would if there were stop signs in all directions (This is covered in the *Rules of the Road* chapter). Do not proceed until it is safe.

The right-of-way law says that if there are two or more vehicles at the intersection stopping at the same time, the driver on the left would yield to the driver on the right. The driver on the right who arrives first gets to go first. However, stay cautious and be sure it is safe to proceed even when you are in the first car to reach the intersection.

1. **Pedestrian Signals:** Allow pedestrians to know when it is legally permitted and safe to cross a street or intersection. Pedestrians can protect themselves by observing the following rules:

   A. "Walk" Sign: Many streets with significant pedestrian traffic will have a pedestrian signal. The sign displays the word "WALK" or a symbol of a person walking when it is safe to cross the street or intersection. Pedestrians, who have started to cross the street or intersection when the "WALK" sign or walking person symbol appears, should continue as quickly as possible to the other side of the street before the signal shifts to "DON'T WALK."

NOTE: At some intersections, there is a button near the base of the pedestrian signal or stop light that must be pushed by the pedestrian to activate the pedestrian signal to show the "WALK" sign.

   B. "Don't Walk" Sign: Pedestrian signals indicate when it is not permissible or safe to cross a street or intersection. When the pedestrian signal shows the words "DON'T WALK," or a symbol of a raised hand appears, it is safe to begin crossing a street or intersection. As a driver, pay attention to the traffic signals and pedestrian signals in order to anticipate when a pedestrian may begin to cross the street.

2. **Lane Control Signals:** The signals below may appear as single or multiple units over each lane of the road. They are most often used when the direction of the flow of traffic changes during different hours of the day. Also, these signals indicate whether toll plaza lanes are open or closed.

Driving in this lane is permitted

If flashing lane is for turning only; if solid direction of lane is changing

Driving is NOT permitted in this lane

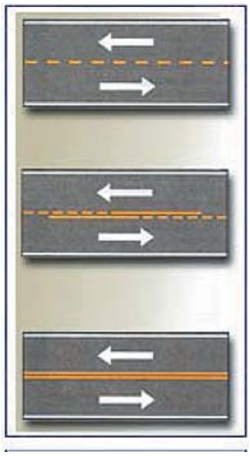
(See the section on *Traffic Lanes and Lane Usage* in the *Rules of the Road* chapter).

General Principles of Pavement Lane Markings

Lines and symbols on the roadway (1) divide the road into lanes, (2) tell you when you may pass other vehicles or change lanes, (3) indicate which lanes to use for turns, (4) define pedestrian walkways and (5) show where you must stop for signs or traffic signals. Line colors tell you if you are on a one-way or two-way roadway.

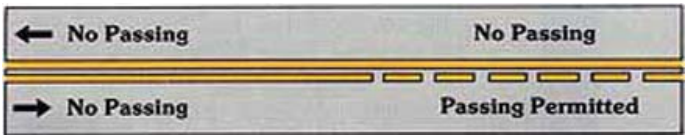
1. **Edge and Lane Lines:** Lines along the side of the road show you where the edge of the road is located. A solid white line indicates the right edge of the traffic lane on a road. A solid or broken yellow line indicates the left edge of traffic lanes going in your direction.
   - If you ever find yourself with yellow to your right and white to your left, you are going the wrong way.
   - Remember, on a divided highway, the side of the roadway to the left of the driver and nearest the median always has a yellow line.
   - The right side of the roadway will always have a white line.

It is a good way to confirm you are traveling the right direction when entering an unfamiliar interstate.

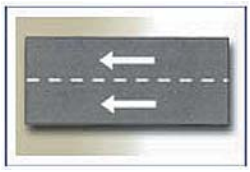


A. Yellow Lane Markings: Lines separating traffic moving in opposite directions are yellow. Yellow lines are also used to mark a boundary or barrier of the travel path at the location of a particular hazard, such as bridge supports, etc.

- Broken yellow lines mean that you MAY cross the line to pass if there is no oncoming traffic and it is safe to do so.
- Two solid yellow lines between lanes of traffic mean you MAY NOT cross the lines from either direction, even if no oncoming traffic is in view. You may cross a solid yellow line to turn into a driveway or side road if it is safe to do so.
- One solid yellow line and one broken yellow: Where there is both a solid and a broken yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic, you may not pass if the solid yellow line is on your side. If the broken yellow line is on your side, you are in the "passing zone" and may pass if it is safe to do so. You must safely return to your side of the roadway before the passing zone ends.



B. White Lane Markings - Multiple lanes of traffic that flow in the same direction are separated by white lane markings. You will find white lane markings on freeways, limited access highways, bypasses and one-way streets.

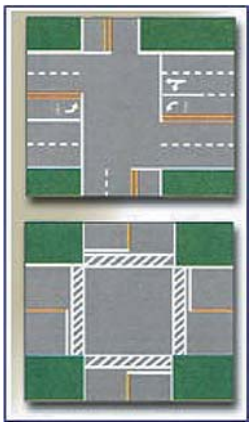


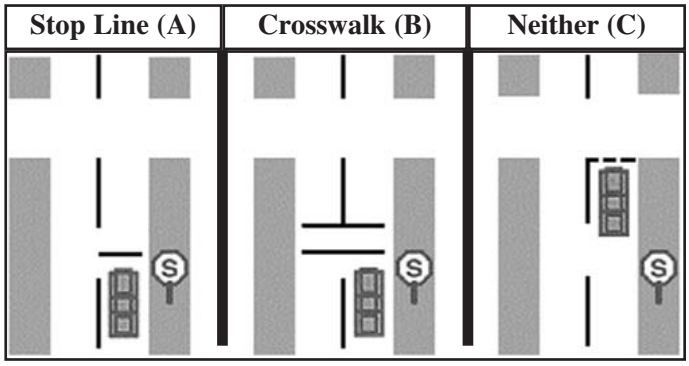
- Broken white lines between lanes of traffic mean you may cross the lines to pass or change lanes if it is safe to do so.

One solid white line between lanes of traffic means that you should stay in your lane and **MAY NOT cross the line to pass** (unless an emergency situation requires you to change lanes).

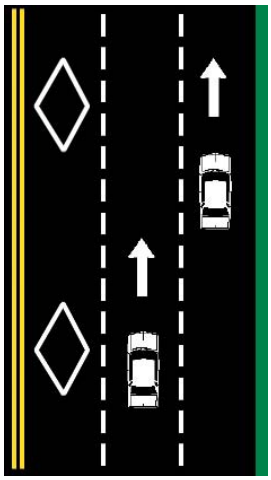
2. Crosswalks - White crosswalk lines are painted across a road to indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians may cross the roadway and may be located at intersections or in the middle of a block. However, not all crosswalks are marked. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians who are in or are about to enter the crosswalk or street.

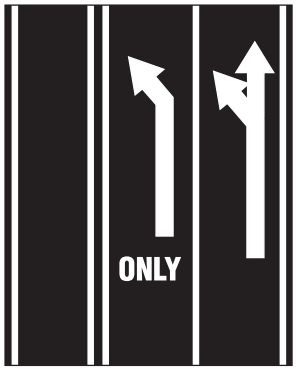
3. Stop Lines - White stop lines are painted on the pavement across traffic lanes, usually at intersections, to indicate the vehicle stopping position, before traffic signs or signals. (A) If the motorist is required to stop at the intersection, the vehicle must be stopped behind this stop line. If no stop line is painted on the pavement, all vehicles required to stop must: (B) Stop the vehicle before crossing the first line of the crosswalk (if the crosswalk is marked), and (C) Stop the vehicle before the front bumper crosses the white edge line of the cross street, in order to keep the vehicle from protruding out into the cross street traffic.





4. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes are designated on highways by a diamond-shaped marking in the center of the lane. HOV lanes may also be special lanes separated by a barrier. During heavy traffic periods, HOV lanes are reserved for buses, vanpools, carpools and other high occupancy vehicles. Road signs indicate the minimum number of passengers a vehicle must carry to use the HOV lanes and the times that HOV restrictions are in effect.





5. Turn Lane Arrow: If you are traveling in a lane marked with a curved arrow and the word ONLY, you must turn in the direction of the arrow. If your lane is marked with both a curved and a straight arrow, you may turn in the direction of the arrow or you may go straight.

6. White Crossbuck with RR: A white crossbuck and the letters

RR are painted on the pavement as a warning marker for many railroad/highway grade crossings.

Chapter 3 – Chapter Sample Test Questions

The page number shown with each question tells where correct answers can be located. Remember, these are just samples of possible questions that may be included in your actual test. You may receive a test with completely different questions in whole or in part. Here are some sample test questions. Also, answers to all the study questions can be found in the back of the book.

7. The sign at right means:
   A. Slow down and yield to traffic on main road when merging.
   B. Always come to a complete stop.
   C. Give your turn signal and proceed into traffic at regular speed.

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8. What does a traffic signal with a yellow left arrow indicate to the driver?
   A. Prepare to yield to oncoming traffic.
   B. Protected left turn is about to end.
   C. Both of the above.

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9. The center of the roadway is marked with one solid yellow line and one broken yellow line. If the broken yellow line is on the right of the solid yellow line (your side) it means:
   A. You are not allowed to pass in this area.
   B. You are in a “passing zone” and it is safe to pass other vehicles if no oncoming traffic is present.
   C. You are only allowed to make right turns in this area

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Chapter 4 **RULES OF THE ROAD**

This chapter highlights key traffic laws and safe driving principles related to those laws. A more complete discussion of driving techniques is found in the *Tennessee Driver License Program Handbook*.

Even on a short trip, you may be faced with many dangerous driving conditions. Statistics show that half of all vehicle crashes occur within 25 miles of home. The rules of the road are those laws, regulations and practices that provide safe vehicle movement on the roadways: **signaling, turning, passing and stopping.**

- Learn the traffic rules and follow them.
- Be willing to yield to other drivers to avoid a crash.
- Always watch carefully for advance warning and information signs.
- Be a courteous driver.
- Always obey instructions of traffic officers.

Some Basic Rules Are:

Driving on the Right Side of the Road

In the United States, Canada and most other countries, right hand traffic is the rule. This means we drive on the right side of the road, and turn right when going around traffic circles, roundabouts or town squares.

Coasting Prohibited

While traveling on a downgrade, NEVER coast with the transmission of the vehicle in neutral. Also, drivers of manual transmission vehicles must not coast with the clutch depressed. Driving in neutral and/or with the clutch depressed reduces the driver's control of the car.

Use of Headlights

- **Required Night Use:** Your car headlights must be turned on between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.
- **Required Daylight / Inclement Weather Use:** Also, your car headlights must be turned on:
  1. At any time when daylight is not good enough for you to see persons or vehicles clearly at a distance of 200 feet ahead; and
  2. When rain, mist, snow, or other precipitation requires constant use of windshield wipers.

Headlights turned on during daylight hours will make your vehicle easier to see to oncoming vehicles and pedestrians. Use headlights when driving at dusk. Even if you can see clearly, headlights help other drivers see you as much as they help you see them. Get into the habit of turning headlights on when using windshield wipers. **Remember, using headlights when wipers are in use is not just a good safety precaution — it's Tennessee law!**

- **Dimming of Headlights Required:** When your vehicle's high beam headlights are on, you must dim or lower the beam when an oncoming vehicle is within **500** feet (approximately the distance of one city block) or when you are following another vehicle within **500** feet.

  Dimming headlights when following other vehicles is an important safety step. The glare from your headlights in a rear view mirror can blind another driver.

- **Limited Use of Parking Lights or Auxiliary Fog Lights:** The following procedures should be followed when using these types of lights:

1. The law requires a vehicle stopped or parked on a road or shoulder to have parking lights on when limited visibility conditions exist.
2. Do not drive a vehicle with only the parking lights on when driving at night or in inclement weather. The small size of parking lights may cause other drivers to think your vehicle is farther away than it actually is. When there is limited visibility, the use of parking lights alone is not only unsafe, it is against the law.
3. It is also illegal to have auxiliary lights or fog lights on by themselves or on at times when you are required to dim high beam headlights. These very bright lights make it difficult for oncoming drivers to see, and the glare may reflect blindingly in the rear view mirror of vehicles you are following.

   - ***Daytime Running Lights:*** Some newer vehicles have headlights that are on anytime the vehicle is running. These lights make it easier for others to see the vehicle, even in daylight. This reduces the likelihood of collisions.

Littering

Throwing papers, bottles, cans, or disposing of other material from vehicles are all forms of littering. **Littering is against state law, with maximum fines of up to $500 and 10 days in jail. Keep Tennessee clean – don't litter!**

Slow-Moving Vehicles

It is against the law to drive slower than the posted minimum speed under normal driving conditions. You may drive more slowly than the minimum speed if you are driving in bad weather, heavy traffic or on a bad road. If there is no posted minimum speed, it is still against the law to drive so slowly that you block traffic.

NOTE: You are considered to be driving a slow-moving vehicle if you are traveling at a rate of speed that is 10 miles per hour or more below the lawful maximum speed. If five or more vehicles are lined up behind you, turn or pull off the roadway as soon as you can do so safely. Slow drivers, who block other traffic, cause many accidents.

Remember, slower is not always safer.

Funeral Procession

In Tennessee, it is a common and accepted practice for oncoming traffic to pull to the side of the roadway as a sign of respect when meeting a funeral precession. **Tennessee law instructs the following:**

- Vehicles following a funeral procession on a two-lane highway may not attempt to pass such procession; and
- No operator of a vehicle shall drive between vehicles in a properly identified funeral procession except when directed to do so by a traffic officer.

The Basic Speed Rule

The speed at which you drive determines how much time you have to act or react and how long it takes to stop. The higher the speed, the less time drivers have to spot hazards. Judge the speed of other traffic, and react to avoid the mistakes of other drivers.

The Basic Speed Rule (BSR) is not a Tennessee law, but it is a general safety principle. The BSR does not set an exact speed limit; instead, it teaches that the speed you may drive is limited by current conditions. For example, if the posted speed limit is 65 m.p.h., and you are driving at night on a two-lane state highway and it's raining or foggy, 65 m.p.h. is too fast for those conditions.

To obey the BSR, think about your speed in relation to other traffic (including pedestrians and bicycles), the surface and width of the road, hazards at intersections, weather, visibility and any other conditions that could affect safety.

Principles of the Basic Speed Rule:

1. Your speed must be careful and prudent. Use skill and good judgment.
2. Your speed must be reasonable and proper, not too fast and not too slow, for any conditions including:
   - Amount of Traffic - How many cars on the road
   - Speed of Traffic - How fast or slow it's moving
   - Whether Pedestrians are Present - Especially children in school zones or neighborhoods
   - Surface of the Road - Rough or smooth, paved, gravel, etc.
   - Width of the Road - One-lane, two-lane, four-lane
   - Structure of the Road - Straight, curving, bridges, narrow shoulders, etc.
   - Visibility - How far ahead you can see clearly
   - Weather Conditions - Rain, snow, ice, fog, etc.
   - Your Own Driving Ability
3. Do not drive so slowly that you block, hinder, or interfere with other vehicles moving at normal speeds.
4. Your speed must be adjusted to conditions so you can stop within a clear distance ahead.

If you drive at a speed that is unsafe for existing conditions in any area, you are violating the basic rule. This applies even if you are driving slower than the posted speed or maximum limit.

Example: You are driving in a line of downtown traffic and the car ahead of you stops suddenly. If you cannot stop in time to avoid hitting that car from behind, you are either breaking the BSR - even if you were driving within the posted speed limit - or you are following too closely.

Tennessee Speed Laws

Speed is a major contributing factor that causes fatal accidents in Tennessee. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on primary and secondary state and federal highways is 55 m.p.h.

When driving, adjust your speed to flow along with the speed at which other traffic is moving - provided the other traffic is traveling within the posted speed limit. Slow drivers are as likely to become involved in accidents as speeders. If most vehicles are traveling between 50 and 55 m.p.h., you are least likely to have an accident if you stay within that speed range.

Interstate Speed Limits

The maximum speed set by Tennessee law for interstate highways is 70 m.p.h. This speed does not apply to ALL sections of the interstate highway system. It may be set as low as 55 m.p.h. in some larger urban areas where there is more traffic congestion. The maximum limit should be driven only in ideal driving conditions. You must reduce your speed when conditions require it.

Example: Reduce speed for (1) curves, (2) when the roadway is slippery (during rain, snow, icy conditions), or (3) when it is foggy and difficult to see clearly.

Rural Interstate Limits

70 m.p.h. is the speed posted on most of the rural sections of Tennessee interstate highways.

Urban Interstate Limits

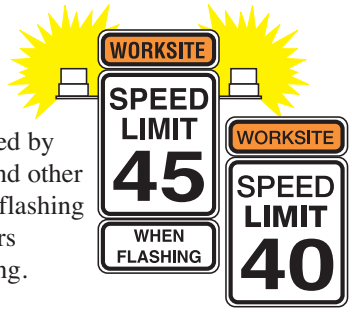
In the more congested urban or metropolitan areas of Tennessee interstates, the limit is typically 55 m.p.h.

NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle less than 55 m.p.h. in the left most lane of any Interstate highway, unless traffic congestion and flow prevent safe driving at such speed. On the interstates, the minimum speed limit in the right lane(s) is 45 m.p.h., and under normal driving conditions, all vehicles must travel at least this fast so they are not a hazard to other drivers. If the minimum posted speed limit is too fast for you, use another road.

Watch for speed limit changes! The state, counties and municipalities each have the authority to set speed limits for the roadways/highways under their control. Therefore, you could see some sections of interstate within some city limits set at 60 or 65 m.p.h. On the secondary streets and highways, these limits will change according to certain zones. Some residential roads or city streets may have limits as low as 25 or 35 m.p.h. at all times. Watch carefully and obey speed limit signs in business, residential and school zones.

Speeding in School Zones: Speed limits in all school zones are regulated when children are going to or from the school or during a school recess hour. **Exceeding the school zone speed limit is by law considered to be reckless driving.** The penalty includes an automatic six points added to your driving record, which automatically results in an advisory letter being sent to you.

Speeding in Highway Work Zones: Highway work zones are those portions of a street or highway where construction, maintenance or utility work is being done to the road, its shoulders or any other items related to the roadway. This includes work, such as underground and overhead utility work, tree trimming and survey activities. Highway work zones are easily recognized by the presence of **orange** signs and other **orange** traffic control devices, flashing lights on equipment and workers dressed in highly visible clothing.



Highway workers are trained on how to set up safe zones with directional traffic signs and devices. Motorists and pedestrians are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing crashes while driving through highway work zones.

TENNESSEE LAW MANDATES A MINIMUM FINE OF $250 DOLLARS AND UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $500 DOLLARS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SPEED LIMIT POSTED IN ACTIVE WORK ZONES.

Many of these work zone crashes are preventable.

State figures for 2005 indicate that 13 people died, 1,348 were injured and there were 4,273 cases of property damage in work zone crashes in Tennessee.

Braking, Following and Stopping Distances

Drivers must know and understand the safe and proper braking procedures for vehicles. This includes the principles of allowing adequate following distances or "safety cushion" around your vehicle and the laws of required stops (signs, signals, railroad crossings, school buses, etc.).

By law, all automobiles must have two separate methods of applying brakes. Commonly, these are the vehicle's regular brakes (foot brake) and a parking or emergency brake (sometimes referred to as a "hand brake"). In this section, we will focus on use of the regular vehicle brakes. For information on use of the parking brake, see the section on backing and parking that begins on page 39.

1. Braking: You will encounter numerous driving situations, such as speed zone changes and merging traffic, that will require proper braking techniques. (1) You should apply your brakes slowly and evenly by applying gradual pressure. (2) Start braking early as a signal to the cars behind you. (3) If you brake too strong or quickly, you could skid and lose control of your vehicle. (4) A sudden stop makes it harder for drivers behind you to stop without hitting your vehicle.

IMPORTANT: As a general rule, if the car starts to skid, take your foot off the brake and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid; This is recommended, if you can do so without running off the road, hitting something, or steering into oncoming traffic.

- With a standard transmission, you can use the gearshift to slow down when approaching a stop sign or signal. First, flash the brake lights to signal any cars behind you. Then, shift down to a lower gear.
- Many of today's cars are equipped with anti-lock braking systems (ABS). However, few drivers know how to use them properly. Read the instructions in your vehicle's owner manual to learn the safe and proper operation of ABS.

