INTERESTED IN AN EXCITING CAREER AS A STATE TROOPER?

To find out if you qualify to be one of the very special people associated with DPS, contact the nearest Texas Department of Public Safety Office for details or visit our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*.

The Texas Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity employer.

Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas Registry
Texans can register to be organ, tissue and eye donors online by visiting www.DonateLifeTexas.org or when renewing their Driver License or ID card.

REPORT SMOKING VEHICLES

To report a smoking vehicle, visit:
www.smokingvehicle.org
or call toll free
1-800-453-SMOG (7664)

TEXAS DRIVERS HANDBOOK

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Revised October 2008

Website:
www.txdps.state.tx.us

INTRODUCTION

This handbook has two main purposes: (1) to help you qualify for a Texas Driver License and (2) to help you become a safer driver. The information herein is not intended to be an official legal reference to Texas traffic laws. It is intended only to explain in everyday language those laws and driving practices and procedures which you need most often when driving in Texas. If you have a court case or other reason to know the actual language of the traffic laws, refer to the Texas Transportation Code and criminal laws in the Texas Penal Code. If you are applying for a Commercial Driver License (CDL) you must study the Commercial Driver License Handbook. The Commercial Driver License Handbook is a different handbook than the one you are now reading.

Persons interested in driving motorcycles and mopeds should obtain and study the Motorcycle Handbook. All handbooks are distributed by your local Driver License Office(s) or can be viewed on the DPS website in PDF format.

Don't throw this handbook away after you pass your tests. Study it for reference and keep up-to-date. To keep up-to-date with all law changes, get a new copy every two years after the Texas Legislature has met.

Questions or comments concerning this book should be sent to:

DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
P. O. Box 4087
AUSTIN, TX 78773-0300

If you have any other questions or need additional information contact your local Drivers License Office or visit our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*. Refer to Appendix C of this book to locate a Drivers License Office in your area of Texas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety does not discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

ADA Accommodation

Persons needing accommodation under the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact personnel on duty at their local Driver License Office. The DPS strives to accommodate all citizens who come to our facilities for any purpose. Persons in need of assistance who fail to receive accommodation may have grounds for a grievance. DPS Grievance Procedures may be found in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 37 §1.41 or at the DPS website *www.txdps.state.tx.us.*

CUSTOMER SERVICE (512) 424-2600

Dear Fellow Texan:

Traffic safety is the primary responsibility of all highway users. Texans have traditionally accepted this responsibility by practicing safe and courteous driving behavior.

The Texas highway system is one of the most extensive highway systems in the nation where Texas drivers log over 187 billion travel miles annually. For several years, traffic fatalities were on the decline. However, in recent years traffic fatalities have been on the increase. Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and Speeding are two primary contributors to this increase. The use of safety belts by all drivers is extremely important in helping to reduce fatalities and injuries.

The responsibility for traffic safety begins with the individual driver. Make a personal commitment to traffic safety by carefully studying this handbook and striving to develop safe driving habits.

Texas Department of Public Safety

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CHAPTER 1

YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE

WHO MAY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE IN TEXAS

1. Residents who have a valid Texas driver license.

2. The driver of an official motor vehicle in the service of the United States or state military service—without a valid Texas driver license, unless the vehicle is a Commercial Motor Vehicle as defined in Section 522.003(5), Texas Commercial Driver License Act (Texas Transportation Code). See pages 1-5 through 1-7 for a further explanation.

3. Any person while driving or operating any road machine, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry temporarily operated or moved on a highway is exempt from licensure, unless the vehicle is a Commercial Motor Vehicle as defined in Section 522.003(5), Texas Commercial Driver License Act (Texas Transportation Code). See pages 1-5 through 1-7 for a further explanation.

4. A nonresident (at least 16 years of age) who has in his possession a valid driver license issued to him in his home state may operate a vehicle which is permitted to be operated with a Class C or Class M driver license in Texas.

5. Nonresidents (at least 18 years of age) may drive any vehicle in Texas if they are legally licensed to drive such a vehicle in their home state or country, and their home state or country grants like recognition to citizens of Texas.

6. The validity of any Texas driver license held by any person who enters or is in the United States Armed Forces shall continue in full force and effect so long as the service continues and the person remains absent from this State, and not to exceed 90 days following the day on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service or returns to this state, unless the license is sooner suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

7. A nonresident on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who has a valid license issued by his home state and such nonresident's spouse or dependent son or daughter who has a valid license issued by such person's home state.