A general overview of ABS braking procedures includes:

- When slowing or stopping, apply firm, steady pressure to the brake pedal. Never pump the pedal with ABS.
- If you are braking to avoid an emergency or crash, gradually steer the car around any obstacles. ABS was designed to prevent vehicles from locking wheels and to allow drivers to steer when skidding.
- Release pressure on the brake pedal but do not release the steady pressure off the brake pedal until you have slowed to the desire speed or stopped. Otherwise, you will disengage the ABS.
- Resume driving normally.

Regardless of the type of brake system you have, always be prepared to brake unexpectedly. There are some instances when drivers should be especially alert, including:

- When driving next to parked cars;
- When approaching any type of intersection;
- When approaching traffic signals and crosswalks;
- When driving in a school zone or residential area;
- When seeing brake lights of other cars;
- When driving in heavy, slow moving traffic.

Drivers should know the difference between "covering the brake" and "riding the brake." In situations listed above, "covering the brake" means the driver's foot needs to hover over the brake or between the brake and gas pedals for quicker response time. "Riding the brake" is keeping your foot resting or slightly pressed down on the brake. This adds much wear and tear on the vehicle's brake system, and also gives other drivers the false impression that a stop is imminent. **Covering the brake** is often smart and a safe driving practice; **Riding the brake** is **NOT** a safe practice.

2. Following Distances: Obey speed limit laws and know the proper braking procedures that must be used for maintaining safe following distance between your car and other vehicles.

Tennessee law states: "The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway."

When another driver makes a mistake, you need time to react. Give yourself this time by keeping a "space cushion" around your vehicle. This space cushion will give you room to brake and avoid hazards when needed. Good drivers keep this safe following distance or space cushion to have a better view of the road. The more space you allow between your car and the car ahead, the more time you will have to see and react to traffic hazards or crashes down the road.

Many drivers don't see as well as they should because they follow too closely (tailgating). The vehicle ahead of them blocks their view of traffic and road conditions. Rear-end crashes are very common and most of these crashes are caused by drivers who are "tailgating."

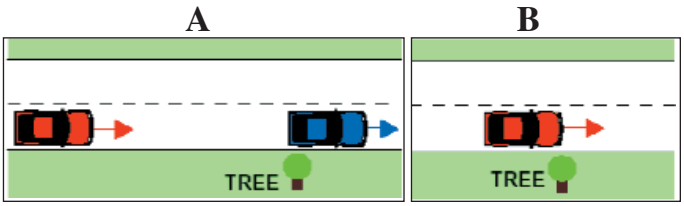
The Two-Second Rule

To share the road safely, stay a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. Nationally, safety agencies and driver education programs have tried to define a safe following distance for drivers to maintain. This has ranged from a two to four second following distance. Use the following tips to determine if you are following too closely:

A. As the car ahead of you passes a stationary point on the road (a sign post, driveway, utility pole, etc.), count the seconds it takes you to reach the same spot. (In the illustration below, you are driving the red vehicle.)

B. Count to yourself "one-thousand and one, one-thousand and two," etc. You should NOT reach the same point on the road before you finish counting to at least "one-thousand-two." If you do, you are following too closely.

C. Slow down slightly to increase the space between you and the other vehicle. Find another spot to check your new following distance. Repeat this exercise until you are following no closer than two seconds.



This principle will hold true at any speed on state and U.S. highways with moderate speed limits. However, during inclement weather, interstate highway driving at higher speeds and night driving, the two-second rule should be increased to allow for improved visibility. A minimum of four seconds should allow for better reaction time and a safer space cushion under these conditions.

3. Stopping Distances: Be alert and know when you will have to stop well ahead of time. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and usually indicates that a driver was not paying attention, was speeding or was not allowing a safe following distance. Try to avoid panic stops by seeing events well in advance. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, it can be a more gradual and safer stop. As a rule, it is best to never stop on the road, unless necessary for safety or to obey a law (stop sign, etc.).
There are three steps in stopping a vehicle:

- **Perception time:** The length of time it takes a driver to see and recognize a dangerous situation.
- **Reaction time:** The time from perception of danger to the start of braking. The average is 2/3 of a second, as noted in blue section of charts on the next page.

- **Braking time:** This depends on the type and condition of vehicle brakes, as well as vehicle speed.

PERCEPTION, REACTION AND BRAKING TIME		
Step	**Time**	**Explanation**
Perception	About .50 second	See/hear danger
Reaction	About .66 second	Brain tells foot to brake
Braking/ Stopping	Varies by speed	Foot presses brake pedal until car stops

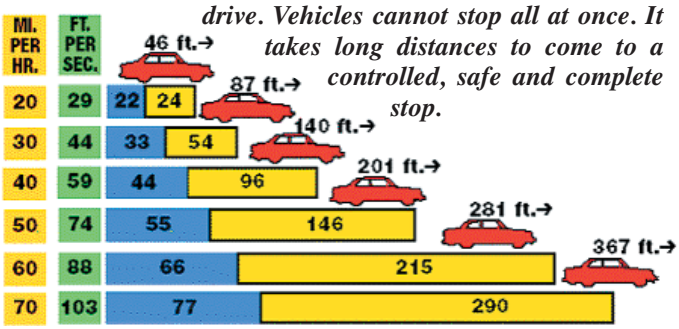
Stopping distance can vary widely due to many factors:

- Type and condition of the road/pavement;
- Type and condition of vehicle tires;
- Vehicle design and condition of the shock absorbers;
- Vehicle weight when loaded or towing.

It takes longer to stop than most people realize. Suppose you're driving on the interstate at night at the maximum limit of 70 m.p.h. A deer suddenly appears in your headlights. Will you be able to stop in time?

It will take 1.16 seconds for you to see the deer and move your foot to the brake. Before you even start to brake, you will have traveled 128 feet. If you're on a good road in good weather, the braking distance at 70 m.p.h. will be 290 feet. Your total stopping distance has now reached 418 feet, nearly the length of one-and-a-half football fields!

You need to know how long it takes to stop any vehicle you drive. Vehicles cannot stop all at once. It takes long distances to come to a controlled, safe and complete stop.



The chart above shows "average" stopping distances (based on tests made by the Federal Highway Administration) for vehicles under ideal conditions. **Note:** This chart does not include the distance you will travel in the 1/2 second of time required for perception of the hazard. According to the National Safety Council, a lightweight passenger car traveling at 50 m.p.h. can stop in about 200 feet. The distance required to stop your vehicle is important in helping you choose a safe driving speed. These charts can be used as a rough guide, but your actual stopping distance will depend upon many factors specific to the situation you encounter.

Stops Required By Law

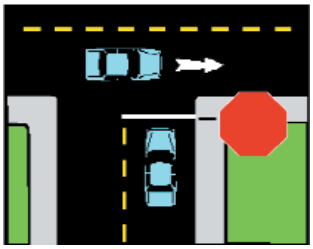
Tennessee law states: Every driver approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the nearest side of a crosswalk, or stop at a clearly marked stop line. If neither is present, then (1) stop at a point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway, and (2) stop before entering the actual intersection.

Tennessee Code defines "stop" as "complete cessation of movement."

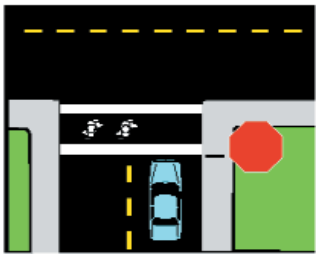
You are responsible for knowing the proper stopping procedures required by this law. At stop signs and right-turn-on-red intersections, come to a **COMPLETE** stop (not a rolling stop) and go only when traffic is clear. Approaching traffic should not have to slow down or change lanes for your vehicle.

You should:

- Come to a full and complete stop at the stop sign or traffic signal. Often, a wide white stop line will be painted on the pavement in line with the sign. You must stop your vehicle behind this line.
- If no pavement markings are present, stop when the front of your vehicle is even with the stop sign's placement on the roadside.
- If you cannot see whether the intersection is clear of crossing traffic, edge up slowly until traffic is clearly visible from both directions.
- If the intersection where the stop sign/traffic signal is placed has a crosswalk for pedestrians marked on the pavement, you must stop before the front of your vehicle reaches the nearest white line marking the border of the crosswalk.



- If there are pedestrians in the crosswalk or about to enter the crosswalk, you must wait for them to cross before proceeding.
- Once the crosswalk is clear, you may slowly edge forward to check traffic before crossing the intersection or entering the roadway.



- When stopping behind another vehicle already stopped at the intersection, make sure you allow adequate "gap" space between the vehicles so you are not "tailgating."

A basic rule of thumb is that you should be able to see the license plate and/or the other vehicle's back tire where it meets the pavement. This "gap" provides a safety zone in the event that the other vehicle rolls back slightly or stalls. If the vehicle stalls, you would still be able to maneuver around it safely. The gap provides a way out in the event of an emergency, such as another vehicle approaching from behind so fast that you may need to move to avoid a rear-end collision.

- Once the vehicle in front of you has moved on through the intersection, you may move forward to the stop line. Remember, you still must bring your vehicle to a FULL STOP at the stop line.
- A complete stop is required at a flashing red traffic light, just as with a stop sign.
- After you have stopped, if there is no traffic from the right or left, you may proceed. When there is traffic on the crossroad (right to left) and/or oncoming traffic (heading toward you) from the other side of the intersection, you must follow the right-of-way procedures. (Right-of-Way rules are discussed in depth later in this chapter.)
- You must stop completely when directed to stop by a flag person at a road construction site or by a police officer directing you to stop in any situation.

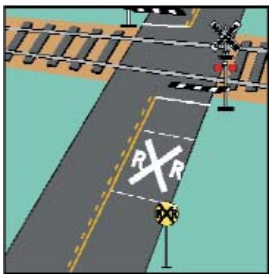
Rolling Stops:
Rolling stops are dangerous and illegal. A rolling stop occurs when the driver only slows down for a stop sign or traffic signal and proceeds through the intersection or turn without bringing the vehicle to a full and complete stop. **A complete stop is required by law.** Most law enforcement officers and driver education instructors agree that a vehicle has not come to a complete stop until the driver feels the car lurch forward after all motion has ceased. **Rolling stops are grounds for receiving a traffic ticket AND for failing the driver examination road test.**

The following are reasons to avoid rolling stops:

- A driver may not see a child or other pedestrian who may think the car will follow the law and come to a complete stop.
- There is a better chance of seeing possible hazards, because the driver who comes to a full stop has a longer observation period at the intersection.
- If two drivers are traveling at right angles to one another, and both fail to stop, a collision is almost a certainty.
- Police and insurance companies will hold the driver who fails to stop completely liable in the event of a crash, possibly resulting in fines, loss of license, increased insurance rates or loss of insurance coverage.

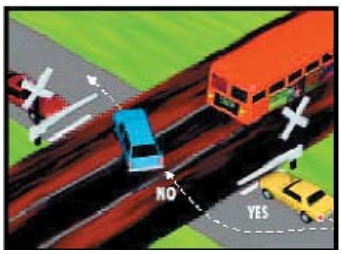
Stopping for Railroad Crossings

Railroad crossings have pavement markings that include a large crossbuck ("X"), the letters "RR", a no-passing zone stripe and a stop line. Railroad crossing collisions should not happen. When they do, it usually means drivers are not paying attention to signs, pavement markings and other warnings that tell when a train is coming.



Stop—Look—Listen—
Look Again!

Every motor vehicle should be driven at a rate of speed that will permit the vehicle to be stopped before reaching the nearest rail of a railroad crossing. The vehicle should not be driven over the crossing until all railroad tracks are completely clear of train traffic. Violations of railroad signals or signs carry the same penalties as violations of other traffic control devices.



When you approach a railroad crossing and a train is coming, you must stop between 15 and 50 feet from the railroad tracks. Wait until the train has passed and it is safe to cross before proceeding across the tracks.

The following are indications that a train is approaching an intersection:

- The crossing has a crossbuck sign with flashing lights to warn drivers when a train is approaching.
- The crossing has a crossing gate that is lowered, blocking access to the railroad tracks when a train is approaching.
- A human flagger signals drivers that a train is approaching.
- Trains are required to signal a horn when they are approximately 1,500 feet from passing through a railroad crossing.
- An approaching train is visible to the driver.

Never drive across a railroad crossing when any of the above indications of an approaching train are present. Trains move very quickly. Trying to "beat" a train is extremely dangerous for the vehicle driver, as well as people on the train.

Tennessee law requires certain vehicles to stop at all railroad grade/highway crossings, whether or not any signs or signals are activated when the vehicle approaches the crossing. As a driver, you must be aware of this requirement so you will be prepared to meet or follow these vehicles when they have stopped at the crossing.

The vehicles listed below are required by law to stop before crossing ANY railroad grade crossing:

- Church or school buses, regardless of whether such buses are carrying any passengers at the time of crossing;
- Common carriers, such as taxis or other vehicles transporting passengers for hire;
- Vehicles transporting flammables, explosives or other dangerous articles as cargo or part of a cargo.

Buses at a railroad crossing will pull to the right. The side movement of the vehicle, along with its stoplights, is a very clear signal, day or night, that the vehicle is preparing to stop. You must be alert to this type of movement by buses. Tanker trucks and other vehicles, required to stop at all railroad tracks, will usually signal such a stop by displaying emergency flashers of the vehicle to alert other drivers to the impending stop.

The School Bus Stop Law

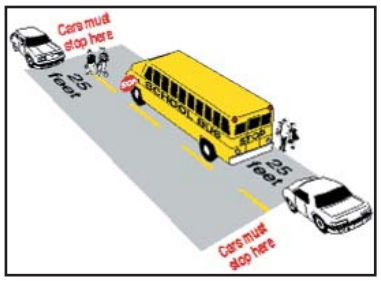
Meeting A School Bus:

Any driver meeting a school bus or church bus on which the red stop warning signal lights are flashing should reduce his speed and bring the vehicle to a complete stop while the bus stop signal arm is extended. The vehicle must remain stopped until the stop arm is pulled back and the bus resumes motion.

Overtaking A School Bus:

Any driver approaching a school bus or church bus from the rear shall not pass the bus when red stop warning signal lights are flashing. The vehicle must come to a complete stop when the bus is stopped. The vehicle must remain stopped until the stop arm is pulled back and the bus resumes motion.

School Bus Warning Lights:



It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload students. Never pass on the right side of the bus, as this is where the children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results. You must stop and remain stopped until:

- The bus has started moving, OR
- The driver motions for you to proceed, OR
- The red flashing lights go off and/or the stop arm is pulled back.

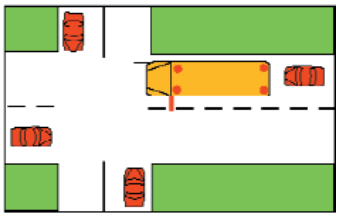
YELLOW FLASHING:

When the yellow lights on the front and back of the bus are flashing the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

RED FLASHING:

When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended this indicates that the bus HAS stopped and that children are now getting on or off the bus. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.

When a school bus is stopped at an intersection to load and unload children, drivers from ALL directions are required to stop until the bus resumes motion (as shown by the red vehicles in the diagram at left). A driver can be fined between $250 and $1,000 for not stopping for a stopped school bus.



When driving on a highway with separate roadways for traffic in opposite directions, divided by median space or a barrier not suitable for vehicular traffic, the driver need not stop, but should proceed with caution. A turn lane in the middle of a four-lane highway is NOT considered a barrier, but a fifth lane that is suitable for vehicular traffic. Drivers meeting a stopped school bus on this type of road would be required to stop in both directions.

Stopping For Police Vehicles

Police vehicles attempting to stop drivers will do so by means of a visual, flashing blue or flashing blue and red lights, and/or an audible signal. Remember, a police officer never knows what to expect when stopping a driver. Do not let your emotions or sudden unexplained movements (or those of your passengers) raise tensions or anxiety in the situation.

A police officer may be more likely to listen to what you have to say and less likely to feel threatened by you (or your passengers) if you follow these guidelines:

- Drive as closely as is safely practical to the right-hand edge or curb of the road, clear of any intersection, stop and park.
- Limit the movements of the driver and/or passengers while stopping your vehicle.
- Drivers should keep their hands on the steering wheel and passengers should keep their hands in plain view. **Drivers should advise officers if they have a handgun permit and if they are armed.**
- Provide your driver license and/or vehicle registration when requested.
- Keep all vehicle doors closed and remain in the vehicle unless asked to get out.
- If the stop is made after dark, turn on the vehicle's interior light before the officer approaches
- If enforcement action is taken against you that you disagree with, do not argue with the officer at the scene. Traffic violations and traffic crimes charged against you are decided in court.
- If you find yourself being directed to pull over and stop by someone in an UNMARKED police car, you may drive slowly a short distance to the nearest area where there are other people, such as the next business parking lot or the next exit, if on the interstate. This may be important if traveling at night and/or alone.

Intersections

Now that you have studied the effects of speed, following distances, stopping distances and legally required stops, it is time to look at the complex issue of intersections. This includes rules for the right-of-way, pedestrians, right turns, left turns and turn signals. Intersections are places where traffic merges or crosses. They include:

- Cross streets,
- Side streets,
- Driveways,
- Shopping center or parking lot entrances.

More crashes happen at intersections than at any other place. Intersections constitute a very small part of rural and urban street/highway systems, yet they are implicated in 31.9 percent of all motor vehicle crashes and 15.5 percent of all fatal crashes *(2004 NHTSA data)*. Be very careful when approaching any intersection or driveway. Never assume another driver will yield the right-of-way to you. **Always be prepared to stop.**

Approaching Intersections Safely

"Traffic checks" is the process of looking frequently and carefully for vehicle traffic approaching from each direction. "Traffic checks" is especially important when merging or changing lanes **AND** when approaching and crossing intersections. Below are five things to remember to navigate an intersection safely:

Look: Look both ways as you near an intersection. Before you enter an intersection, continue checking traffic from both the left and right for approaching vehicles and/or crossing pedestrians.

1. **The Left-Right-Left Rule:** Look first to the left to make sure cross traffic is yielding the right-of-way. Then look for traffic from the right. If stopped, look both left and right just before you start moving. Look across the intersection before you start to move to make sure the path is clear through the intersection.

   A. As you enter an intersection, check again for unusual or unexpected actions to the left and right.
   B. It is also important to watch for vehicle traffic from the front (oncoming traffic) and rear (approaching/overtaking traffic) of your vehicle at intersections. Be especially aware of vehicles behind you. If the light changes and/or you encounter a vehicle violating the right-of-way that causes you to stop suddenly, will the vehicle behind be able to stop? It is not uncommon for drivers to run red lights or stop signs resulting in a head-on or rear-end collision.

2. **Control Speed:** Be prepared to brake or stop unexpectedly at intersections if the above traffic checks alert you to a possible hazard. You should slow down **before** reaching the intersection, drive at your slowest speed just before entering the intersection and gradually increase your speed as you cross the intersection.

3. **Use Proper Lane:** You should be in the proper lane for the direction you intend to travel before you reach the intersection. Do **NOT** make last minute lane changes as you start through an intersection. Do **NOT** pass a vehicle in an intersection.

4. **Know and obey:**
   - The proper right-of-way procedures for vehicles and pedestrians at intersections;
   - The purpose and meaning of pavement markings;
   - The purpose and meaning of traffic signals, including stop or yield signs posted at intersections;
   - The proper lane usage and speed at intersections;
   - The proper use of your vehicle's turn signals.

5. **Do Not Block:** Do not move into an intersection and block it after the traffic lights have changed. This is not only common sense, but it's also illegal to block an intersection after the light has changed. Some intersections have signs posted nearby (often hanging next to the traffic light) advising "Do Not Block Intersection." It is always illegal to block an intersection, whether it is marked or not.

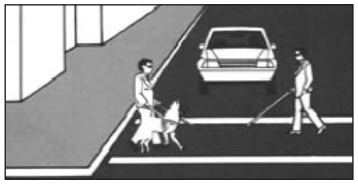
Right-of-Way Procedures

Vehicles or pedestrians are likely to meet one another where there are no signs or lights to control traffic. There are rules on who must yield the right-of-way. These rules tell who goes first and who must wait in different traffic situations.

However, if another driver does not follow these rules, give him the right-of-way. In all driving situations, think of the right-of-way as something to be given, not taken. All drivers should know and understand the rules which determine the right-of-way.

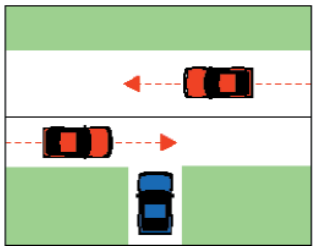
You Must Not Insist On the Right-of-Way: The law does not really give anyone the right-of-way. It only says who must yield the right-of-way. A driver must do everything possible to avoid a traffic crash. Rules for the most common situations drivers encounter include:

1. **Yield to pedestrians crossing the road or your path of travel:**
   - When pedestrians are in a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) and there are no traffic lights or police at the intersection;
   - When your car is turning a corner and pedestrians are crossing with the light;
   - When your vehicle crosses a sidewalk while entering or exiting a driveway, alley or parking lot. It is illegal to drive on a sidewalk except to cross it;
   - When a blind pedestrian using a guide dog or carrying a white cane with red tip is crossing any portion of the road way, even if not at an intersection or crosswalk. Do not use your horn, as it could startle the blind pedestrian. If you see anyone in the roadway with a dog guide or a white cane, stop at least 10 feet away until the person is off the roadway;



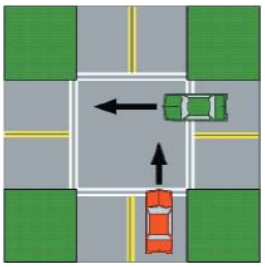
   - Persons operating motorized wheelchairs on a sidewalk or roadway are also granted the same right-of-way as pedestrians;
   - You must yield to children playing in the streets. In crowded downtown areas and in suburban residential neighborhoods, children play in the streets because there may not be parks or playgrounds nearby. Even though they have been told not to run into the street, children won't always put safety ahead of a runaway puppy or a bouncing ball. Children on bicycles can easily forget to slow down before entering an intersection or to signal and look behind before they turn. You are responsible for driving with extreme caution when children are present. **Slow down near schools, playgrounds, and residential areas.**

2. **Yield to Oncoming Traffic:** When meeting other traffic at intersections, or when entering the roadway, make sure the other driver sees you. Make eye contact whenever possible. Drive cautiously and defensively. Be a friendly driver. Remember, the right-of-way is something to be given, not taken.
   - When starting from a parked position, wait for all moving traffic to pass.
   - When turning left, you must wait for oncoming traffic going straight ahead or turning right.
   - When entering a main road from a driveway, alley, parking lot or roadside, you must yield to all vehicles already on the main road. *(The blue car in the graphic below must yield the right-of-way.)*
   - When entering a roundabout, traffic circle or rotary (also known as "town squares"), you must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.



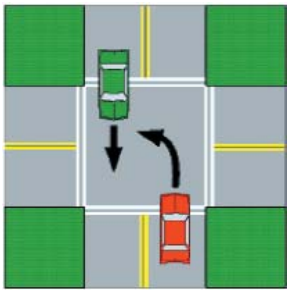
   - When approaching a MERGE onto a busy highway or interstate, you must increase or decrease speed as needed to avoid an accident and yield the right-of-way, if necessary, to the oncoming traffic.
   - When approaching a fire station, you should yield to any emergency vehicle that is about to back into, or is already in the process of backing into, the driveway entrance to the station.

3. **Yielding at Intersections:** The right-of-way should be determined by each driver before entering an intersection. If you have the right-of-way and another driver yields it to you, proceed immediately. However, YOU must yield the right-of-way:
   - When oncoming vehicles (including bicycles) are proceeding straight or making a right turn;
   - At intersections where YIELD signs are posted, the driver must slow down or stop to avoid a crash with oncoming traffic;
   - To any vehicles already in the intersection, even if you have the green traffic light; *(The red vehicle in the graphic at right must yield to the green vehicle.)*
   - At "T" intersections where one road dead-ends into another main crossing roadway, the vehicles on the road ending must yield to oncoming traffic from both directions on the main road;
   - When turning left at intersections, you must yield to any oncoming vehicle proceeding straight or turning right, unless you have a traffic light where



your left turn is on a protected green arrow; *(The red vehicle shown below must yield.)*

- At intersections marked as FOUR-WAY or ALL-WAY stops, the vehicle reaching the intersection first gets to go first (of course, ALL vehicles must stop). If more than one vehicle arrives at the same time, yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right;
- Where roads cross and there are no stop signs or signals, yield to any vehicle coming at the same time on your right;
- Do not enter an intersection unless you can get through it without having to stop. You should wait until traffic in front of you clears so that you are not blocking the intersection. If your vehicle is left blocking an intersection (with or without a traffic signal), it prevents other traffic from proceeding and you could be ticketed.



4. Yield to Emergency Vehicles and Transit Buses

- You must yield the right-of-way to a police vehicle, fire engine, ambulance or other emergency vehicle using a siren, air horn or a red or blue flashing light.
- It is against the law for an unauthorized private vehicle to have a blue flashing emergency light or combination of blue and red flashing emergency lights installed, maintained or visibly shown on the vehicle in any manner.

Following Fire or Other Emergency Vehicles:

It is against the law to follow a fire truck or other emergency vehicle responding to a fire alarm or other emergency. It is also illegal to take your vehicle within the block of where the emergency vehicle has stopped to take care of the emergency. If your car passes an emergency site, do not drive over any unprotected fire department hose unless the fire department official in command says it is okay.

Tennessee law requires that when an emergency vehicle is approaching, all traffic meeting or being overtaken must yield the right-of-way and immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to the right hand edge or curb of the roadway stop. You must remain in that stopped position until the emergency vehicle has passed or until you are directed to move by a police officer. You must still proceed with caution; there may be other emergency vehicles coming.

There are a few other important details about sharing the road with emergency vehicles:

- If you are in an intersection, drive on through the intersection before pulling over, or you may block the emergency vehicle's path through the intersection.
- Do not pull over to the right if it will block a side road or driveway. The emergency vehicle may need to turn into that road or driveway to get to the incident scene.
- If the traffic light is red, stay where you are. If the light turns green before the emergency vehicle has passed, do NOT proceed on green. Wait until the emergency vehicle has passed or turned onto a different street.
- When yielding to emergency vehicles, get in the habit of turning down the volume on the radio (if on) so you can hear any instructions or directions given out over the emergency vehicle's loudspeaker. Your immediate reaction to such directions may be critically needed.

You must yield the right-of-way to any transit vehicle (metro bus) that has signaled and is pulling back onto the roadway from a bus stop. Generally, this occurs on urban roadways in areas marked by "bus stop" signs or benches. Occasionally, you may encounter cross-country commercial buses signaling to re-enter traffic after allowing passengers to disembark on rural roadways in smaller communities and towns.

A. You are not required to stop for, nor forbidden to pass, transit buses when they are stopped for passenger pick-up or drop-off as you would be for a school bus in the same situation. (See "The School Bus Stop Law" section of this manual for complete details.)

B. Be extremely cautious near stopped buses and be watchful for passengers (including elderly individuals and children) attempting to cross the road in these areas.

5. Slowing and Yielding to Stationary Vehicles on the Roadside:

Tennessee's Move Over Law requires that when approaching any stationary vehicles, you must make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the vehicle, or proceed with caution by reducing the speed of the vehicle and maintaining a safe speed for the current road conditions. This requirement applies only on multi-lane roadways where there are two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction and the stationary vehicles are along the roadside in the direction of the driver's travel.

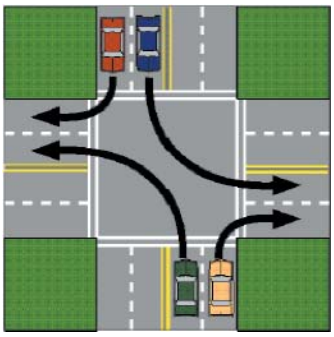
Examples of stationary vehicles you are likely to see are:

- Authorized emergency vehicles (police, fire, ambulance or rescue);
- Highway maintenance vehicles (state, county, city or vendor vehicles used for road repair, maintenance or construction);
- Recovery vehicles (tow truck or wrecker).

Turning

The most common faults when making turns are (A) failing to signal, (B) not signaling long enough, (C) failing to search for hazards, (D) turning from the wrong lane and (E) failing to turn properly. Rules for turning apply at all locations, even driveways and alleys, not just at intersections.

The first rule of turning is to turn from the closest lane in the direction you are traveling to the closest legal lane in the direction you want to go. The law says which lanes and positions you must use when turning, and the required signaling distances for such turns. This section expands on those rules and helps you learn proper procedures for signaling and making safe turns.



1. Signaling a Turn:
Before making any turn, whether the turn is into another roadway, a parking lot, another traffic lane, or leaving a parked position, it is extremely important that you signal. Unless you signal, other drivers expect you to keep traveling the path of the roadway, using the lane in which your vehicle is positioned. Your signal lets other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians know your intentions to make a change in your vehicle's path of travel and gives them time to react. However, signaling does NOT give you the right-of-way.

You should always use turn signals before:

- Changing lanes or making any movement of your vehicle to the right or left;
- Turning at an intersection or into a driveway, alley or parking lot;
- Entering or exiting the interstate or other controlled access roadway;
- Pulling away from a parked position along the curb;
- Pulling over to the curb or roadside;
- Slowing down or stop your vehicle suddenly.

You may use either your vehicle turn signal lights or hand and arm signals. Make sure your signals can be easily seen by others. The illustration below shows the standard positions for hand and arm signals. Extend your hand and arm well out of the car window and signal in plenty of time.

Hand Signal Tips:

- When you use hand signals, bring your arm in during the actual turn to keep control of the steering wheel.
- During non-daylight hours, hand and arm signals are usually not visible except in well lit areas.
- Hand signals should be used when the sun is shining brightly. This makes your turn signal light harder for other drivers to see easily.
- In heavy traffic, a hand signal may be seen by drivers who are several cars back with an obscured view of your turn signal light.

A. Electrical Turn Signal Tips:

- Check your vehicle's turn signals often to be sure they are working properly.
- Be sure that your turn signal lights (front and rear) are clean and free from dust, dirt, ice or snow.
- When signaling a stop, lightly pump your brakes a few times to attract attention with your brake lights.
- Be sure to turn off your turn signal light after using it. An unintended signal still means "turn" to the other drivers. By leaving it on, you might tempt other drivers to pull out in front of you.

Your signal helps other drivers plan ahead. You should not assume that all drivers will respond to your signaled intentions. Also, be aware that some drivers will not signal their intentions. Therefore, maintain control of your vehicle at all times and "drive defensively." A surprise move often results in accidents. As a good driver, you should be alert and emphasize your intentions to turn by giving the proper signal or signals.

- At least 50 feet before the turn, you must turn on your turn signal lights.

- Use your turn signals ONLY to indicate when YOU plan to turn or change lanes.
- If you are parked at a curb or roadside and about to re-enter traffic, use a signal long enough to alert oncoming traffic that you are moving from the parked position back into the traffic lane.
- If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, do not signal until you are in the intersection. If you signal earlier, another driver may think you intend to turn at the intersection and might pull into your path.
- Get in the habit of signaling every time you change direction. Signal even if you do not see anyone else around. It is the car you do not see that is the most dangerous.
- When you slow down, your brake lights flash as a signal. Slowing down, itself, acts as a signal.

B. You should NOT use your signals:

- To signal a driver behind you to come around to pass your vehicle.
- To relay the turn intentions of vehicles ahead of you to those drivers behind your vehicle.

This is misleading to other drivers. Your brake lights will be sufficient to warn those behind you to slow down. If you see someone ahead signaling they are about to turn, do NOT turn on your turn signals unless you also plan to turn.

C. Making Turns: Before making a turn, be sure you can do so safely. Check traffic ahead, behind and to the side.

Proper signaling is a key to safe driving. Failure to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate. Communication while driving is a must. Safe drivers are always aware of surrounding conditions and readily communicate their intentions to other drivers by using signals whenever appropriate.

Become familiar with the following Do's and Don'ts:

DO:

- Use your turn signal at least 50 feet before the turn or lane change.
- Make thorough traffic checks, looking behind and on both sides to see where other vehicles are so you can change lanes and make the turn safely.
- Move into the correct turn lane as soon as possible. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should move into the proper lane. Go from one lane to the other as directly as possible without crossing lane lines or interfering with the traffic.
- Select the proper gear before entering the intersection, and accelerate slightly through the turn.
- As you turn, make sure to check for pedestrians, cyclists and other traffic. Make the turn correctly, staying in the proper lane and maintaining a safe speed.
- Finish the turn in the proper lane. Once you have completed the turn, change to another lane if you need to, and if traffic is clear.

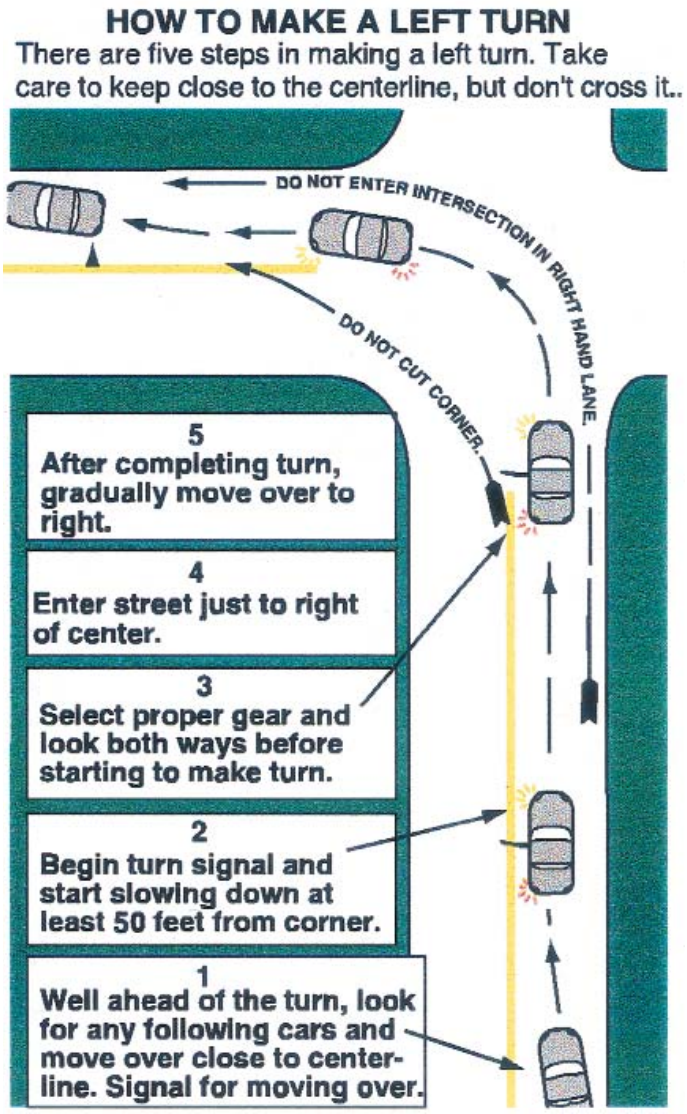
DON'T:

- Don't turn unless the turn is permitted and can be made safely. Be aware of signs prohibiting right or left turns at certain locations.
- Don't try to turn from the wrong lane. If you aren't in the proper lane, drive to the next intersection and make the turn from the proper lane there. Circle back if necessary. This may take some extra time and miles, but it is the safe thing to do.
- Don't "swing wide" or "cut the corner" when making turns. Don't turn too short so as to cut corners on left turns or run over the curb on right turns. Turning too wide or too late, straddling lanes, or turning into the wrong side of the street will leave you in the wrong lane. Always follow the white lines in intersections using multiple turn lanes.
- Don't turn your wheels in the direction of the turn while waiting for oncoming traffic to pass. If you are hit from the rear while your wheels are turned, the impact can push you into oncoming traffic. Keep your vehicles wheels straight until you begin the turn. Wait until you are sure you can complete the turn before turning the wheels.
- Don't enter the intersection if traffic ahead may keep you from completing the turn before the traffic light changes. Stay behind the stop line or crosswalk until you can fully complete the turn without the risk of blocking the traffic flow.
- Don't brake or depress the clutch while actually turning.
- Don't shift gears in the intersection (If you stall you could cause an accident and/or block the intersection to other traffic).

2. Left Turns: When you meet another driver at an intersection and both of you want to turn left, each will turn to the left of the other. Leave from the left lane or as close to the yellow center line as possible and enter in the left lane or as close to the yellow center line as shown in diagram on page 32. Study the diagram that shows the five basic steps in making routine left turns from a two-way street onto another two-way street.

A. From A Two-Way Street Onto a Two-Way Street
Remember these tips:

- Reduce speed and get into the lane just to the right of the center line well ahead of time.
- Prior to turning, signal your intentions for at least 50 feet and approach the turn with the left side of the vehicle as close to the center line as possible. Failure to signal is dangerous, inconsiderate and illegal. Your



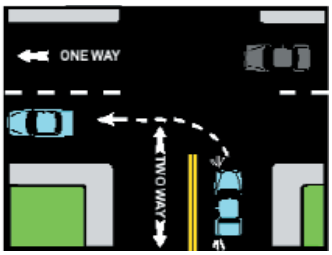
signal makes it possible for other cars to complete a turn.

- Look out of your left window for pedestrians and other traffic in your turn path. Yield to any oncoming cars or pedestrians.
- Begin the turn when you enter the intersection. Keep the wheels straight until you can turn; turn just before the imaginary center point in the intersection. Drive just to the right of the center line of the street you're entering and be sure to turn into the first lane past the center line. This avoids conflict with other traffic making either right or left turns. Never turn "wide" into the right lane. The right lane will be used by any oncoming vehicles turning right.
- If the intersection has a lane signed or marked for making left turns, do not make this turn from any other lane. At some intersections, you may make turns from more than one lane. Signs and pavement markings will tell you if this is allowed. If there are multiple lanes, keep your vehicle in the lane you start from throughout the turn. Be alert for signs that may also PROHIBIT left turns at some intersections.
- Pay close attention to the traffic light cycle. If the light turns yellow while you are waiting for oncoming vehicles to clear the intersection, **DO NOT proceed into the intersection.**

B. From A Two-Way Street Onto A One-Way Street

Keep in mind the following differences when turning on one-way streets:

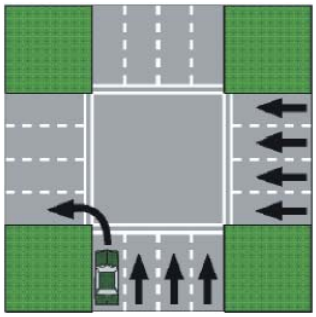
- When making left-hand turns, be alert for "one-way" street signs on traffic lights, posts and stop signs.
- Center lines on two-way streets are yellow.
- Center lines on one-way streets are white.
- In preparing to turn, make the proper "two-way" approach next to the center line.
- Turn sharply into the FIRST lane. Remember, you are turning onto a one-way street, so both lanes will be traveling in the same direction. You should turn into the first lane closest to the left curb.



C. From A One-Way Street Onto A One-Way Street

- Make your approach in the traffic lane furthermost to the left curb of the street.
- Turn sharply into the first lane on the left side of the one-way street. DO NOT TURN WIDE.

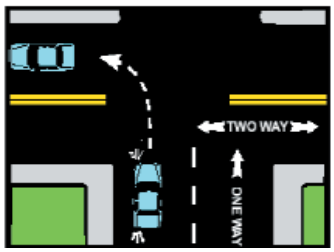
At intersections that are not marked for "No Turns on Red," you may make a left turn on red when turning from a one-way street onto a one-way street. You must come to a complete stop at the light prior to making the turn, the same as right turns on red.



D. From A One-Way Street Onto a Two-Way Street

- Make your approach in the traffic lane furthermost to the left curb of the street.
- Do not start your turn at the crosswalk. Drive into the intersection and then turn sharply into the first lane to the right of the yellow line on the two-way street.
- If the two-way street has multiple lanes, you may move into the right lane ONLY AFTER giving the proper turn signal and checking traffic to your right.
- You CANNOT make this left turn on a red light.