8. Any person on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who has in his possession a valid license issued in a foreign country by the Armed Forces may operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of time not to

exceed 90 days from the date of his return to the United States.

9. New residents who are properly licensed have 30 days after entry into the state to secure a Texas driver license.

THE TYPES OF TEXAS DRIVER LICENSES

INSTRUCTION PERMIT:

This is a permit issued without a photograph for the purpose of permitting a student driver to legally practice when accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age and has had at least one year driving experience who is occupying the seat beside the driver, is not intoxicated, asleep or engaging in any activity that prevents them from observing and responding to actions of the driver.

Minimum Age: 15 with driver education.

Fee: $5.00

Expiration: Issued until the applicant's next birth date, plus one year. Not renewable as an instruction permit but must be renewed as a photo-type license at regular fees upon expiration or at the time the driving test is passed and the restrictions are removed.

SPECIAL NOTE: A person may not receive a Texas driver license until he surrenders to the Department all valid driver licenses in his possession issued to him by this or any other state.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you are under 18 years of age you must prove when you apply for your first Texas driver license or instruction permit and again each time your license is renewed until your 18th birthday that you:

1) Have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
2) Are a student enrolled in a public or private school who attended school for at least 80 days in the fall or spring semester preceding the date of application; or
3) Have been enrolled for at least 45 days, and are currently enrolled in a program to prepare persons to pass the high school equivalency exam.

You are also required to present the documentation anytime the license is renewed prior to the 18th birthday. During the school year the certificate issued by the school may not be dated more than 30 days before the date of application. During the summer the certificate may not be dated more than 90 days before the date of application.

The Texas Education Agency has developed an attendance certification form that you must obtain from your respective school. Have the school officials complete and sign it, and then present it to the Driver License personnel when you are applying for or renewing your driver license.

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE: The Texas Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program was implemented January 1, 2002.

Phase One: Applicants under age 18 must hold an instruction permit or hardship license for a minimum of six months prior to issuance of a provisional Class A, B, or C driver license. Under the GDL program, there is no minimum time that a person must hold a restricted motorcycle or moped license before they can apply for a Class M license. Phase one does not apply to Class M or hardship license holders. The instruction permit must remain valid during the mandatory six-month period to meet this regulation.

Phase Two: Phase Two restricts the driving privileges of persons under 18 years of age during the six-month period following the issuance of an original Class A, B, or C driver license (Provisional License). These persons may not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member. In addition, they may not operate a motor vehicle between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the operator to attend or participate in employment or a school-related activity or because of a medical emergency. The license restriction will state, "TRC 545.424 applies until mm/dd/yy".

Applicants 15 years of age presenting an out-of-state instruction permit will be issued a Texas instruction permit which must be held for six months from the date of issuance before becoming eligible for Phase Two.

Applicants at least 16 years of age and less than 18 years old who present a valid out-of-state instruction permit or out-of-state driver license will be issued a Phase Two provisional GDL with passenger and time restrictions for the first six months of operation of a motor vehicle in Texas.

PROVISIONAL LICENSE:

All original licenses, other than an Instruction Permit, issued to persons under 18 years of age will be marked "PROVISIONAL." The license will expire on the applicant's next birth date occurring after the date of issuance. A minimum fee of $5.00 is required. The renewal fee is $5.00 for each one-year renewal period. Non-commercial driver licenses issued to persons age 18 or over will be valid for six years and cost $24.00.

SPECIAL NOTE: Licensees under 21 years old will have "Under 21" printed on their license.

CLASSIFIED DRIVER LICENSE (Texas Transportation Code, Section 521)

The following listed Class A, B, C, and M licenses will be issued to persons who are exempt from obtaining a Commercial Driver License or persons who are not required to obtain a Commercial Driver License:

1. **Class A** driver license permits a person to drive any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds; including a vehicle included in Class B or Class C, except a motorcycle or moped.

Minimum Ages: 18, or 17 with completion of an approved driver education course including classroom and practical training or approval of minor's hardship application.

Fee: $24.00 for 6 years. Applicants under the age of 18 are charged $5.00 for a license to expire on the next birthday.

2. **Class B** driver license permits a person to drive the following vehicles, except a motorcycle or moped:

a. a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, and any such vehicle towing either a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating that does not exceed 10,000 pounds, or a farm trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating that does not exceed 20,000 pounds;

b. a bus with a seating capacity of 24 passengers or more, including the driver; and

c. a vehicle included in Class C.