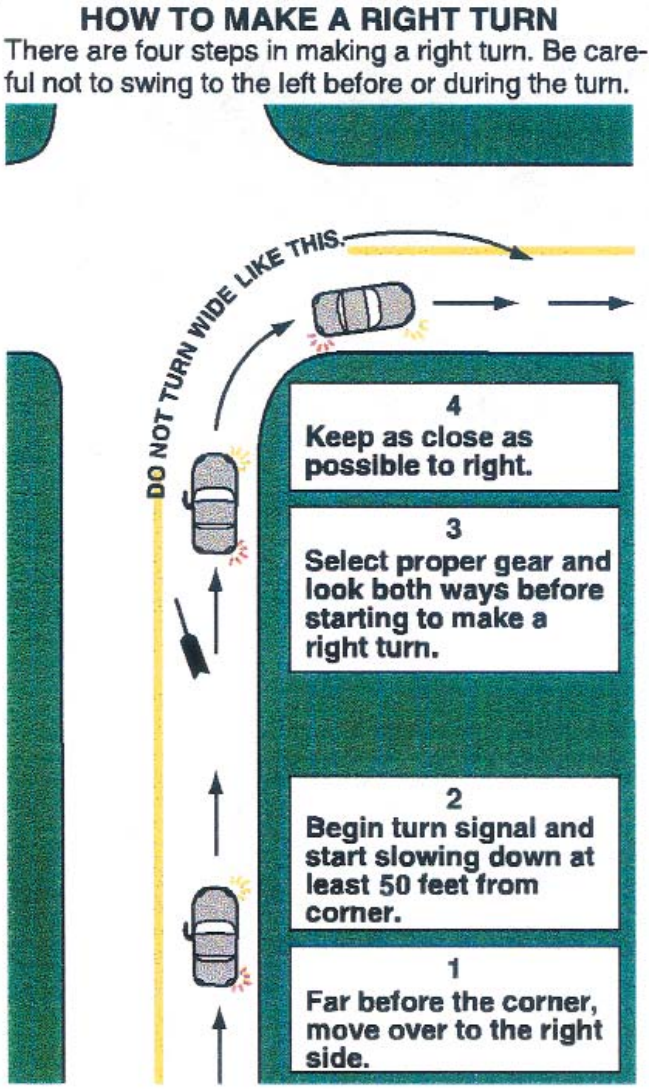
E. Notes on Multiple Turn Lanes



- A vehicle in the second lane can make the same turn as a vehicle in the first lane only when a lane use control sign or marking permits it.
- You will often see white channel lines and arrows on the pavement. These lines help direct you into the correct lane while turning.

3. Right Turns: Making right turns can be just as dangerous as left turns. Study the diagram below that shows the four basic steps in making right turns. Also remember these tips:

- On right turns, avoid moving wide to the left before going into the turn or as you make the turn. If you swing wide, the driver behind you may think you are changing lanes or turning left and may try to pass you on the right. If you swing wide as you complete the turn, drivers who are in the far lane will not expect to see your vehicle in that lane of traffic.
- Well ahead of the turning point, check for traffic behind and beside your vehicle. Get as close as is practical to the right curb or road edge without interfering with pedestrians, bicyclists or parked vehicles.
- Give a signal for a right turn for at least 50 feet.
- Before starting to turn, look to the left and right for cross traffic on the intersecting street and oncoming traffic that may also be turning. Always check for pedestrians and bicyclists before turning. Remember to yield the right-of-way, if necessary.
- Move your vehicle around the corner and into the travel lane closest to the right curb.



A. Turn Warning: Trucks and Buses Turning Right

When driving in city traffic, pay special attention to the turn signals of large trucks and buses. Large trucks and buses MUST make wide turns. Sometimes they must leave an open space to the right just before the turn. To avoid an accident, do not pass a truck on the right if there is a possibility that it might make a right turn.

B. Turns Permitted on Red

Tennessee law allows a right turn on red and left turns on red at certain one-way to one-way intersections, unless otherwise posted.

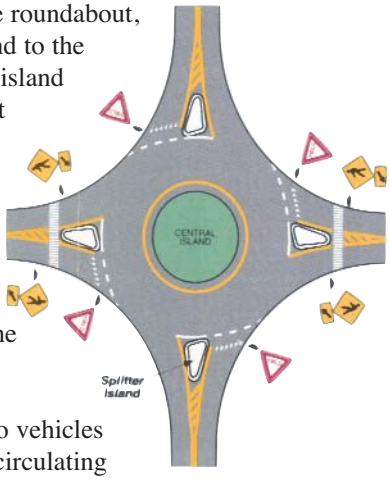
- When making a right turn at a red light, you must first come to a complete stop before reaching the marked or unmarked crosswalk or stop line. Always yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists .
- A left turn at a red light or stop signal is permitted at all intersections where a one-way street intersects with another one-way street and the traffic is moving in the same direction into which the left turn would be made. The same rules for complete stops, yielding, and observing signs prohibiting turns must be followed as you would for a right turn on red.

4. Special Turns: Roundabouts and U-Turns

A. Roundabouts: A roundabout is an intersection control device with traffic circulating around a central island. These traffic circles are usually used to discourage drivers from using neighborhood streets for commuting thoroughfares, to slow speeds and to reduce accidents. Many Tennessee towns have a form of roundabout that is known as the "town square."

- Always travel around a roundabout to the right, in a counter-clockwise direction.

- On approaching the roundabout, stay in your lane and to the right of the splitter island or yellow pavement markings/curbs directing traffic to the right. These islands are used to prevent vehicles from attempting to travel left around the circle.



- Upon reaching the roundabout, yield to vehicles already within the circulating traffic. Observe the standard right-of-way procedures as with regular intersections controlled by yield signs. Enter the roundabout when there is a gap in traffic and once inside do not stop unless directed to do so by signs, signals or a traffic officer.
- Within the roundabout, proceed at a slower speed (usually posted at 15 to 25 m.p.h.). Exit the roundabout at any street or continue around again if you miss the street on which you wanted to turn.
- In a multi-lane roundabout, do not overtake or pass any vehicles. Remember the roundabout is a low speed traffic control device. Be prepared to yield to vehicles turning in front of you from the inside lane to exit the roundabout.
- Exit the roundabout carefully. Always indicate your exit using your right turn signal. Watch for pedestrians in or approaching the crosswalk on the street you are exiting and yield the right-of-way if necessary.

B. U-Turns: A U-turn is a turn within the road, made in one smooth u-shaped motion, so as to end up with your vehicle traveling in the opposite/reverse direction as before the turn. Some towns and cities do not allow U-turns on streets and roadways under their control. Check with local police to be sure.

You may NOT make a U-turn:

- At any intersection where a traffic light or police officer is controlling the traffic flow.
- At any rural or urban location where you cannot see traffic coming from both directions for at least 500 feet in each direction.
- At any location where U-turns are prohibited by official signs or markings.
- Between intersections in a city. The safest thing to do is drive around the block.
- At or near a curve or the crest of a hill when the driver cannot see 500 feet or more in each direction. Improper turns are a major contributor to traffic crashes.
- It is illegal in Tennessee for any driver to make a U-turn on an interstate highway. Emergency crossovers are for the use of emergency vehicles and highway maintenance crews only. It is extremely dangerous and illegal to use them to "turn around" in the event you missed an exit or are in a traffic jam. Drive on to the next exit ramp. Do not cut across the median strip, as this maneuver is also illegal.

Traffic Lanes and Lane Usage

A traffic lane is a part of a roadway wide enough for a car or a single line of vehicles to travel safely. Most lanes on hard-surfaced roads are marked with white or yellow pavement line markings. On dirt or gravel roads, some rural roads, private drives and other roadways (such as parking lot rows and shopping center perimeter roads), the lanes may not be marked, but they are there anyway. When driving on a road without any center line markings, and where vehicles are coming from each direction, drivers must give others going in the opposite direction at least half the road.

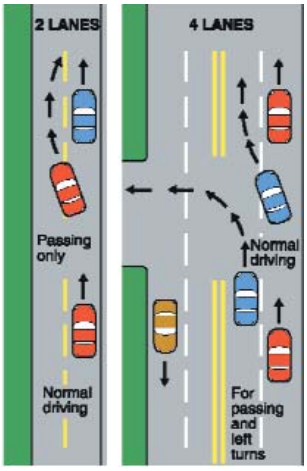
1. Overview of Lane Usage: "White on your right, yellow on your left"

This simple statement sums up the principle of "right hand traffic" under which all traffic must move on American roadways. If you ever find yourself driving with the yellow line on to your right, pull over immediately. You are driving on the wrong side of the road!

Always drive on the right side of a two-lane highway except when passing. If the road has four or more lanes with two-way traffic, drive in the right lanes except when passing other vehicles or turning left.

The center lane of a two-way, three-lane or five-lane highway is used only for turning left.

Drive in the Proper Lane



Keeping Right: Drive on the right of the road **except** when:

- Passing another vehicle going in the same direction as your vehicle;
- Driving to the left of center to pass an obstruction in the road. Whenever possible, always drive around obstructions or crashes to the right side to avoid

the possibility of becoming involved in a head-on collision;

- A road is marked for one way traffic;
- You are turning left.

Two Lanes: Two-lane highways have a single broken yellow center line. You should always drive to the right of the center line, except to safely pass another vehicle.

Four Lanes: A four-lane (or more) highway is divided in half by two solid yellow lines in the center. The two lanes on each side are divided by a dashed white line. Drive in the extreme right lane except when passing another vehicle or making a left turn.

One Way: A one-way highway is generally composed of two or more lanes restricted to moving in one direction. There should not be any vehicles traveling in the opposite direction on these roads.

2. **Divided Highways:** Divided highways have two-way traffic, but the roads for each direction are divided by a median or barrier. Always use the road on the right when driving on a divided highway, such as an interstate, unless directed to do otherwise. Do not drive within, across or over any median strip or barrier separating these roadways. It is only allowed at an authorized crossover or intersection, or when you are officially directed to do so.

On a divided four-lane highway, when using a designated crossover for a left turn (or a U-turn where permitted), treat the crossover/opening the same as a cross street by keeping to the right side of the crossover paved area.

A. If a vehicle is already in the crossover waiting for traffic to clear, remain stopped in the left most lane of the four-lane highway with your turn signal on until the waiting vehicle has cleared the crossover.

B. DO NOT "swing" into the left side of the crossover or "bunch-up" behind the waiting car. This creates a dangerous situation for any vehicle attempting to use the crossover for a left turn coming from the opposite direction.

- It leaves your vehicle with its rear-end partially sticking out in the left traffic lane. In this position, approaching vehicles coming upon your car are less likely to notice your turn signal than if your vehicle was fully stopped in the left lane.
- It places your car on the wrong side of the road in the crossover and could cause a head-on collision with a vehicle attempting to turn left in the crossover from the opposite direction.

Remember, such a crossover is PERMITTED ONLY at paved openings provided on four-lane highways. There are NO crossovers provided for traffic on interstates.

Driving the wrong way on a one-way road or street is very dangerous and illegal. If you see red reflectors facing you on the lane lines, or red "Wrong Way" and "Do Not Enter" signs, you are on the **wrong** side of the road. Turn off of a one-way street or get into the proper lane of a two-way street immediately! If you see red reflectors on the lines on the edge of the road, you are on the wrong interstate or highway ramp. Pull over immediately! Red reflectors always mean you are facing traffic the wrong way and could have a head-on collision.

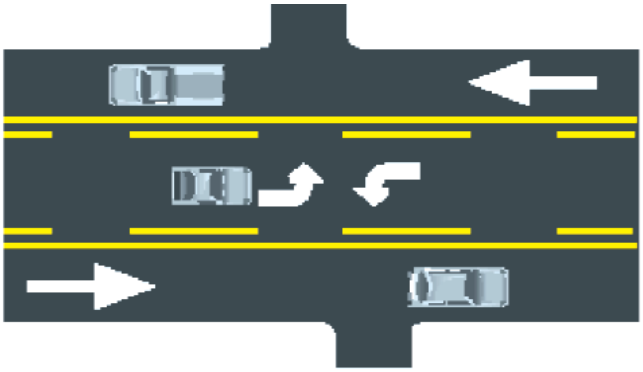
3. **Dual Use Lanes:** These have both a turn arrow and a straight arrow. You can proceed straight or make the indicated turn from these lanes as shown by the pavement markings and/or signs found at the intersection. Unless the intersection has a protected arrow for turning, you must follow the standard right-of-way rules.

4. **Shared Center Turn/Two-Way Left Turn Lane:** These center lanes are reserved for vehicles making left turns in either direction from or into the roadway. These lanes cannot be used for passing and cannot be used for travel further than 300 feet. On the pavement, left turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left turn arrows for traffic coming from the other direction. These lanes are marked on each side by solid yellow and broken yellow lines. Enter the shared lane only when safe to do so.

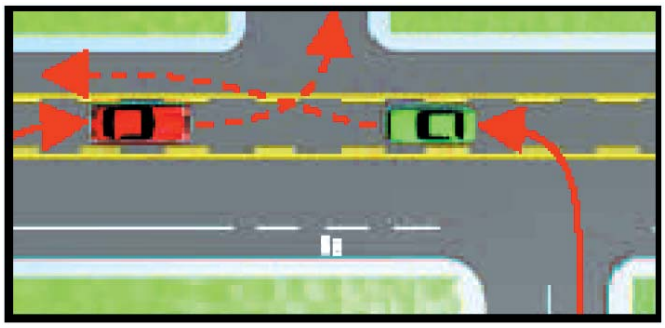
If a special lane has been provided for making left turns, do not make a left turn from any other lane. Enter the shared center turn lane just before you want to make the turn. If you enter too soon, you may interfere with another driver's use of the lane. Wait in the special lane until traffic clears enough to allow you to complete the desired left turn. **Do NOT** travel in the center turn lane to access a left turn lane at an intersection.

You may turn from a side street or driveway into a shared center turn lane, stop, and wait for traffic to clear before merging into traffic in the lane immediately to the right. Make sure the center turn lane is clear in both directions and then turn into the lane when it is safe.

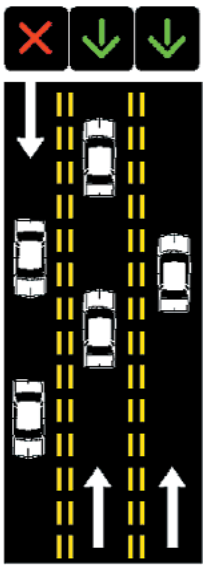
Be sure to give the proper signal while waiting to move into the right lane and also when moving out of the turn lane back into the right lane of traffic.



If another vehicle is already in the turn lane coming from the other direction, you may NOT enter if it will interfere with the other vehicle's intended turn. When vehicles enter the turn lane from opposite directions, the first vehicle to enter the lane has the right-of-way.



5. **Reversible Lanes:** Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are called "reversible lanes" and are usually marked by double-broken yellow lines. Before driving in them, check to see which lanes you can use for the direction of travel at that time. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Special lights are also often used.
   - A green arrow means you can drive in the lane beneath it.
   - A red "X" means you CANNOT drive in the lane below.
   - A flashing yellow "X" means the lane is only for turning.
   - A steady yellow "X" means that the use/direction of the lane is changing and you should move out of it as soon as it is safe to do so.

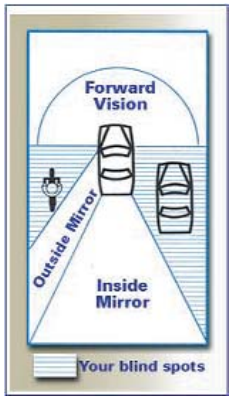


These types of lanes and control devices are usually found in heavily traveled urban areas where there is a high volume of rush hour traffic coming in during the morning and going out during the afternoon.

6. **Reserved Lanes:** On various roadways, one or more lanes may be reserved for special vehicles. Reserved lanes are marked by signs stating that the lane is reserved for special use, and often have a white diamond posted at the side of the road and/or painted on the pavement surface. **Do NOT** travel in one of these lanes unless operating the type of vehicle indicated, or unless you must turn across the reserved lane in the next half block distance.

   - **Transit** or **buses** means the lane is for bus use only.
   - **Bikes** means the lane is reserved for bicycles.
   - **HOV:** High Occupancy Vehicle lanes are reserved for car pools and vehicles with more than one person in them. Signs indicate how many people must be in the vehicle, as well as the days and hours to which the reserved use applies. For example, "HOV 2" means there must be at least two people in the vehicle for you to legally drive in that lane.

7. **Changing Lanes:** Changing lanes on a multi-lane highway or interstate should never be done without thinking and looking. Absent-minded lane changing is extremely dangerous. Common sense, alertness and courtesy are all essential to your safety and the safety of other drivers.



Use the following steps to help you make safe lane changes:
   - Pay attention to clearance space ahead and behind your vehicle.
   - Check your rear view mirrors.
   - Signal your intention to change lanes.
   - Look over your shoulder in the direction you will be moving.
   - Look behind you to both sides again.
   - **Check your blind spots.** As shown above, the driver in front cannot see the motorcycle or other car just by checking his mirrors. He would need to physically turn his head and look over his shoulder in each direction to see those vehicles next to him.
   - Change lanes gradually and carefully.
   - Do not cruise in the blind spots of any vehicles ahead of you.

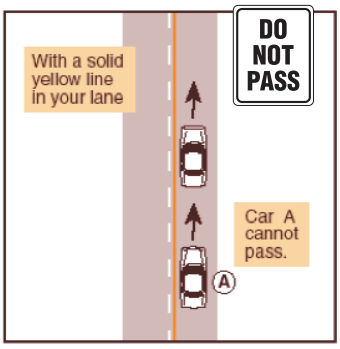
When a driver ahead of you (in your lane or the lane next to you) signals a lane change, slow down and leave space for the change. **Do NOT** speed up or change lanes yourself until the other driver has completed his intended movement. Otherwise, you could interfere with his lane change and contribute to a dangerous situation or crash.

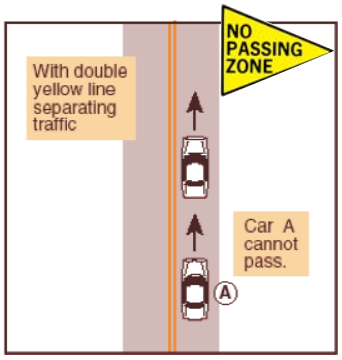
Passing Other Vehicles

Passing another vehicle is a normal part of driving, but it can be very dangerous. Collisions resulting from improper passing are often fatal, since the impact is greater in this type of crash. Before you attempt a pass, be sure you have enough room to complete the maneuver. If you have to cut back to your lane too soon, you risk sideswiping the vehicle you are passing. If you do not cut back to your lane soon enough, you risk a head-on collision.

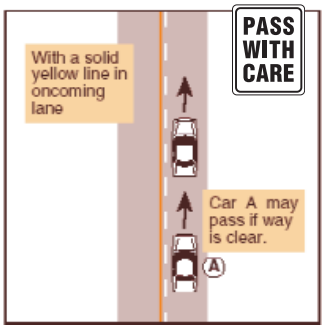
It is equally important to know when NOT to pass, as well as when to pass. The decision of whether or not to pass is influenced by the knowledge, judgment, attitude and behavior of the driver. BE PATIENT. Study and learn the following passing rules well and practice them each time you pass another vehicle.

1. **Passing on the left requires the following safety precautions:**
   Know the speed and acceleration ability of your vehicle, and be able to estimate the speed of the vehicle you are passing, as well as that of any oncoming traffic. As a rule, if you see any sign of an oncoming vehicle, it is too close for you to risk a pass. When in doubt, stay in your lane.

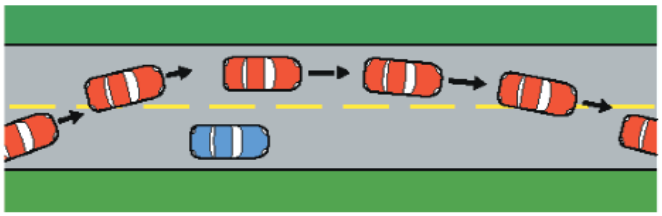




- Stay well behind the vehicle you want to pass to allow yourself a better view of the road ahead. Check well ahead for a NO-PASSING ZONE and on-coming vehicles.
- When overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction on a two-lane road in the USA, you should pass only to the left of the vehicle.
- Signal your intended move to the left and check your rearview and side-view mirrors before changing lanes.
- **Do NOT** swing out across the center line for a look. If you need to do this to see, you are either following too closely or attempting to pass in an area where your sight distance is too limited to pass safely.



- Check your blind spot for any vehicle that may be starting a pass around your vehicle.
- Move to the left (oncoming traffic lane) ONLY when it is safe to do so. Pass on the left at a safe distance and do not return to the right lane until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.
- Complete your pass as soon as possible. When you can see the entire vehicle you passed in your rear view mirror, signal right and return to your lane. Be sure to cancel the signal light so that you are not driving with your right turn signal flashing.