Minimum Ages: 18, or 17 with completion of an approved driver education course including classroom and practical training or approval of a minor's hardship application.

Fee: $24.00 for 6 years. Applicants under the age of 18 are charged $5.00 for a license to expire on the next birthday.

3. **Class C** driver license permits a person to drive the following vehicles, except a motorcycle or moped:

a. a single unit vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that is not a Class A or B; and

b. a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 26,001 pounds, towing a trailer not to exceed 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating or a farm trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating that does not exceed 20,000 pounds.

Minimum Ages: 18, or 16 with completion of an approved course of driver education including classroom and practical training, or 15 with approval of minor's hardship application.

Fee: $24.00 for 6 years. Applicants under the age of 18 are charged $5.00 for a license to expire on the next birthday.

4. **Class M** driver license permits a person to drive a motorcycle or moped.

Minimum Ages:

a. Motorcycle—18, or 16 with completion of an approved course of driver education (32 hours classroom and the 16-hour Department-approved Basic Motorcycle Operator Training Course)

b. Moped—15 years of age

Motor-driven cycle of 250cc or less

a. 15 with Department approval for minor's hardship license

b. 15 with completion of an approved course of driver education (32 hours classroom and the 16-hour Department-approved Basic Motorcycle Operator Training Course)

Fee: $24.00 for 6 years. Applicants under the age of 18 are charged $5.00 for a license to expire on the next birthday. A motorcycle endorsement added to a current license requires a $15.00 examination fee. An additional fee of $8.00 will be required when renewing a Class M license.

SPECIAL NOTE: All applicants who apply for an original or renewal of their driver license or identification card may elect to pay an additional voluntary contribution of $1.00 to either one or both of the following programs: The Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program which is administered by the Texas Commission for the Blind, and allows screening and treatment of individuals who are without adequate medical coverage. The Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas registry is responsible for managing the donor registry and state-funded donor education projects. Texans can also register to be organ, tissue, and eye donors online by visiting www.DonateLifeTexas.org.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL) - (Transportation Code, Chapter 522)

See **SPECIAL NOTE** on page 1-7.

The holder of a valid Commercial Driver License may drive all vehicles in the class for which that license is issued, and all lesser classes of vehicles except motorcycles and mopeds. Vehicles that require an endorsement may not be driven unless the proper endorsement appears on the license. Authorization to operate motorcycles must be shown on the Commercial Driver License.

1. **Class A** Commercial Driver License permits a person to drive any **combination of vehicles** with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed exceeds 10,000 pounds.

Minimum Ages: 21 (interstate commerce driving) or 18 (intrastate driving).

Fee: $60.00 for 5 years

2. **Class B** Commercial Driver License permits a person to drive any **single** unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, any one of those vehicles towing a vehicle that does not exceed 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, and any vehicle designed to transport 24 passengers or more, including the driver.

Minimum Ages: 21 (interstate commerce driving) or 18 (intrastate driving).

Fee: $60.00 for 5 years

3. **Class C** Commercial Driver License permits a person to drive any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that is not a Class A or B if either vehicle is:

a. designed to transport 16 to 23 passengers, including the driver; or

b. used in the transportation of hazardous materials that require the vehicle to be placarded under 49 C.F.R., Part 172, Subpart F.

Minimum Ages: 21 (interstate commerce driving) or 18 (intrastate driving).

Fee: $60.00 for 5 years

CDL ENDORSEMENTS: The Department may issue Commercial Driver Licenses with the following endorsements:

H—Authorizes the transportation of hazardous materials;
N—Authorizes the operation of a vehicle with a tank;

P—Authorizes the operation of a vehicle carrying passengers;
S—Authorizes the operation of a school bus;
T—Authorizes the towing of two or three trailers over a specified weight;
X–Authorizes operation of a combination of H and N

SPECIAL NOTE: On or after April 1, 1992, a person may not drive a commercial motor vehicle unless the person has in his immediate possession a valid Commercial Driver License (CDL) appropriate for the class of vehicle being driven.

Exemptions: Persons operating the following vehicles are exempt from a Commercial Driver License (CDL):

1. A vehicle that is:

a. controlled and operated by a farmer;

b. used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;

c. not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and

d. used within 150 miles of the person's farm.