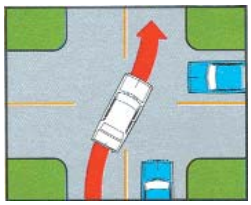
- As a general rule, it is NOT SAFE to pass more than one vehicle at a time, although it is not illegal in Tennessee to pass multiple vehicles. It is recommended that you not even consider passing multiple vehicles unless you:
  A. Are on a straight, level roadway where your vision of oncoming traffic is excellent; AND
  B. Can complete the pass of all vehicles and be safely returned to the right lane before coming within 100 feet of the no passing markings (solid yellow line, signs, etc.) and/or any oncoming vehicles approaching from the opposite direction.
- Take extra precautions during inclement weather and twilight hours. Some oncoming vehicles may not be easily visible at these times, especially if they are not using their headlights, as required.
- Whenever possible, try to avoid passing at night, unless you are familiar with the road. It is more difficult at night to see where the passing zone ends. If you are not familiar with the roadway, a slight hill or curve in the road ahead could prove deadly.

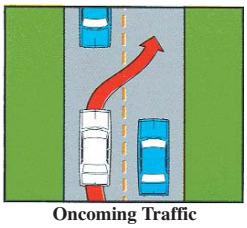
2. **Passing on the Right:** The driver may overtake and pass another vehicle on the right only when the conditions permit passing safely. Passing on the right is never permitted by driving off the pavement of the roadway. The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the

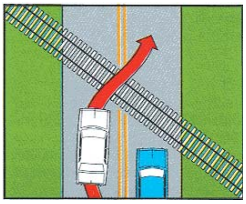
right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

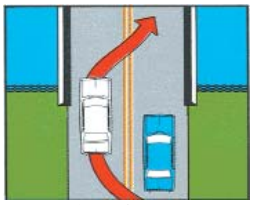
- When the vehicle overtaken has signaled to make or is about to make a left turn. **Never pass on the left of a driver who has signaled a left turn.**
- When the driver is on a street or highway with unobstructed pavement, not occupied by parked vehicles, and such paved roadway is of sufficient width for two or more lanes of moving vehicles in each direction.
- When the driver is on a one-way street or on any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstruction and such road is of sufficient paved width for two or more lanes of moving vehicles. Use extra care when you pass on the right; other drivers do not expect to be passed on the right if they are not traveling on a multi-lane roadway.
- **Do NOT** pass on the right using a bike lane or parking lane at any location, nor in the emergency lane within sight of a traffic light or stop sign. This situation often happens at intersections when vehicles are stopped for a red light.

For example, a vehicle attempts to pass on the right and one of the cars ahead starts to make a right turn when the light changes resulting in a crash. The person passing on the right will be "at fault" because the vehicle turning right was properly traveling within the marked lane of traffic.

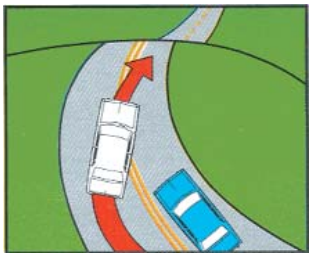

Intersections

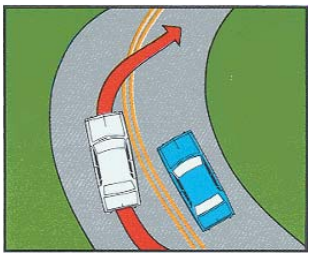

Oncoming Traffic


Railroads


Bridges / Tunnels

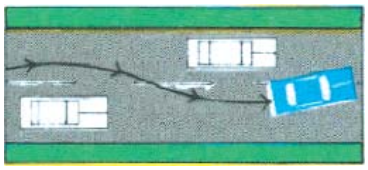
3. **No Passing:** It is not always safe to pass. Make certain the way is clear. Give the proper signal before changing lanes. Tap your horn when necessary to avoid surprising the driver ahead. Avoid cutting in too quickly if you must return to your original lane. Remember, you may NOT cross the center line to pass under the following conditions:
   - Do not pass when there is an oncoming car.
   - Do not pass when approaching any road-way intersection, railroad crossing, narrow bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
   - Do not cross the center line to pass another vehicle whenever the solid yellow line is on your side of the center lane marking.
   - Do not pass unless the pass may be completed without interfering with the safety of the oncoming vehicle and before the solid yellow line reappears in your traffic lane.
   - Do not pass a school bus or church bus when the flashing lights are operating and the stop arm is extended.
   - Do not pass when approaching a hill or curve.
   - Do not pass a car that has stopped for pedestrians in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Passing in this type of situation is a frequent cause of death to pedestrians, especially if the passing vehicle is traveling at a high rate of speed.


Hills


Curves

Safety Tip: When stopping for a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, you should stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you do not block visibility of the crossing pedestrians to drivers in the other lane(s).

- Do not pass on the right shoulder of the highway. Other drivers will not expect you to be there and may pull off the road or turn right without looking.
- The end of a "no-passing zone" does not mean it is safe to pass. It means there is increased visibility ahead. It is still up to YOU to determine if it is safe to pass after considering all the conditions mentioned above.
- The solid yellow line marked on the pavement in a "no-passing zone" indicates that you may NOT cross the center line to pass. You are allowed to turn across the center line if you are making a left turn into or coming out of an alley, intersection, private road or driveway while in the "no-passing zone".
- Do not "weave" in and out of traffic by repeatedly passing on the left, then back to the right and then passing again on the left, etc. Weaving from lane to lane in an attempt to move faster than the flow of traffic is the sign of an immature driver and is extremely dangerous.



4. **Being Passed by Another Vehicle:** When another driver

tries to pass you, there are many chances for a collision. The other driver may cut in too sharply. You may be changing lanes. Or, the other driver may be forced back into your lane if he/she has misjudged the distance of oncoming traffic. Keep everyone safe and help the other driver pass you safely by:

- Staying in your lane, and moving to the right if being passed on the left.
- Maintaining your speed. DO NOT speed up to keep the other driver from passing.
- Checking oncoming traffic and adjusting your speed to let the other driver move back into the right lane as soon as possible.
- Slowing down if you observe a car approaching from the other direction while you are being passed. By slowing down, you will allow the passing driver more space to pull back into the right lane in front of you before meeting the oncoming vehicle.

5. **Passing Trucks and Buses:** "It amazes me when a car cuts in front of me and then slows down! Don't they realize I can't stop an 80,000 pound truck the way they can stop a 3,000 pound car?" This statement is heard often from truck and bus drivers regarding the actions of drivers of passenger vehicles passing them on the highway.

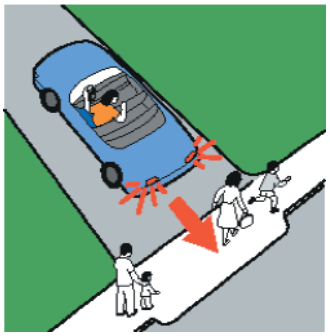
   In addition to following the guidelines for passing any vehicle, to safely pass a large truck or bus, there are additional rules you must learn:

   - Complete your pass as quickly as possible. **DO NOT** stay alongside the truck or bus. This is a common misunderstanding. Staying beside the truck or bus does not let the driver know you are there. Instead, it puts you in the driver's blindspot! If you are traveling alongside a truck or bus and can look over and see any portion of the tractor from the driver/passenger door back to fifth wheel area where the trailer is connected, you are most likely in the driver's blindspot. **[refer to the diagram below]**
   - An excellent point to remember is that **if you cannot see the side mirrors on the truck or bus you are following, then the truck or bus driver CANNOT SEE YOU.** This also means that all you can see are the back doors of the truck or bus, not a good view of the traffic situations on the road ahead. You are following too closely and greatly increasing your chance of being in a rear-end collision with the truck or bus.

   - Maintain your speed. NEVER pull in front of a truck or bus (or any type of vehicle) and slow down. This takes away the safety cushion of the driver you have just passed and presents a potentially dangerous situation if you must stop suddenly.
   - Keep in mind the terrain you are traveling on when passing. On a level highway, it generally takes longer to pass a truck or bus than a car. On an upgrade, these heavier vehicles often lose speed, making it easier to pass. On a down grade, their momentum will cause them to go faster, so you may need to increase your speed to pass. Remember, it is illegal to exceed the speed posted speed limit even when passing other vehicles.
   - There is no need to hesitate passing a truck pulling multiple trailers. Motorists should treat these trucks as they would any other commercial vehicle and follow the same rules for sharing the road.

Backing and Parking

Backing



Never back a vehicle into any travel lane with the exception of backing into a parallel parking space. Drivers do not expect a vehicle to be backing toward them and may not realize what you are doing until it is too late. If you must back your vehicle, look carefully and move slowly.

Backing is more difficult for new drivers than traveling forward because the vehicle itself blocks your field of vision. Also, it is harder to control speed and direction. You will need a lot of practice to learn to maintain absolute control of the vehicle. Although it is a small part of the driving skills test, backing is the maneuver that most often causes new drivers to fail that test.

- Backing can be dangerous because it is hard for you to see behind your car. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back your car:
  - **A.** Check behind your vehicle BEFORE you get behind the wheel. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
  - **B.** Before backing, look to the front, both sides and the rear. Place your arm on the back of the seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window. Do not depend solely

on your mirrors. Avoid opening the door and sticking your head out to see. This is dangerous.

C. Back slowly and gradually. Your car is much harder to control and stop while you are backing. Continue to look to all sides of the vehicle for hazards while backing.
- It is illegal to back into an intersection from a driveway. A driver must take care when backing to see that such movements can be done with reasonable safety and are not interfering with other traffic.
- Backing out of a parking space requires special caution and attention by drivers. Be aware of the movements of any cars or pedestrians near or approaching your vehicle. Be sure to look both directions before and during the backing maneuver out of the parking space. Be prepared to stop quickly if any hazard appears.
- If you miss your turn or exit, do NOT back up, but go on to the next turn or exit or where you can safely and legally turn around. It is illegal to back up on the interstate.
- Do not stop in the travel lanes for any reason (lost or confused about directions, vehicle breakdown, or letting out a passenger). Keep moving until you can safely pull your vehicle off the roadway.

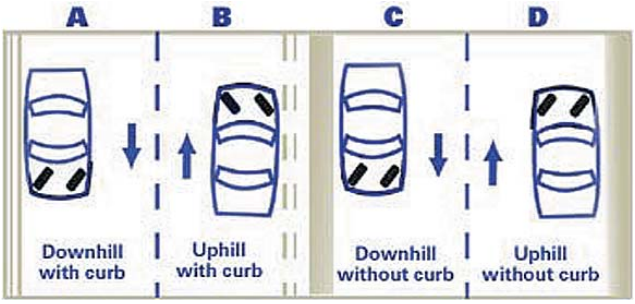
Parking

Drivers are responsible for making sure that their vehicles are not hazards when parked. Whenever you park, be sure it is in a place that is far enough from any travel lane to avoid interfering with traffic and is easily visible to vehicles approaching from either direction.

All automobiles are equipped with a secondary braking system commonly called a parking brake (also referred to as an emergency or hand brake). It is good practice to apply the parking brake EVERY time you park a vehicle with a standard or manual transmission. This is particularly important when parked:
- On steep hills or inclines;
- Near a crosswalk where children are present, such as a school or playground;
- Any other area where you feel added security is prudent.

1. **Routine Parking Regulations:** The following are some routine rules regulating parking vehicles that every driver should know:
   - Always park in a designated area if possible.
   - When parking adjacent to a roadway outside the city limits, all four wheels must be off the pavement, if possible. No matter what, you must ensure that you leave at least 18 feet of road width for other traffic to pass your parked vehicle. Plus, your vehicle must be visible for at least 200 feet in either direction (200 feet is a little more than the width of a football field).
   - Signs or yellow painted curbs usually mark a "NO PARKING ZONE" in cities and towns.
   - It is against the law to leave the engine running in a parked unattended vehicle.
   - Remove ignition keys from a parked and unattended vehicle. It is a good safety habit to lock the doors of your vehicle when it is left parked and unattended.
   - A driver must look, signal and yield the right-of-way when coming out of any type of parking space, including parallel spaces.
   - Always set the parking brake when you park. Leave the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission, or in park if it has an automatic transmission.
   - The "hazard" or four-way flashing directional lights may be displayed during the hours of darkness when a vehicle is disabled or otherwise presents a traffic hazard.
   - Double parking is prohibited by law.

2. **WHEN PARKING ON A HILL FOLLOW THESE RULES:**
   - **On a downhill with a curb:** Turn the front wheels toward the curb (right) and set the parking brake. If the car rolls, it will roll into the curb, not the roadway.
   - **On an uphill with a curb:** Turn the front wheels away from curb (left). This way, if the car starts to roll back, it will roll into the curb and stop, instead of rolling into traffic.
   - **On a downhill without a curb:** Turn the front wheels toward the edge of the roadway (right). Again, this will prevent the vehicle from rolling into traffic if the brake fails.
   - **On an uphill without a curb:** Turn the front wheels toward the edge of the roadway (right). This will allow the car to roll away from the center of the road if the brakes fail.



3. **NO PARKING ZONES**

There are many areas where you cannot park. It is illegal to park:
- In front of a public or private driveway;

- Within an intersection;
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk or in the crosswalk marked area;
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway on the same side of the street or on the other side of the street within 75 feet of the fire station driveway;
- Within 30 feet of a traffic signal, stop sign or any other traffic control device;
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing;
- On a sidewalk;
- Upon any bridge or within a tunnel;
- In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign or pavement markings indicating the space is reserved for use by a physically handicapped person, (unless you are handicapped);
- On the traffic side of another parked vehicle (double parked);
- On the shoulder of any interstate (except for an emergency situation);
- Where official signs prohibit stopping or standing.

Other parking restrictions may be indicated by painted curbs. A painted curb means that you must follow special rules to park there. The colors on the curbs mean:

WHITE

1. Stop only long enough to pick up or drop off passengers.

YELLOW

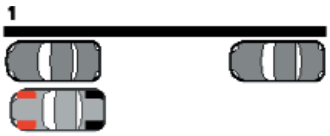
2. Stop only long enough to load or unload. Stay with your car.

RED

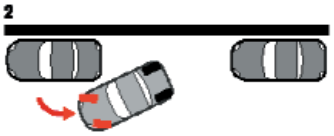
3. Do not stop, stand or park in this space under any condition.

4. PARALLEL PARKING

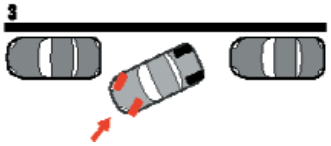
Your ability to judge distances while controlling the speed of your vehicle is the key to completing this parking maneuver. When parallel parking, be sure to continually check for oncoming traffic conditions.



STEP 1: Check traffic behind you, signal and stop, with your car even with the car in front of the open parallel space in which you are going to park. Your rear bumper should be even with the bumper of the other parked car. Your vehicle should not be any closer than two feet from the other vehicle.



STEP 2: Turn your head to the right and look over your shoulder at the space into which you are going to back. Frequently scan to the front, observing your distance from the other parked car. Begin backing very slowly, turning the steering wheel sharply to the right until the car is at about a 45-degree angle with the street. As the front passenger side door passes the rear bumper of the other car, quickly straighten the front wheels and slowly continue to back straight.



STEP 3: When your front bumper is even with the other car's back bumper, turn the wheels sharply and rapidly to the left as far as necessary. It is extremely important to remember to continually check the space around your vehicle while making this maneuver. Be especially aware of traffic on the road and the distances between your vehicle and the other parked cars.

STEP 4: Turn your steering wheel sharply to the right, and slowly pull forward toward the curb. Continue adjusting slowly and gradually until your car is centered in the parking space.

Upon completion of your parallel parking maneuver, the vehicle should be no further away from the curb than 18 inches. As you prepare to exit the vehicle, be sure to check the traffic before opening the driver side door. Wait until any traffic has passed, get out quickly and shut the door as soon as you can. Move to the curb or sidewalk quickly for your safety.

5. EMERGENCY PARKING (Disabled Vehicles)

If it becomes necessary to leave your vehicle parked on a highway or street, follow these rules:

- Park the vehicle with all four wheels off the traveled portion of the highway, if possible. Otherwise, pull onto the shoulder of the road as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, pull as close to the curb as possible.
- If you cannot move the vehicle off the highway, raise the hood or tie a handkerchief on the left door handle or antenna to warn other motorists of your stopped vehicle.
- Turn on your car's emergency flasher lights. Set your parking brake, shift into park or leave the vehicle in gear and turn off the engine. Lock the vehicle.
- A stopped car on the interstate (even on the shoulder) is extremely dangerous. Do not stop on an interstate highway except for an emergency.
- Walking on the interstate is both illegal and dangerous. Except for extreme emergency cases, remain in your

disabled vehicle until a State Trooper, other police officer, emergency service vehicle or a good Samaritan stops to offer assistance.

6. HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

The handicap parking symbol, which appears on reserved parking signs, placards and license plates, is the international symbol of access for persons with physical disability. Parking spaces marked with this symbol are only to be used by vehicles displaying a valid placard or license plate with this symbol, and only when transporting the person who was issued the placard or plate.

It is illegal for anyone else to park in these spaces. If you improperly park in these designated spaces, you will be committing a misdemeanor punishable by a $100 dollar fine, and your vehicle could be subject to being towed.

7. PARKING METERS

Many public parking spaces are regulated by coin-fed parking meters. Meter regulations are usually in effect during posted days and hours. In most areas, a maximum time limit for parking in those spaces is also posted. If you exceed the limit or fail to pay the meter fee, you may be issued a parking ticket and your vehicle may be towed.

8. ANGLE PARKING

Angle parking is often used in parking lots, shopping centers and sometimes at curbs.
When you enter an angle parking space on your right:

- Watch for traffic both ahead and behind.
- Signal and begin slowing down.
- Make sure the rear of your car will clear the parked cars.
- Steer sharply into the parking space. Then straighten the wheels, centering your car in the parking space.
- Shift to park or reverse if driving a standard transmission vehicle and apply the parking brake.

Before backing out of an angle parking space:

- Walk around to make sure nothing is in your way.
- Remember that the front of your car will swing opposite to the direction of the turn.
- Move your car back slowly. It is hard to see oncoming traffic. Be sure traffic is clear in the lane where you are backing.
- Maintain a cautious speed so you can yield if necessary to pedestrians or oncoming vehicles.
- When you can see past the tops of cars parked next to you, stop and look again. Look back and to each side for other drivers.
- Back slowly while turning until your left front wheel passes the rear bumper of the car parked on the left.
- Straighten the wheels as your car comes back into the lane for traffic.

Chapter 4-Chapter Sample Test Questions
Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. The page number where the correct answer for each question can be found is shown. Also, answers to all the study questions can be found in the back of the book.

10. It is illegal to park:
    A. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
    B. Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.
    C. Both of the above.

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11. The two-second rule for following at a safe distance will hold true at:
    A. Speeds up to 30 m.p.h.
    B. Any speed.
    C. Speeds up to 55 m.p.h.

Page 23

12. Which lane must you be in before making a left turn from a one-way street?
    A. The lane nearest the left curb.
    B. The lane nearest the center of the street.
    C. The lane nearest the right curb.

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Interstate Highway Driving Is Different!

Traffic on interstates usually moves more safely and efficiently because access is controlled. There are no stop signs, no railroad crossings and no traffic lights. Interstates usually have few steep hills or sharp curves to limit the view of the road ahead. Limited access or controlled access means that drivers enter or leave the roadway only at entrances and exits, called interchanges, without ever crossing the path of other traffic. Interstates and divided highways have largely removed the chance of head-on collisions.

Interstate driving requires good skills and habits so you can safely get where you are going. Safe use of the interstates demands a complete awareness of a higher speed type of driving and constant alertness by the driver.

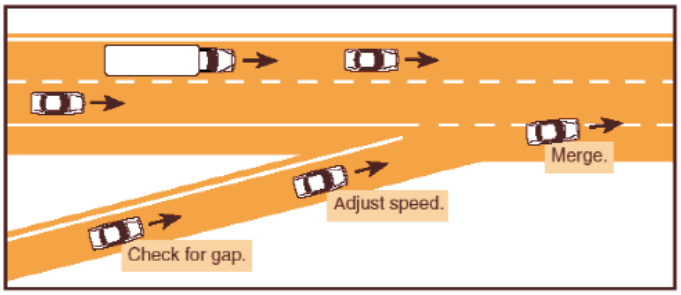
Before Driving on the Interstate

Plan the trip in advance so that you know your entrance, direction, and exit. Make sure that your vehicle is in good condition. Check the gas gauge before getting on the interstate. In rural areas, it may be many miles between exits, and you could run out of gas before getting to another gas station. If you cannot or do not wish to drive at or above the minimum speed limit, do not use the interstate.

Entering the Interstate

In most driving situations, you slow down or stop before you enter a busy road, but when entering an interstate, you do the opposite. You must use the merging or acceleration lane to speed up and merge with fast-moving traffic already on the interstate.