2. A fire-fighting or emergency vehicle necessary to the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions, whether operated by an employee of a political subdivision or by a volunteer fire fighter;

3. A military vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle when operated for military purposes by military personnel, members of the Reserves and National Guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time training, and National Guard military technicians;

4. A recreational vehicle that is driven for personal use;

5. A vehicle that is owned, leased, or controlled by an air carrier, as defined by Section 21.155 of the Transportation Code, and that is driven or operated exclusively by an employee of the air carrier only on the premises of an airport, as defined by Section 22.001 of the Transportation Code, on service roads to which the public does not have access; or

6. A vehicle used exclusively to transport seed cotton modules or cotton burrs.

Farm-Related Service Industry (FRSI) Waiver: The Department may waive the Commercial Driver License (CDL) knowledge and skill tests required by Section 522.022 of the Transportation Code, and provide for the issuance of

a restricted CDL to an employee of a farm-related service industry. Seasonal drivers of the following FRSI are authorized by federal regulation to obtain the FRSI waiver and be issued a restricted CDL: (1) Farm retail outlets and suppliers; (2) agri-chemical businesses; (3) custom harvesters includes cotton modular operators; and (4) livestock feeders. FRSI CDL's shall be issued for Class B and Class C vehicles only (Class A vehicles are not included in the waiver). Texas regulations require that persons who apply for a FRSI CDL pass a 20 question examination over Class A-B rules and a Class B non-CDL skills test.

Persons who drive commercial motor vehicles as defined on pages 1-6 and 1-7 must obtain the appropriate Commercial Driver License (CDL) by meeting all of the requirements and testing required or by certifying that they fall within one of the exemptions to meet license requirements of Chapter 521 of the Transportation Code (Class A, B, C, M - non-CDL). (See CLASSIFIED DRIVER LICENSE - Transportation Code, Chapter 521.)

If you need further information or if you are required to obtain a Commercial Driver License, please ask for a copy of the Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook at your local Driver License office. This handbook has all the necessary information that you must know in preparing to take the knowledge and skills tests for a Commercial Driver License.

SPECIAL NOTE: Veterans who receive at least 60 percent service connected disability compensation are exempt from paying any fees for a driver license (exemption does not apply to Commercial Driver License applicants, applicants who are required to register as a sex offender or to Identification Card applicants), but the applicant must meet all other licensing requirements. Forms for certification of disability from the Veteran's Administration are available at Driver License offices.

IDENTIFICATION CARD:

The Department is authorized to issue a personal identification card with a photograph for those individuals who find it desirable. Identification cards bear a distinguishing number similar to a driver license and are maintained in the driver records file. Applicants must provide documents to meet ID policy. (visit our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us* for a current list of acceptable documents)

SPECIAL NOTE: Identification cards issued to anyone under 21 years of age will have "Under 21" printed on the card. ID cards will display in a vertical format.

Fee: $15.00, except for persons age 60 or older the fee is $5.00

Expiration: On birth date six years from year issued, except that identification cards issued to a person age 60 or older do not expire.

ALLERGIC REACTION TO DRUG:

All driver licenses will provide a space for the licensee to indicate any drug allergy a person may have.

* ANATOMICAL GIFTS:

The Department of Public Safety offers the "Live and Then Give" pamphlets to any person who visits a Driver License office. The pamphlet has one detachable card that can be completed and carried by the individual as evidence of their intentions to be an eye, tissue, or organ donor. A small sticker stating "DONOR" is also included, and may be placed on the front of the driver license or identification card to indicate the individual's desire to be an organ donor. Licenses and identification cards that were issued prior to September 1, 1997 which indicate a person's wish to be a donor shall be conclusive evidence of a decedent's status as a donor and serve as consent for organ, tissue, and eye removal.

* MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

On the reverse side of the driver license, state law requires the Department to print the statement "Directive to physician has been filed at telephone #" and "Emergency contact telephone #". The Department shall provide a surface on which the license holder may write an appropriate telephone number and a box to the left of the statement to indicate for what purpose the telephone number applies.

**State law also requires the Department to provide space on the reverse side of the Driver License to allow individuals to voluntarily list health conditions which may impede communication with a peace officer.

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE

SPECIAL NOTE: If you are required to obtain a Commercial Driver License (CDL), comply with the following listed procedures plus there are several additional application forms you must complete. If you are not required to obtain a CDL, then only the following requirements must be met.