Good judgment and good timing are necessary to merge smoothly with fast-moving traffic. Upon entering the interstate on-ramp, stay to the right and increase your speed in the acceleration lane/entrance ramp. Use the ramp to reach interstate speed so you can merge smoothly into the travel lane when the way is clear. Be sure to give the proper left turn signal to indicate your need to enter the traffic lane. Drivers already on the interstate should, for their own safety, make allowance for vehicles attempting to enter. It is your responsibility to yield the right-of-way to other cars on the interstate.



Unnecessary stopping on interstate on-ramps causes many rear-end collisions and also obstructs the even flow of traffic. Do not drive to the end of the ramp and stop, or you will not have enough room to get up to the speed of the interstate traffic. Drivers behind you will not expect you to stop. If they are watching the traffic on the main road for space to merge, you could easily be hit from the rear. If you have to wait for space to enter an interstate, slow down on the ramp so that you will still have some room to speed up before you have to merge. Heavy traffic conditions sometimes create a slowdown at an entrance ramp. Unless it is absolutely unavoidable, it is best to keep your vehicle moving at least at some slow pace.

LANE ADDED

MERGING TRAFFIC

Do you know what the difference in the two signs above is? Both appear to be telling you that traffic is coming into the main road from the right. However, there is an IMPORTANT difference.

- The "lane added" sign means that there is a new right lane added to the interstate/roadway for the incoming traffic. The on-ramp becomes a new lane and the entering traffic does not need to merge immediately. Traffic on the interstate should avoid making lane changes to the right at this location because the entering traffic will not be expecting vehicles to move into their travel path.
- The regular "merge" sign means that the traffic coming from the right is going to need to merge into the existing right hand traffic lane. Drivers on the interstate should be aware and cautious of this incoming traffic.

Driving on the Interstate

Interstates usually have several lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction. On these roads, leave the extreme left lane for faster traffic. If you drive at an even speed, you will have less need to change lanes. Remember, lane-hopping any time is dangerous, annoys other drivers, increases the risk of a collision, often contributes to "road rage" and very seldom saves the driver any significant amount of travel time.

Keep your vehicle in the middle of your traffic lane. You may change lanes when necessary, but do not weave in and out of traffic. Do not travel alongside other vehicles at the same speed or you risk being in the other drivers' blind spots.

Change speed and/or lanes to avoid these situations. Avoid cars moving in packs and keep a safe space cushion around your vehicle for emergency maneuvers. If you are going to exit the interstate, move to the right lane as early as possible to avoid hasty lane changes, which could result in a dangerous situation or traffic crash.

Stay at least two seconds behind vehicles in front of you, and increase this space to a minimum of four seconds in bad weather, night driving and on higher speed rural sections of the interstate. Scan the roadway ahead and try to watch 15-20 seconds in front of your vehicle for cars braking, entering or exiting. There are times, especially in major cities, when interstates get jammed by heavy traffic or tie-ups, caused by collisions during rush hour traffic. Be alert for any hint that traffic on the interstate ahead is not moving at a normal pace. For example, when you see cars' brake lights ahead, prepare to slow down. You may have to slam on your brakes to avoid a rear-end crash with the vehicle ahead. If you spot a tie-up causing you to slow down or stop, lightly tap your brake pedal several times to alert drivers behind you.

"Traffic Flow" and Speed Control on the Interstate

Speeds traveled on rural interstates are higher than on other roads. There are fewer stop-and-go situations. Try to keep pace with traffic on the road, but **don't be lured into exceeding the posted speed to "stay with the flow of traffic."**

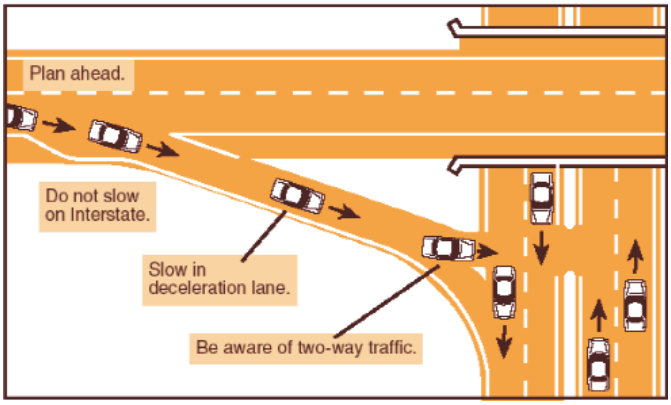
- Do maintain a constant speed and keep a safe pace with other traffic.
- Do not speed up and slow down unnecessarily.
- Drive between the minimum (45 m.p.h.) and the maximum (55-70 m.p.h.) speed limits.
- Driving too slowly is against the law because it is dangerous. A slowpoke on an interstate can be just as reckless as a speeder.
- Remember, if you drive at a speed below the flow of traffic, you must use the right lane.
- If the minimum speed is too high for your comfort, you should not use the interstate.
- If you are traveling in the left lane and someone comes up behind you at a faster speed, move one lane to your right.
- Do not tie up traffic in the left lane.
- Courteous and safe driving practices require that drivers in any lane, except the right lane used for slower traffic, should be prepared to move to another lane to allow faster traffic to pass.
- By the same token, these practices teach that drivers in the right lane should adjust speed to allow others to enter the interstate safely.
- Be alert to merging traffic signs.
- When it is safe to do so, either slow down or move to another lane to allow space for on-ramp traffic to merge safely.
- Remember, trucks and buses entering the interstate may need extra time to adjust to traffic patterns. Be cooperative and give them extra time and space to adjust to the traffic flow.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes

Left lanes on some interstate highways are reserved for car pool vehicles with two or more occupants inside. Watch for diamond signs in the median or painted on the pavement.

Leaving the Interstate

Interchanges may be different, and it is important to watch for advance directional signs. Choose the right exit, and be sure you are in the proper lane well before you turn off the interstate. The heavier the traffic, the earlier you should move into the proper lane. Exit signs are usually placed at least one mile ahead of the exit turn-off.



To leave the interstate, signal your intention to change lanes, and move to the lane nearest the exit/off-ramp. Maintain speed until you enter the deceleration lane, which is usually outlined by a series of yellow reflectors. Reduce your speed to the exit ramp posted speed. Speed should be reduced further on the exit ramp. Your vehicle should be slowed to the posted limit for the roadway you will be entering.

The paved shoulder of the interstate should not be used for vehicular travel except for deceleration when marked for this purpose or for emergency purposes.

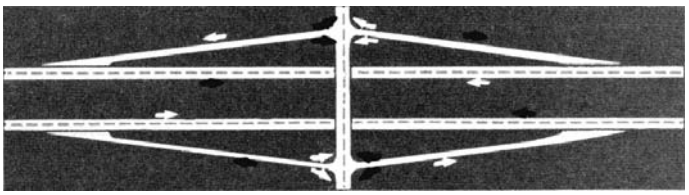
Remember, it is illegal to back up or make a U-turn on interstate highways. If you miss your exit, you must proceed to the next exit. It is illegal to cross the median on the interstate.

Interchanges

It is very important to know how to maneuver on the different types of interchanges. Two common types of interchanges are the **diamond** and the **cloverleaf**, which are diagrammed and explained below. There are various other types of interchanges and methods of maneuvering. These may vary from one to the other. When approaching any type of interchange, follow signs telling you how to make the turn you want to make.

Diamond Interchange

Traffic using the interstate may gain access to the intersecting roadway by (1) taking the signed exit ramp, (2) proceeding to the cross roadway and (3) obeying the traffic sign or signal at the intersection. Turns may then be made to the right or left as at any ordinary intersection.



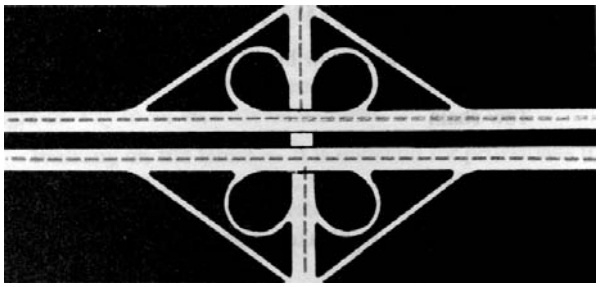
DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

With a diamond interchange, the exit ramp will always be encountered before passing over or under the intersecting roadway.

Traffic using the cross roadway may enter the interstate by making either a left or right turn onto the appropriate entrance ramp. (1) The RIGHT TURN entrance ramp will always be encountered BEFORE crossing over or under the interstate. (2) The LEFT TURN entrance ramp will always be encountered AFTER crossing over or under the interstate. (3) NEVER MAKE A RIGHT TURN onto a ramp AFTER crossing the interstate lanes. (4) NEVER MAKE A LEFT TURN onto a ramp BEFORE crossing the interstate lanes.

Cloverleaf Interchange

At a cloverleaf interchange, all turns are right turns.
To turn right, take the right turn before you get to the overpass.
To turn left, take the right turn just after the overpass. The road will carry you around to join the crossroad, and you will be going in the same direction as if you had turned left at an ordinary intersection. The advantage of such an interchange is that you do not have to cross the path of traffic to make a turn.



CLOVERLEAF INTERCHANGE

"Weaving" Interchange

One of the most hazardous lane management situations occurs when interstate traffic is both exiting and entering at the same lane. This weaving of vehicles trying to get on or off the highway at the same time requires the complete attention of all drivers and quick reactions for a safe maneuver. A weaving interchange takes maximum cooperation and sensible, courteous action on the part of every driver in order to work. Signs and lane markings do their part. Safe drivers have to do the rest.

You should follow the routine procedures for entering the interstate as those used at normal on-ramps. However, you must be aware that vehicles already on the interstate may be moving right to enter the exit ramp. This will require both you and the other driver to yield and share the interchange in an equal "give and take" manner. If drivers are not paying attention to the directional signs and lane design, the movement of exiting traffic can create the potential for a serious accident. Use extreme caution when using these types of interchanges.

Fight Interstate Hypnosis

Continuous interstate driving can become monotonous. A condition of drowsiness or unawareness can be brought about by reduced activity and steady sounds of wind, engine, and tire hum. This is known as interstate hypnosis. All drivers should be aware of its danger and of the methods for fighting it. Use the following tips to help you recognize and avoid this condition:

- Keep shifting your eyes. When driving, look well ahead, but avoid staring. Get into the habit of shifting your eyes left and right and checking your rear view mirror. If you sit and stare straight ahead, you can almost put yourself to sleep.
- Quit driving when you are drowsy. Drowsiness is the first step in falling asleep.
- Keep your car's interior as cool as possible.
- Stop and refresh yourself at regular intervals. Take a break and get out of the car at least every two hours, or every 100 miles or so. Even if you are feeling well, you should stop, get out of your car and walk around, allowing your muscles to relax.
- It is safest for yourself and others if you do not drive more than eight hours per day.

Special Interstate Driving Instructions

1. On the interstate, you may NOT:
   - Drive over or across any dividing section or

separation (only emergency vehicles and highway maintenance crews may cross an interstate median legally).
- Make a left turn or a U-turn except through an opening provided and marked for such turns
- Change lanes without signaling.
- Drive in the blind spot of other drivers. Traveling in a position where the driver ahead of you cannot see your vehicle can be dangerous. Either stay behind or go around. Do NOT follow to the side.
- Drive onto the interstate except through an opening provided for such entrance.
- Park or stop on the interstate except at areas especially provided. Parking on the shoulder of the interstate is prohibited except in cases of emergency.
- Back up if you miss an exit. You must go to the next exit.

2. Always remember these tips for safe interstate driving:
   - Drive in a dependable and predictable manner.
   - Be a safe and courteous driver.
   - Always signal your intentions well in advance.
   - Keep your attention constantly on your driving.
   - Make frequent traffic checks by looking in your rear view and side-view mirrors often.
   - Keep a safe following distance between your car and the vehicle you are following.
   - Check instruments often for speed and fuel supply.
   - Keep pace with traffic, but don't speed illegally just because other drivers are speeding.
   - Stay in the right lane if traveling slower than the other traffic.
   - Be alert to merging traffic signs and vehicles entering the interstate.
   - When safe to do so, move to another lane to allow on-ramp traffic to enter the interstate.

3. Special situations to be aware of include:
   - **Be prepared for the unexpected!** When driving on an interstate highway, look out for pedestrians who may have had a vehicle breakdown, or animals that may be on the roadway. It is not impossible for vehicles to be traveling in the wrong direction on an interstate!
   - **Lane Wandering:** Weaving and wandering are dangerous. Keep to the right unless overtaking or passing. Watch mirrors and signal before changing lanes. Don't cut back until it is safe. Stay aware of surrounding traffic conditions.
   - **Maintain Safe Distance:** Following too closely is the cause of many multiple-car collisions. Higher interstate speeds increase danger and require greater distances between cars.
   - **Night Driving:** Darkness increases driving dangers. On the basis of mileage driven, night driving is far more dangerous than day driving. Fatigue and sharply reduced vision are primarily responsible for this greater danger. Also, drinking drivers are more likely to be on the road at night.

Dynamic Message Signs

Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) are along Tennessee interstates in urban areas to provide traffic information to motorists. These signs advise motorists of traffic incidents or construction ahead so they can consider alternate routes.

Primarily, DMS display real-time information about incidents, traffic, roadwork, weather or pavement conditions that could have an effect on driver safety and traffic flow. The DMS can also be used for (1) advance notification of roadwork requiring lane closures, (2) advance notification of special events that will adversely affect travel either because of added traffic generated or the requirement to close streets or highways, and (3) messages associated with missing child Amber Alerts or other public safety issues. These signs will be blank when not in use.

Dealing with Traffic Congestion

Chronic traffic congestion is often the Tennessee commuter's biggest headache. Small changes in driving habits could provide fast relief. Several driving behaviors that contribute to traffic congestion include:

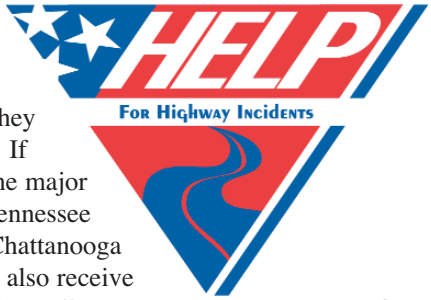
- **Rubbernecking** is perhaps the most frustrating of behaviors. Slowing down to look at crashes or virtually anything else out of the ordinary is one of the worst congestion offenders.
- **Tailgating:** Following too closely is common on Tennessee interstates. This accounts for numerous crashes, which in turn clog major routes, often for hours.
- **Unnecessary Lane Changes:** Although it produces virtually NO improvement in arrival or travel times, many motorists insist on weaving in and out of interstate lanes, which at best, slows down all traffic and at worst, causes many crashes.
- **Inattention:** Drivers can be seen eating, grooming in the rear view mirror, talking on cellular telephones, and even reading newspapers as they drive to work.

Drivers who do not watch the fuel gauge or maintain their vehicles properly can cause traffic congestion. These vehicles can malfunction or stall on the interstate or other streets, causing bottlenecks and major slow downs in traffic flow.

If you avoid these "bad behaviors" and keep them from becoming your driving habits, you will help keep traffic congestion under control in Tennessee.

Vehicle Breakdowns, Crashes and Emergency Stopping on Interstate Highways

If you have vehicle trouble, move to the right shoulder or emergency stopping area as soon as you can. Turn on your emergency flashers to warn other traffic. If you need help, raise your hood and tie a white cloth to the hood or radio antenna. If possible, it is better to stay in or near your vehicle on the side away from traffic. Walking along the interstate is dangerous. Keep children away from traffic.



If you stay with your vehicle, a police patrol will stop to help you when they drive by, if they are not on another call. If you are within one of the major metropolitan areas of Tennessee (Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga or Knoxville), you may also receive assistance from one of the yellow Tennessee Department of Transportation Incident Response Units (HELP Truck). HELP operators have the authority to "remove or cause to be removed" any vehicle that is an "obstruction or hazard to traffic". HELP operators are trained to deal with incident scenes. You should follow their instructions just as you would those of other police or traffic control personnel.

Move Over Law

Tennessee law requires that motorists yield the lane closest to any emergency, maintenance or recovery vehicle that is stopped on the shoulder of the roadway. This applies to interstates and any multi-lane highway (with four or more lanes) that has at least two lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

When safety and traffic conditions allow the motorist must yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane that is NOT adjacent to the stationary emergency vehicle. This requirement to move over applies, regardless of whether the emergency vehicle is on the right or left-hand side of the road.

- If the emergency vehicle is stopped on the right shoulder, the motorist merges into the left lane of traffic, freeing the right most lane as a safety barrier.
- If the emergency vehicle is stopped on the left shoulder, the motorist merges into the right lane of traffic, freeing the left most lane as a safety barrier.

ONLY when traffic conditions make it unsafe to make such lane change is the motorist allowed to respond to this situation by simply slowing down and remaining in the same lane.

This law applies to all emergency or maintenance vehicles including:

- Police or Highway Patrol vehicles;
- Ambulance or Fire Fighting vehicles;
- Tow Trucks or TDOT HELP vehicles;
- TDOT maintenance vehicles or private contractor vehicles involved in road construction or repair work.

Move It For Safety

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has placed signs along the state's interstate system reminding motorists to move their damaged vehicles to the shoulder if no serious injury has occurred.

If you are involved in a traffic crash on the interstate, Tennessee law allows you to move the vehicle to help prevent blocking the traffic flow. If the vehicle is still drivable and there are NO SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURIES or deaths, you may pull the vehicle(s) to the emergency lane and await the arrival of a trooper or police officer to the crash scene. Never attempt to move a seriously injured crash victim unless directed to do so by proper emergency personnel. Never disturb a crash scene in any manner when a fatality is involved.

Under Tennessee law, you must not leave the scene of any type of crash, but, while remaining at the scene, you should not "unnecessarily block traffic."

Free Cell Phone Call for Help

In the event of a highway emergency, your free cellular phone call connects you directly to a Tennessee Highway Patrol Dispatcher for assistance. **Dial:** *-T-H-P (or *847)

Suggested Safety and Emergency Equipment

The following items should be kept in your car in case of a flat tire, vehicle breakdown or other roadside emergency. These

items are important for all travel but especially for interstate driving.

- Spare tire in excellent condition
- Jack and tire iron
- Tire Pressure Gauge
- Can of sealant for small leaks in tire(s)
- Flash light, portable radio and spare batteries
- Car Owner's Manual
- Insurance information and car registration
- Paper, pen or pencil
- Three fuses or reflectors for night-time emergencies
- First Aid Kit
- Fire Extinguisher
- Jumper cables
- Spare bottle of windshield washer fluid
- Empty gas can and an unopened can of motor oil
- Toolbox with screwdrivers, wrenches, small hammer, scissors, duct tape, etc.
- Bottled water and some simple non-perishable snack foods (water is important to carry during the summer)
- Emergency phone numbers of family, friends and auto club or insurance agent
- Cellular phone
- During winter travel carry a blanket, a small portable heater, window scraper for iced windows, and snow tires or tire chains

Chapter 5- Chapter Sample Test Questions

Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. The page number where the correct answer can be located for each question is shown. Also, answers to all the study questions can be found in the back of the book.

13. When entering an interstate highway, you should:
    A. Stop, check for cars and enter when safe.
    B. Check for cars, reduce speed to 25 MPH before entering traffic lane.
    C. Check for cars, increase your speed to match the flow of traffic and merge when the way is clear.

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14. Emergency crossovers on the interstate are legal in Tennessee for:
    A. Making a U-Turn when you missed your exit.
    B. Turning around when no others are present.
    C. Emergency vehicles and highway maintenance crews only.

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15. Interstate driving demands require the driver to:
    A. Have a complete awareness of higher speed driving
    B. Constant alertness by the driver
    C. Both of the above.

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PLEASE NOTE: Tennessee is serious about educating the public on the tragedies of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. To underscore this, by law, at least 25 percent of the questions on the knowledge test must consist of questions dealing with this topic.

Drinking and Driving

Alcohol and You

Researchers estimate that between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., one of every 10 drivers is intoxicated. More than one-third of these drivers have been drinking at someone else's home. Nearly 50 percent of the drivers arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) are social to moderate drinkers. **Don't think that it won't happen to you.** In your lifetime, there's a high probability that you'll be involved in an alcohol-related crash.

An Overview Of The Effects Of Alcohol

Before you can fully understand why drinking and driving result in fatalities on the highways, you first need a better understanding of the effects of alcohol on the body.

How Does Alcohol Affect the Body?

Alcohol begins to be absorbed into the bloodstream within one to two minutes after an alcoholic beverage is consumed. As you consume alcohol, it accumulates in your blood. Intoxication occurs when you drink alcohol faster than the liver can oxidize it. As the percentage of alcohol in your blood increases, you become more intoxicated.

Once in the bloodstream, the alcohol is distributed to all parts of the body, including the brain and liver. Upon reaching the liver, the alcohol immediately begins to be oxidized. However, the liver can only oxidize about one drink per hour. Contrary to popular belief, this rate cannot be increased by drinking coffee, exercising, taking a cold shower or anything else. **Only time can sober a person who's been drinking. And remember, it is a slow process.**

What Is Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the percentage of alcohol in the blood. The higher the BAC number, the more impaired a person is. **In most states, including Tennessee, .08 is the level of intoxication which is always illegal.** This means that for every 10,000 drops of blood in a person's body, there are eight drops of alcohol. BAC changes with body weight, time spent drinking, and the amount of alcohol that is consumed.

Amount of Alcohol Consumption.
Each drink consumed within an hour increases the BAC level. The more you drink in a fixed amount of time, the higher your BAC will register. This happens no matter what you weigh — or what kind of alcoholic beverage you drink.

Rate of Alcoholic Consumption.
Drinking three drinks in one hour will affect you more than drinking three drinks in three hours. Spacing the drinks over a longer period of time will slow the rate at which you become intoxicated and indicates responsible drinking habits.

Body Weight and Fat.
The heavier the person, the more alcohol it takes to raise the BAC. Be aware of your size when drinking with others. If you are smaller than your friends and try to drink as much as they do, your judgment and inhibitions will probably be affected before theirs are.

Body fat also affects how quickly you are affected by alcohol. Alcohol is able to be absorbed in water, not fat. This simply means that people with less body fat have more water in which to dilute the alcohol. So, drink for drink, if people weigh the same, the one with more body fat will show signs of intoxication first.

Amount of Food in the Stomach.
All the alcohol consumed eventually gets into the blood whether you have eaten or not. Food in the stomach causes alcohol to be absorbed more slowly, slowing down the rate and the amount of intoxication.

Overall Condition of the Body.
Heavy and chronic drinking can harm virtually every organ and system in the body. The liver is particularly vulnerable to alcohol's harmful effects since it oxidizes approximately 90 percent of the alcohol in the body. If the liver is damaged or diseased, the rate of oxidation is reduced, causing the alcohol to stay in the body longer and the BAC to be higher for a longer time. Further, the effects of alcohol on the liver can lead to such diseases as hepatitis and cirrhosis.

Relationship of Alcohol to Traffic Crashes

Driving after drinking is a widespread problem. It is estimated that two in every five Americans (or 40%) will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

Each drink drastically increases your risk of having a traffic crash. Look at the table below.

With a BAC of .10 percent, you are seven times more likely to cause a crash than if you were sober.

Alcohol's Effects At A Glance

BAC	Rough Number of Drinks	Risk of Automobile Crash	Comment
.01-.03%	◊ 1 drink within 15 min.	Rises for young adults, others with low tolerance for alcohol	Stiff penalties for BAC as low as .02 if driver under age 21
.04-.07%	◊ 2 drinks within 1/2 hour	Definite risk for anyone with low tolerance levels	Most people feel high and have some loss of judgment. You may get louder and have some loss of small muscle control, like focusing your eyes.
.08%-above		**LEGAL INTOXICATION*** — Judgment and reasoning powers are severely hampered; cannot do common simple acts. **Definitely unsafe to drive**.	
.10-.12%	◊ 4 drinks within 2 hours	Risk of automobile crash increases 7 times normal rate	Judgement loss increases. Many people claim they're not affected anymore, as if they would drink themselves sober when they are actually being affected more.
.13-.15%	◊ 5-7 drinks within 3 hours	Crash risk 25 times normal rate	You have far less muscle control than normal and feel happy, even though stumbling and acting foolishly.
.16-.25%	◊ 8-12 drinks within 4 hours	Crash risk 50 times normal rate	You are confused and need help doing things, even standing up. Alcohol-related highway fatalities sharply increase.

*Lower levels are set for younger drivers, commercial drivers, and subsequent offenses, as discussed later in this chapter.

As your BAC increases to .15 percent, your chances of causing a traffic crash increase to 25 times.

At .17 percent BAC, you are 50 times more likely to cause a crash.

Behavior at each BAC level may differ somewhat with the individual. ALL people at the .10 percent level are definitely too impaired to drive safely. **Research has proven that driving skills, good judgment and vision are greatly impaired at BAC levels as low as .03 and .04 percent, especially for young drinkers.** The table, Alcohol's Effects at a Glance, describes different levels of intoxication and degree of behavior impairment at each level.

Alcohol's Effects On Driving Ability

Driving involves multiple tasks, and the demands can change continually. To drive safely, you must maintain alertness, make decisions based on ever-changing information present in the environment and execute maneuvers based on these decisions. Drinking alcohol impairs a wide range of skills necessary for carrying out these tasks. Fatal injuries, resulting from alcohol-related traffic crashes, represent a tremendous loss of human life. **In 2005, over 16,000 deaths nationwide (39 percent of all traffic fatalities) were alcohol related. In Tennessee, 37 percent of all traffic fatalities (464 deaths) were alcohol related.**

The plain and simple fact is that you cannot drive safely when you are impaired by alcohol. The two abilities most important to the driving task are **judgment** and **vision** — both of which are affected by small amounts of alcohol. Your ability to judge speed, time and distance are altered after only one drink. Each extra drink greatly affects your driving ability. In addition, your **reaction time** and **coordination** begin to deteriorate, while your **alertness** and **concentration** fade. All of this adds up to a deadly combination.

Judgment:

Ability to Think Clearly and Make Quick Decisions

Good judgment decreases with the use of alcohol. The concern for physical well being also lessens. People under the influence of alcohol take unnecessary and dangerous risks. Examples are driving too fast, passing cars without enough clear distance and speeding around curves. Showing off is another example of impaired judgment.

Vision:

Ability to See Clearly Straight Ahead, to the Side and at Night

Alcohol decreases clearness of vision. It reduces the ability to see clearly at night by more than half. Glare vision is poor because of relaxed eye muscles. Glare recovery is also slowed by alcohol. Side vision is reduced by about 30 percent at .05 percent BAC. Judging depth or distance is affected because

alcohol causes each eye to get a slightly different picture. These vision impairments greatly increase the chances of a head-on or rear-end collision. Eye muscles are relaxed by alcohol and cannot focus properly. Because the eyes provide almost 90 percent of the information used in driving, any restriction in vision can cause disastrous results.

Reaction Time and Coordination

This is the ability to react quickly and safely to an emergency or hazardous situation—being able to keep eyes, hands and feet working together.

Reaction and coordination are impaired by alcohol consumption as low as .02 percent BAC. It takes longer to react. **Coordination skills** to control the car with hands, feet and eyes in response to other vehicles and the road are drastically reduced as alcohol intake increases.

Alertness and Concentration

Being ready to react to changing driving conditions or situations, keeping your mind on driving and paying attention to the task at hand.

Alcohol, in any concentration, is a depressant, not a stimulant. Alcohol slows all nerve impulses and body functions. The false feeling of stimulation that comes with small doses of alcohol is caused by the lessening of inhibitions. That's because the particular portion of the brain controlling this part of behavior is being relaxed. In reality, alcohol has the effect of fuzzing a driver's ability to be alert and to concentrate.

"Every Day" Drugs

One of the most common and most dangerous instances of drug abuse occurs when people mix alcohol with prescription and over-the-counter drugs. For example, when alcohol is combined with another depressant, like tranquilizers or sedatives, etc., the results are not just added together. They are multiplied. Even some over-the-counter medicines can affect driving. The effects are much stronger, much more dangerous and can affect your driving skills.

If your doctor prescribes a tranquilizer or sedative, make a point to discuss how the drug will affect your ability to drive safely. **Just because a drug is prescribed is — by law — NO defense for driving under the influence of it.**
Non-prescription drugs, such as cold tablets, cough syrups, allergy remedies, etc., purchased over-the-counter may contain antihistamines, alcohol, codeine and other compounds that can be especially dangerous for drivers. Read labels and pay attention to warnings (e.g., "may cause drowsiness," "do not operate machinery," "caution against engaging in operations requiring alertness").

If you have questions about a particular drug or combination of drugs, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol (The "DUI" Law)

Studies indicate that marijuana and other drugs also affect judgment and motor functions. This makes driving under the influence of drugs other than alcohol dangerous as well. In Tennessee, it is unlawful for any person to drive or be in physical control of an automobile or other motor-driven vehicle on any public street, highway, road or alley, or while on the premises of any shopping center, trailer park or any apartment house complex, or any place frequented by the public while:

1. Under the influence of any intoxicant, marijuana, narcotic drug or drugs producing stimulating effects on the central nervous system; or
2. While the alcohol concentration of the operator's blood or breath is .08 percent or higher.

The defendant's ability to drive when using drugs may be sufficiently impaired to constitute a DUI violation. A driver can register a BAC of .00 percent and still be convicted of a DUI. The level of BAC does not clear a driver when it is below .08 percent. If a law enforcement officer observes things, such as erratic driving behavior, or maintaining an inappropriate speed (too fast or too slow), it would be sufficient cause for stopping the vehicle to investigate. Further sobriety checks could lead to the conclusion that the driver was indeed "Driving Under the Influence" of an intoxicant, narcotic drug or other drug producing stimulating effects on the central nervous system, including prescription drugs. If you have any doubt about your ability to drive, don't get behind the wheel.

Implied Consent Law

By law, when you drive in Tennessee, you have given your consent to be tested to determine the alcohol or drug content of your blood. This test must be administered at the request of a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe you have been driving under the influence of an intoxicant or drug.

If you are placed under arrest and a law enforcement officer asks you to take the test and you refuse, the test will not be given. The court will send notification of action to the Department of Safety and your driver license will be suspended for twelve (12) months.

Consequences of a DUI Arrest

Drinking and driving poses several problems. One is the probability of an accident, and another is being arrested for

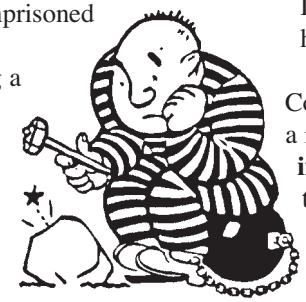
	Jail Time	Fines	License Revocation Period	Vehicle Seizure
1st Conviction	48 hours (7 days if BAC is 0.20% or more)	$350-$1500	1 year	Does not apply
2nd Conviction	45 days – 11 months, 29 days	$600-$3500	2 years	Vehicle is subject to seizure and forfeiture
3rd Conviction	120 days – 11 months, 29 days	$1,100 - $10,000	3 -10 years	Vehicle is subject to seizure and forfeiture
4th or subsequent Conviction (is a Class E felony)	150 days – max allowable for a Class E felony	$3,000-$15,000	5 years [to indefinite]	Vehicle is subject to seizure and forfeiture

DUI. The penalties for a DUI arrest are the same whether the driver was drinking alcohol or taking drugs (even prescription or over-the-counter drugs). If you are arrested for DUI, the consequences can be severe.

Penalties Applying to Any DUI Conviction

Regardless of whether the conviction for driving under the influence is a driver's first or not, several other laws apply:

- **IDs with "DUI Offender:"** If a person with a license revoked for DUI applies for a photo identification license to carry during the period before his or her license can be restored, the department is required to indicate on the ID that the person is a DUI offender.
- **Litter Removal:** A DUI conviction also requires litter pick-up for three eight-hour shifts. While removing litter, the offender has to wear a vest or other clothing displaying the message, "I am a DRUNK DRIVER." If the offender is a Tennessee resident, the litter pick-up is done in his/her home county.
- **Vehicle Seizure:** A vehicle can be seized if a driver is charged with driving on a revoked license when his/her driving privileges are already revoked as a result of a DUI conviction (first or subsequent).
- **Vehicular Homicide:** If you are operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a drug or alcohol, and you are involved in a crash resulting in the death of another person(s), you may be charged with vehicular homicide. If convicted, you may be fined and sentenced to prison. It is possible to be imprisoned for many years.
- **Aggravated Assault:** If you are operating a vehicle under the influence of a drug or alcohol, and you are involved in a motor vehicle crash that results in the injury of another person, you may be charged with aggravated assault. If convicted, you may be fined and sentenced to prison.



- **Child Endangerment:** Known as the Drunk Driving Child Protection Act, there are added penalties for people who violate DUI laws when accompanied by a child under 18 years old. There is a mandatory minimum jail sentence of 30 days, and a mandatory minimum fine of $1,000. Both of these child-related penalties are added onto any other incarceration, penalty and fines. If the child suffers serious bodily injury, the violation is a Class D felony, and if the child dies, it is a Class C felony of especially aggravated child endangerment.

Additional DUI Penalties

In addition to the minimum penalties above, the judge will also require the following of the DUI offender:

- To undergo a drug and treatment assessment and receive treatment, as appropriate, for those who have had a prior DUI in the five years prior to the current DUI.
- Participation in an alcohol safety DUI school program, if available; or
- Participation in a program of alcohol or drug rehabilitation at a treatment facility, if available, for second and subsequent convictions; and
- The payment of restitution to any person suffering physical injury or personal losses as a result of the DUI, if the offender is economically capable of making restitution.
- The driver's vehicle will be seized if he/she has two DUI convictions within five years **AND** both events happened after January 1997.

Courts may also limit the DUI offender to driving only a motor vehicle equipped with a functioning **ignition interlock device** (which keeps a car from starting if the driver's BAC is too high). This restriction can be up to six months for a first offense, up to three years for a second offense and up to 10 years for third and subsequent offenses.

Please note that a person with 2 DUIs in a five year period MUST operate a motor vehicle with the ignition block device for six months after reinstatement of driving privileges.

Remember, driving while under the influence of drugs—even prescription drugs—carries the same penalties as for alcohol.

DUI's Are Expensive!
Besides being extremely dangerous and against the law, DUI's are costly. In addition to the fines and court costs, a person charged with DUI can be faced with posting bond to get released from jail, attorney fees, loss of time from work to attend court hearing(s), loss of time from work to serve time in jail, fees for alcohol safety courses and possible treatment, increased insurance premiums, and other expenses. This can add up to several thousand dollars.

Young Driver Risks and Laws

Not Just Driving—Riding With Others!
Young people remain especially vulnerable to the threat of alcohol and other drugs. This is not only from their own impaired driving, but also from getting in the car with other drivers who are not sober. **TRAFFIC CRASHES ARE THE LEADING KILLER OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND NEARLY HALF ARE ALCOHOL RELATED.** In a national survey, nearly half of 10th graders and a third of eighth graders reported having ridden during the past month with a driver who had used alcohol or other drugs before taking the wheel.

Crash records indicate that young drivers under the influence of small amounts of alcohol appear to have more driving problems than older drivers. Most teenagers are intoxicated at low BAC levels. The young driver's chance of a crash is much greater with BAC between .01-.08 percent than older drivers. This is due to low tolerance of alcohol and limited driving experience.

THE DECISION IS YOURS. BE RESPONSIBLE AND SMART—HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS!

Under 21 Laws
In addition to the standard penalties for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol discussed previously, there are three special laws that apply to people under the age of 21:

- **18-20 Alcohol Violations:** If you are 18, 19 or 20 years old and are convicted of purchasing, attempting to purchase, or possessing any alcoholic beverage, you will lose your privilege to drive for one year. If it happens again, you will lose your license for two years. The law applies to any alcohol-related conviction, whether or not you were driving or even in a vehicle.
- **Juvenile Offenders:** If you are between the ages of 13 and 17 and are found to have possessed, consumed or sold either alcohol or drugs, your driving privilege will be suspended for one year or until age 17, whichever is longer. Even if you have never been licensed, you could lose your privilege to drive until you reach age 17. If you have a second conviction, the suspension is for two years or until age 18, whichever is longer.
- **Under 21 BAC:** A person who is at least 16, but is not yet 21 years old, and who is found: (1) driving with a BAC of .02 percent; (2) under the influence of alcohol; or (3) under the influence of any other intoxicant will be convicted of underage driving while impaired. Penalties for this conviction are: losing your license for one year, a fine of $250 and sometimes, also includes public service work.

Prevention Of Drinking and Driving

The best advice, of course, is simply to not drink when you know you are going to drive. One of the most successful programs in recent years has been the designated driver concept, where friends agree ahead of time which person will remain strictly sober. Many night clubs offer the designated driver free non-alcoholic beverages for the evening. Young people, who do not want to drink in the first place, are finding it more socially acceptable to offer to be the designated driver.

Avoiding the Risks

Alcohol-related crashes are not accidents. They can be prevented. If you are planning a night on the town, decide before you start drinking that you are not going to drive. Remember, alcohol affects your judgment. It's a lot more difficult to make the decision not to drive after one or two drinks.

Use the following tips to keep from drinking and driving and still have a good time:

- Drive to social events in groups of two or more and have the driver agree not to drink.
- Arrange to ride with a friend who is not drinking.
- Before you start drinking, give your vehicle keys to someone who isn't drinking and who won't let you drive after drinking.
- If someone offers you a drink and you plan to drive, simply say, "No thanks, I'm driving."

If You Choose To Drink

If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, you should control your drinking to stay within your limit. Drinking in a responsible and mature manner means that you are aware of your physical and mental condition. You also:

- Set a limit in advance and stick to it;
- Drink at a slow pace;
- Watch for signs of impairment;
- Use time to get rid of alcohol.

If, despite your best intentions, you realize you have had too much to drink, consider using public transportation to get home. Taking a cab could be a lot cheaper than paying a fine or losing your driver license! Beyond taking a cab, you could:

- Offer the keys to a non-drinking friend;
- Stay overnight at the party giver's home or a hotel within walking distance;
- Call a parent or friend to pick you up and take you home.

If You Are the Host

You assume a great amount of responsibility when you entertain your friends at home and serve alcoholic beverages. To help prevent the consequences of drinking and driving, you should do the following during the party:

- Encourage some of the guests to be designated drivers;
- Serve food, such as cheese and crackers;
- Always offer non-alcoholic drinks;
- Do not mix strong drinks or be in a hurry to refill glasses;
- Close the bar at least two hours before guests depart.

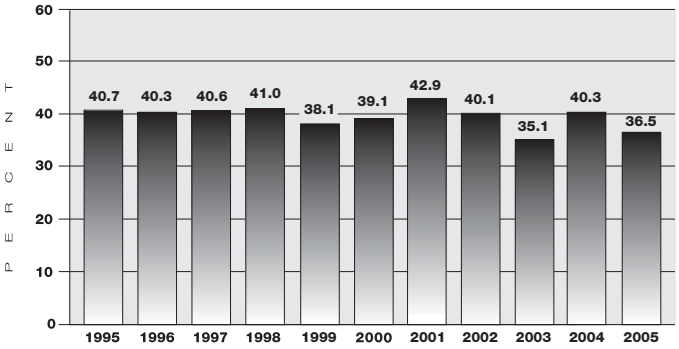
DID YOU KNOW?

1. The amount of alcohol in one (12 ounce) bottle of beer is about equal to that in a (1 ounce) shot of whiskey.
2. When alcohol is consumed, it quickly reaches the brain where it, in effect, short-circuits the parts that control judgment, emotions and confidence.
3. The first thing affected after drinking alcohol is a person's judgment.
4. Reliable research studies show that two or three drinks of alcohol in three hours or less impair the driving ability of most individuals.
5. It takes about one hour to cancel the effects of one drink. It takes about three hours to cancel the intoxicating effects of three drinks.
6. Alcohol-related vehicle crashes are the number one killer of people under the age of 40.
7. Many drugs, even legal over-the-counter drugs, can impair your ability to drive. If you are taking them for a cold, they make you feel well enough to drive, but they can also affect alertness, judgment, coordination and vision.
8. The combined use of alcohol and other depressant drugs, such as antihistamines, may be more dangerous to health and highway safety than the effects of either the alcohol or drugs alone.

We Are Doing Better

Over the past few years, Tennessee has seen a progressive decrease in the percentage of fatal crashes involving alcohol. Prior to 1990, it was common for half of all fatal crashes to involve alcohol. Since then, there has been a decline. In 2005, the percentage was about 37 percent. This is an improvement over 15 years, but only safe driving and adhering to laws that prohibit drinking and driving will move this percentage down even further.