1. **APPLICATION**—You can obtain the application form and fill it out at your nearest Driver License office. You can find the office nearest you by looking in the directory in the back of this handbook or visit our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*. Your application must be made in person.

a. You will furnish

1) your full name,

2) identification documents (visit our website at txdps.state.tx.us for a current list of acceptable documents),

3) physical description,

4) Social Security card or other acceptable proof of Social Security number,

SPECIAL NOTE: All applicants for a Texas driver license are required by state laws (Section 521.044, 521.142, 522.021 of the Transportation Code; and Section 231.302 of the Family Code) to present evidence (Social Security card or other acceptable documentation) of the person's social security number. The purpose of requiring a person to provide proof of their social security number is to assist the Department in determining the proper identity of each license holder. Federal issued Social Security card, health card, pilot's license, military identification (active and reserve duty personnel only, not acceptable for dependents), peace officer's license, DD-214, Medicare-Medicaid card, certified college/university transcript, Veteran's Administration card.

5) thumbprints (Texas Transportation Code, Section 521.142(b)(1),

6) residence address and mailing address,

7) provide answers to medical status and history questions listed on application form. Persons with certain medical limitations may have their cases reviewed by the Texas Medical Advisory Board for Driver Licensing before the license may be issued,

8) surrender of valid out-of-state driver licenses,

9) current county of residence and U.S. citizenship status.

b. A complete record of your examination will be recorded on your application and forwarded to the Department headquarters where it becomes a part of your permanent driving record. Any convictions for moving traffic violations or crashes which occur will be recorded on this permanent record. This includes out-of-state records of convictions.

c. An application for an original driver license must be accompanied by evidence of financial responsibility or a statement that the applicant does not own a motor vehicle for which maintenance of financial responsibility is required under the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.

Evidence of financial responsibility presented must be in at least the minimum amount required by the Act, and must cover each motor vehicle that the applicant owns and for which the applicant is required to maintain financial responsibility.

d. A new Texas resident must submit with the application evidence (registration receipt issued by the county tax assessor-collector of the county in which the new resident resides is satisfactory evidence that a motor vehicle has been registered in Texas) that each motor vehicle owned by the person is currently registered in Texas or indicate they do not own a motor vehicle that is required to be registered.

e. All original applicants (first time applying for a license) for a Texas driver license must submit with the application for a license the **required fee** (license fee) **before any examination may be given.** The fee allows the applicant to take three examinations for each type of test required. If, after three examinations, an applicant has not passed, a new application and fee must be submitted before any additional exams may be taken. The required exams must be completed before 90 days. The application fee is valid for the location/schedule where the fee is paid.

f. The Department shall provide to each person who applies in person at the Department's offices for an original, renewal or duplicate of a driver license or ID card, an opportunity to complete a voter registration application form.

g. Registration for Selective Service.

SPECIAL NOTE: If you do not pass the knowledge and driving tests on the date of your first application, your incomplete application will be retained in the Drivers License office for 90 days. After 90 days or three exam failures a new application and fee will be required.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING MINORS: If you are under 18 years of age, your application must be signed under oath by the parent having custody, otherwise the guardian having custody. If the minor has no guardian, the employer or county judge of his residence may sign. The person who signs, before your 18th birthday, may ask the Department to cancel your license. This request must be in writing and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. In addition, the minor applicant and co-signer must sign a **Zero Tolerance** notification document that explains the **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW** that is applicable to a person under the age of 21. See page 10-3 for more information on this law.

WHO MAY SIGN: Parent having custody; otherwise legal guardian, employer, or county judge.

2. **EXAMINATION**—The knowledge and driving tests are not required for applicants who surrender a valid out-of-state license. Applicants ages 15-18 are not required to take a driving test if they present a Texas Driver Education Certificate stating that the person has completed both classroom and laboratory phases of the Texas Driver and Traffic Safety Education Course, or a Department approved course. Applicants who complete the required Department-approved Basic Motorcycle Operator Training Course will not be required to take a driving test for a Class M (motorcycle) license provided the person already has a valid unrestricted Texas driver license. Also, the driving test is not required for applicants applying for an instruction permit.

PARENT NOTE: Although a driving test is not required for a minor to obtain a driver license if they have completed an approved course of driver education, a parent or guardian may desire that the minor take the driving test. Upon the parent's request, the minor will be required to take and pass a driving test before an unrestricted license is issued.