We Must Keep Trying



Let's get this percentage lower!

NOTE: This chapter was written in consultation with the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and Other Addiction Services (TAADAS).

For further information on the general subject of drug and alcohol use and abuse, or for referrals for help with such problems, call the toll-free "Redline" at 1-800-889-9789. Or, check the TAADAS web site: www.taadas.org

Chapter 6 - Chapter Sample Test Questions

Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. Please note that 25 percent of your test questions will be found in this chapter. The page number for where the correct answer can be located for each question is shown.

16. Driving while under the influence of drugs carries:
    A. The same penalty as for alcohol
    B. A lesser penalty than for alcohol.
    C. Absolutely no penalty at all.

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17. If you have had three beers in the past hour, about how long will it take for all the alcohol to leave your blood stream?

A. One hour
B. Two hours
C. Three hours
Page 49

18. As the percentage of alcohol (BAC) in your blood increases, you become:
A. More intoxicated
B. More sober
C. More coordinated
Page 49

19. Implied Consent Law means:
A. If asked, you will take a test to determine alcohol or drug content in the blood.
B. The laws apply even without any signs, markings or signals present at an intersection.
C. The owner of the vehicle will carry proper insurance.
Page 51

20. Which of the following driving skills are affected by the use of alcohol and/or drugs?
A. Alertness and concentration
B. Reaction time and coordination
C. All of the above are affected.
D. Page 51

Problem Driver Pointer System

The Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) is a federally mandated program that requires Tennessee to do a national computer check before issuing a driver license. If you apply for a Tennessee license — whether it is your first license here, or some other transaction such as a renewal — and you have a problem in another state, we cannot issue you a license until the matter is resolved.

The national computer listing contains names and limited other identifying information about individuals whose licenses have been canceled, denied, revoked or suspended, or who have been convicted of certain serious traffic violations. If records indicate you have a problem in another state, the examiners will provide you the name of the state reporting the problem and a telephone number you can use to contact that state to clear your record there.

Please Note: To get specific information about what the other state has reported to the PDPS system, call the other state. Tennessee does not have this information. We are only provided with the fact that the other state has reported a problem.

Losing Your Privilege To Drive

In Tennessee, a driver license may be revoked or suspended for the following situations:

1. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including the failure to submit to a test to determine the blood/alcohol level. (Implied Consent)
2. Allowing unlawful use of a driver license, including fraudulently altering a driver license or allowing another individual to use your license or identification.
3. Mental or physical difficulties that interfere with a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, seizures and loss of consciousness).
4. Leaving the scene of a personal injury or fatal crash; failure to stop and render aid in a vehicle crash.
5. Perjury, or giving false information on the use or ownership of a vehicle, or for the issuance of a driver license.
6. A felony that involves the use of a vehicle.
7. Evading arrest while operating a motor vehicle.
8. Manslaughter/vehicular homicide involving the operation of a vehicle.
9. Two reckless driving violations within 12 months.
10. Drag racing.
11. Habitual recipients of moving traffic violations.
12. Not complying with the terms of a judgment found against the driver for damages resulting from a motor vehicle crash.
13. Purchasing or possessing any alcoholic beverage, if under 21 years old.
14. Failure to comply with child support requirements.
15. Driving a motor vehicle away from a gas station without paying for dispensed gas or diesel fuel.
16. Failure to show evidence of vehicle insurance/financial responsibility to an officer when involved in a crash or charged with a moving violation.
17. Possession by a driver of five or more grams of methamphetamine in a vehicle.

In addition, persons under the age of 18 may lose their driving privileges for:

- Convictions of any drug or alcohol offense, whether or not the offense occurred while driving;
- Dropping out of school (which is defined as having 10 consecutive or 15 total days in a semester of unexcused absences);
- Failure to make satisfactory progress in school (which, in general, means passing three subjects per grading period); or
- Weapons violations (possession within or outside a motor vehicle of any offensive/defensive instrument).

WHENEVER A DRIVER LICENSE IS SUSPENDED OR REVOKED, IT MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY WITHIN 20 DAYS OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION. ANY TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICE OR DRIVER LICENSE STATION CAN TAKE YOUR LICENSE AND SEE THAT YOU ARE GIVEN CREDIT FOR RETURNING IT. THE LICENSE MAY BE MAILED TO:

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
1150 FOSTER AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

FAILURE TO SURRENDER YOUR LICENSE MEANS THAT YOU WILL BE FINED $75 IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINES AND COSTS YOU MAY OWE.

Hearings

Before any license is suspended, revoked or canceled, the department will notify the licensee in writing of the proposed suspension, revocation or cancellation. If your license is about to be suspended, revoked or cancelled, the department will give you an opportunity for a hearing prior to action, except in cases of final judgments and convictions.

IMPORTANT: If you have a new address, you must report it to the Department of Safety within ten (10) days of the change. Although the new address may not appear on your license until you receive a new/renewed/reinstated license, your address must be correct on the official Driver License file. You may make this change:
(a) by letter (Tennessee Department of Safety, 1150 Foster Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243),
(b) by completing a change-of-address form available at any Driver License station or (c) by internet— www.tennessee.gov/safety/.

Without a correct address, you may not receive important information concerning the status of your driver license.

(Also, you could be "ticketed," if correct address is not on file.)

Non-Resident Violator Compact

Tennessee is a member of the Non-Resident Violator Compact. In a nutshell, this compact means that regardless of where you receive a citation for a traffic violation, you must either appear in court to answer the citation or meet any other requirement the court may set out to satisfy the citation. If you ignore the citation — whether it was issued for a traffic violation here or in another member state, your driving privileges will be suspended, revoked or canceled. The suspension, revocation or cancellation remains in effect until the court notifies Tennessee that the citation has been properly disposed of and the proper fees are paid.

Reinstatements

Steps you need to follow to have your driver license reinstated depend on several factors, including why you lost your license and what else is on your record. To clear your record, you must contact:

Tennessee Department of Safety
Financial Responsibility
1150 Foster Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Phone: (615) 741-3954, or
TDD—Telecommunications Device for the Deaf:
(615) 532-2281

Email Address: FinResp.Safety@state.tn.us or;
Internet Website: www.tennessee.gov/safety/

POINTS FOR MOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS AND CRASHES (Table: 5.1)

POINTS	SPEEDING	
3	Where speed not indicated	Construction Zone: 4 pts.
1	1 thru 5 m.p.h. in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 2 pts.
3	6 thru 15 m.p.h. in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 6 pts.
4	16 thru 25 m.p.h. in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 7 pts.
5	26 thru 35 m.p.h. in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 7 pts.
6	36 thru 45 m.p.h. in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 8 pts.
8	46 m.p.h. and above in excess of speed zone	Construction Zone: 8 pts.
POINTS	MOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATION	
8	Operating without being licensed or without license required for type of vehicle being operated (under suspension)	
8	Driving while license canceled	
8	Reckless endangerment by vehicle — misdemeanor	
8	Adult driving while impaired	
6	Reckless driving	
6	Passing school bus taking on or discharging passengers	
6	1st Offense violation of driver license restrictions	
6	Fleeing law enforcement officer	
5	Leaving the scene of a crash (Property damage only)	
4	Signs and control devices — Failure to obey traffic instructions	
4	Improper passing — Passing where prohibited	
4	Wrong way, side or direction	
4	Failing to yield right of way	
4	Careless or negligent driving	
4	Violation of bumper law	
3	Following improperly	
3	Making improper turn	
3	Speed less than posted minimum	
3	Operating without being licensed or without license required for type of vehicle being operated (not under suspension)	
3	Miscellaneous — Failure to maintain control, improper control, etc.	
2	Failure to signal change of vehicle direction or to reduce speed suddenly	
2	Following emergency vehicles unlawfully	
POINTS	CRASHES	
8	Contributing to occurrence of a crash resulting in the death of another person	
4	Failure to Report Crash	
4	Contributing to occurrence of an crash resulting in bodily injury	
3	Contributing to occurrence of an crash resulting in property damage	

Driver Improvement Program

The Department of Safety keeps records of traffic violations and crashes for each driver. These records are based on reports forwarded to the department by the courts, and on reports of traffic crashes submitted by investigating officers.

Each traffic violation on a driver's record is given a point value. The assignment of point values for various offenses is designed to impress upon drivers the importance of complying with traffic laws and regulations. If they do not comply, they may establish a bad driving record leading to suspension of driving privileges.

See chart on page 56 showing points assigned for violations and crashes.

Drivers who accumulate **12 or more points** within a 12-month period receive a notice of proposed suspension. To keep drivers aware of the possibility of losing their driving privileges, an **advisory letter** is mailed to any licensee having six to 11 points on his/her driving record within any 12 months.

Drivers may choose to attend a Defensive Driving Course to avoid license suspension or to reduce the period of suspension. However, the Defensive Driving Course option is only available once in any five-year period. After a hearing, the department will take whatever action is necessary to correct and improve poor driving habits by education, re-examinations and/or placing necessary restrictions on the licensee and probation. If these steps are unsuccessful, the department will have no other choice than to suspend the person's driving privileges.

Frequent Traffic Violations

Frequent traffic violations are dangerous and costly. Upon the completion of the suspension time, you must pay the appropriate reinstatement fees and establish future proof of car insurance/financial responsibility (SR-22 Form) with the department **before** you can get your regular license.

DRIVING WHILE YOUR LICENSE IS SUSPENDED WILL RESULT IN THE EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION PERIOD AND COULD ALSO RESULT IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

Restricted Driver Licenses

When a driver license is suspended or revoked, but the driver depends on his or her driving to make a living or to continue schooling, there are certain conditions in which the driver may apply for a restricted driver license. The **restricted license** permits the driver to operate a motor vehicle for very specific purposes that are spelled out when the license is issued. The procedures for applying for a restricted license depend upon the reason the license was taken away in the first place, as summarized below:

1. **Car Insurance/Financial Responsibility:** When a person's license is revoked for failure to provide proof of car insurance/financial responsibility, and his/her employment includes duties to operate an employer's vehicle, the person may apply for an approval letter from the Department of Safety's Financial Responsibility Section and pass appropriate tests. Required tests would depend on the past driving record and frequency of convictions.
2. **DUI:** After the first conviction for DUI, the trial judge may issue an order for a restricted license to go to and from work, attend college full time, drive as part of employment or to attend certain court-ordered events. This restricted license is not an option for drivers who have a prior conviction of:
   - DUI or adult driving while impaired within 10 years;
   - Vehicular Homicide as the latest result of intoxication;
   - Aggravated Vehicular Homicide;
   - Vehicular Assault.

After the first year of a two-year revocation, drivers may apply for a restricted driver license if they install an **ignition interlock device** on the motor vehicle for the remaining period of revocation. When applying at the driver license station, these applicants must submit two (2) copies of the court order and proof of car insurance/financial responsibility (SR-22 from their insurance company) and pass appropriate tests. Required tests would depend on past driving record and frequency of convictions.

3. **Driver Improvement:** Any person whose driver license has been suspended for frequent traffic violations may obtain this type of license by applying to the Driver Improvement Section of the Tennessee Department of Safety. Each applicant will be required to submit his/her approval letter, present proof of SR-22 insurance and pass appropriate tests. Required tests would depend on past driving record and frequency of convictions.

4. **Implied Consent:** A person whose license has been suspended by the court for Implied Consent may apply to the trial judge for a restricted license to operate a motor vehicle for going to and from work, full-time college and working at his or her regular place of employment. At the time of application, two (2) copies of a court order and proof of SR-22 insurance must be submitted.

5. **Juvenile:** A minor who loses his/her license because of drug- or alcohol-related charges may apply to the trial judge for a restricted license. Each applicant must bring two (2) copies of the court order to a driver license station and pass the vision test. Proof of insurance is not required.

Physical Or Mental Disabilities

When evidence is received that an individual's ability to drive is affected by a physical or mental disorder, the driver will be required to submit **[within twenty (20) days of notification]** a medical certificate from a medical doctor. This certificate will provide the effects of the illness or disability on the individual's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. If the report is unfavorable, the driving privilege will be suspended until the condition improves.

Re-Examination of Drivers

If there is evidence that a driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is questionable, he or she may be directed to report to the nearest Driver License Station to submit to a complete driver examination. Appropriate corrective action may be required and certain restrictions may be placed on the license.

NOTE: Failure to respond to departmental requests for a medical certificate or submission to a driver license examination within the prescribed time will result in the suspension of the driving privilege. This suspension lasts until a satisfactory medical report is submitted to the department or until the driver successfully passes the driving tests that are required by the department.

Financial Responsibility

This law is to protect you and the public from financially irresponsible drivers who become involved in crashes. It also provides protection from drivers who have repeated violations and/or obvious disregard for driving laws.

The best way to protect yourself and your driver license is to have adequate insurance to cover death, bodily injury and property damage.

First, a few definitions:

- **Liability insurance** provides coverage for damages you cause to other persons.
- **Collision insurance** provides coverage for damages sustained by your vehicle.
- **Uninsured motorist insurance** provides for coverage for the damages uninsured persons cause.

Although collision insurance is not required by Tennessee law, the Financial Responsibility Law requires drivers to produce evidence of financial responsibility. This is required when charged with a moving violation or when involved in a motor vehicle crash without regard to apparent or actual fault.

Evidence of financial responsibility can be in the form of:

(1) A declaration page of your insurance policy;
(2) An insurance binder;
(3) An insurance card from an insurance company authorized to do business in Tennessee;
(4) A certificate issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Safety stating that a cash deposit or bond in the amount required by statute has been paid or filed with the Commissioner; or
(5) Proof of qualification as a self-insurer as provided by statute.

If a driver is unable to present evidence and is convicted on the charge of failure to show evidence of financial responsibility, his/her driving privileges will be suspended. Before reinstatement of driving privileges, evidence of financial responsibility must be presented, along with any other requirements must be submitted.

Reporting Crashes

A crash is any vehicle collision involving another vehicle, person or object. Drivers must notify local law enforcement officials of any crash involving death, injury or property damage over fifty dollars ($50).

In addition, certain crashes — called "reportable crashes" — must be reported to the Tennessee Department of Safety. These include any crash within this state in which any person is killed or injured, or in which damage to the property of any one person, including oneself, is in excess of four hundred dollars ($400).

Regardless of who is to blame, the operator and/or owner of a vehicle involved in a reportable crash in this state must file a report of the crash to the Tennessee Department of Safety **within 20 days**. If the driver received an injury and cannot complete the report, it can be filed by a passenger or by the owner. If the crash involved an unattended vehicle or a domestic animal and you cannot locate the owner, report the crash to the police.

The crash report forms can be obtained at any Highway Patrol office, local police stations or from the Department of Safety's website (www.tennessee.gov/safety/). Failure to report a crash may result in suspension of driving and registration privileges.

If you are in a reportable crash and a claim is filed with the Department of Safety by the other party, you must do one of these three things:

(1) Show proof that you had liability insurance at the time of the crash;
(2) Obtain notarized releases from all parties who file claims with the department; or
(3) Post cash or corporate surety bond with the department for the amount of damages received by other parties. **If you do not comply with these requirements, your driving and registration privileges will be revoked.**

If your driving privileges are revoked due to a conviction or failure to file security after a crash, your liability insurance carrier must file a SR-22 Form with the department before driving privileges can be reinstated.

Traffic Crashes

If You Are Involved In a Crash — STOP! The law requires drivers of vehicles involved in crashes to stop immediately at the scene, or as close to the scene as possible without obstructing traffic. **Notify the police immediately.**

After stopping your vehicle, give your name, address, driver license number and vehicle registration number to the other driver. Ask the other driver for the same information. Remain calm and stay at the crash scene. Don't blame other people or accept blame, and don't discuss the crash. Wait for the law enforcement officer and answer the officer's questions truthfully and calmly.

If You Arrive First at a Crash Scene — If you can help, park your car off the road and turn on your emergency flashers. If possible, warn oncoming traffic with flares so that cars approaching the crash scene will not strike the wrecked vehicle.

Have someone notify the police.

Turn off the ignition in the damaged vehicle to prevent a fire. If the car is on fire, help the people out and take them away from the vehicle to prevent further injury in case of an explosion.

If someone is pinned under a wrecked car, don't try to lift him/her unless you have enough strong people available to help. Only move after you have checked to make sure that no one will be pinned under the other side. Unless you know what you are doing, it is best to wait for the police and emergency squad to free crushed or pinned victims.

If you are not the first at a crash scene and your assistance is not needed, drive on. Do not slow down or stop just to satisfy your curiosity. Move on so you do not interfere with the arrival of the police and emergency equipment.

Emergency First Aid — Medical assistance should be given only by properly trained persons. However, you may find yourself in a situation where immediate assistance is unavailable and you must help the injured victims. In these cases, remember these basic first aid rules:

- Unless absolutely necessary because of the danger of fire or some other hazard, **avoid moving the injured person**.
- If the victim must be moved, get help and try not to change the position in which he/she was found.
- If possible, cover the victim with coats or blankets to keep him/her warm.
- Never lift a victim by holding him/her under the shoulder (armpits) and knees.
- If a victim appears to have a broken back or a broken neck, and you bend the victim forward or sit him up, you may cut the spinal cord and cause permanent paralysis.
- Control excessive bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, applied with pressure by hand or by bandaging.
- Cover burns with clean cloths to reduce the pain.
- Apply no ointments to burns or other wounds.
- Do not offer the injured anything to drink.
- If the injured person does not seem to be breathing, attempt to revive breathing through emergency artificial respiration.

Chapter 7 Chapter Sample Test Questions

Here are some sample test questions. Because these are just study questions to help you review, you may receive a test with completely different questions, in whole or in part. The page number is shown for where the correct answer can be located for each question. Also, answers to all the study questions can be found in the back of the book.

21. If involved in a reportable accident, the operator of the vehicle must file an accident report to the Department of Safety within:
    A. 10 Days
    B. 20 Days
    C. 48 Hours

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22. If you are not the first at the scene of accident and your help is not needed, what should you do:
    A. Slow down to calm your nerves.
    B. Stop and look for your own curiosity.
    C. Drive on and do not interfere with procedures.

Page 60

23. A driver license may be revoked or suspended for:
    A. Frequent convictions of traffic law violations resulting in 12 or more "points"
    B. Fraudulently altering a driver license
    C. Both of the above

Page 56 and 58

STUDY QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. C
14. C
15. C
16. A
17. C
18. A
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. C
23. C

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE DRIVING EXPERIENCE LOG

Tennessee's Graduated Driver License law requires the parent, guardian or certified driving instructor to sign a certificate (Form SF-1256) confirming that the teen driver has accumulated a minimum of fifty (50) hours of behind the wheel driving experience while holding a valid learner permit. This experience must include a minimum of ten (10) hours of night-time driving. The driving log below is provided as a tool to assist the teen and parent in tracking this experience. ***This log is NOT required to be submitted to the Driver License Office prior to road testing. It is simply provided as a convenience***.

Driving Date & Time (Hours and Minutes) D = Daytime N = Nighttime					**Driving Environment** (residential, city, rural, interstate, mixed, etc.)	**Driving Skills Practiced***	**Driving Conditions** (sunny, raining, snowing / paved, gravel, dry, wet, icy, etc.)		**Miles Driven**		**Mentor** P = Parent PD = Parent Designee I = Qualified Instructor	**Mentor Initials**
Date	Hrs.	Mins.	D	N			Weather	Roadway	Beginning	Ending		
Totals												

*Examples: yielding-of-way/courtesy; maintaining driving focus/attention; vehicle control/handling; speed control; safe braking; space management; 2 second rule; safe/proper backing; maintaining lane position; passing; turns/intersections; pre-driving habits (seat belts, mirrors, etc.); traffic controls (RR signals, traffic lights, etc.).

TIPS TO HELP YOUR VISIT TO THE DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE GO SMOOTHER:

Carefully Read the Tennessee Driver Study Guide

This Handbook will describe:

- ✓ Steps to take to Receive/Renew Your Tennessee Driver License
- ✓ What Documents Are Needed
- ✓ Types of Driver Licenses Available
- ✓ What Your Fees Will Be

Tennessee Driver License Stations

Select the Office most convenient to you

- ✓ REVIEW THE DRIVER LICENSE STATION LIST IN THIS BOOK
  To check service days/hours – go to:
- ✓ OUR WEBSITE: www.tennessee/gov/safety/
- ✓ CALL TOLLFREE: 1-866-849-3548 OR
- ✓ CALL TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) (615)-532-5581

Visit During Least Busy Hours

Study This Guide and Be Prepared

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