PART 1—THE KNOWLEDGE (RULES & SIGNS) TEST

Three types of knowledge tests are given:

- Class C—knowledge test for all original applicants
- Class M—motorcycle road rules for motorcycle and moped applicants
- Class A or B—rules for operators of Class A and Class B vehicles

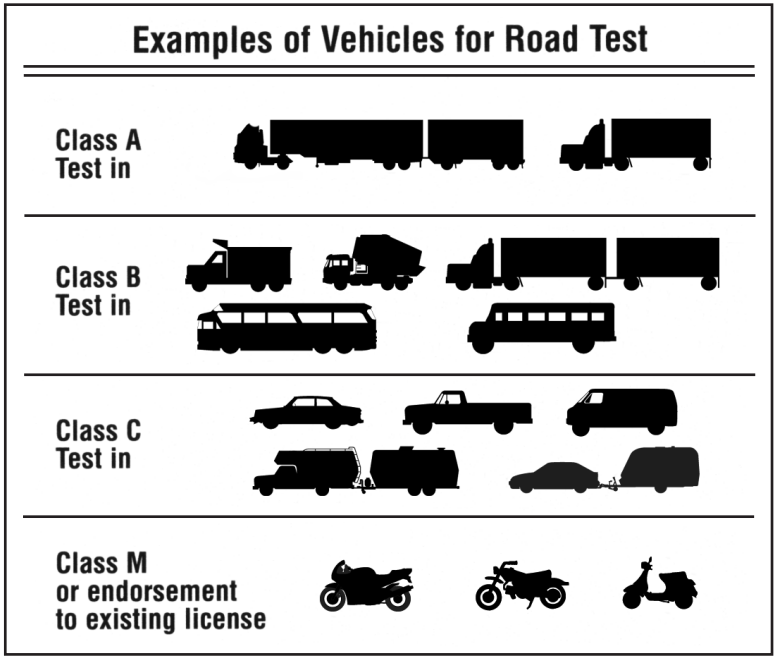
The answer to the questions on these tests can be found either in this handbook or the supplements. If you are taking a Class M or Class A or B test, the proper supplement should also be studied carefully. To pass you need a grade of 70% or better. An oral test may be arranged when it is needed.

PART 2—THE VISION TEST

Your vision will be tested. You may be required to wear corrective lenses while driving if they will improve your vision and help to increase the safety of your driving.

PART 3—THE DRIVING SKILLS TEST is given only after all other tests have been passed and evidence of automobile liability insurance covering the vehicle is presented or the vehicle is exempt under the Act. The type of vehicle that must be used for the driving test depends on the class of license applied for. A $10.00 examination fee is required when changing from a

lower to a higher class license or when adding each additional endorsement on a Commercial Driver License (CDL) or removing restrictions from a license. When adding a Class M to an existing license the fee is $15.00.



(The vehicle **must** have a **valid inspection certificate** attached and **must** pass inspection by the **Driver License trooper/examiner** before the driving test is given.)

Description of the driving test itself

1. You will not be asked to do anything against the law. You must follow the trooper's/examiner's instructions. Do not carry on a conversation during the driving test.

2. If you do not already have the legal privilege to drive in Texas, a licensed driver should drive your vehicle to the test area as well as away from it if you are not issued a permit to drive.

3. Your application will not be approved if you:

a. violate the law,

b. refuse to follow instructions,

c. drive dangerously,

d. have a crash,

e. have more than 30 points deducted on the driving test.

4. The driving test will vary according to the type of license applied for. You will be graded on four basic skills, CONTROL–your ability to make your car do what you want it to do, OBSERVATION–your ability to see what other traffic is doing and other things that may create problems in traffic, POSITIONING–your ability to drive in your lane and SIGNALING–your ability to use turn signals as required. You may be graded on your performance of some of the following things, so these would be good to practice before taking the exam.

• *parallel parking*

• *quick stop*—You may be asked to stop your car as quickly as possible from about 20 miles per hour without skidding your tires.

• *backing*—Back your car for a distance of about fifty feet at a slow rate of speed and as straight and smoothly as possible. **Turn your head and look back at all times while backing.**

• *stop signs or traffic signals*

• *use of clutch*—On standard transmissions, hold the clutch all the way down when starting the motor, shifting gears, and when speed drops below 10 miles per hour when stopping. **Do not ride with your foot resting on the clutch.**

• *intersection observance*—Use proper lane. **Slow down and look both ways before entering intersection.**

• *turns*

• *right-of-way*

• *passing*

• *proper lane observance*

• *following*

• *posture*—Keep both hands on steering wheel and do not rest your

elbow on the window.

5. Upon completion of a driving test the trooper/examiner will tell you of your errors and how to correct them. You will be given a written record of your test.

6. If you do not pass the test, you will be told what items to practice on to improve your driving skill and when to return for another examination.

7. If you pass the test:

a. **Pay the required fee** (unless fee was paid with original application): your picture will be taken, and you will be given a receipt which you may use as a temporary license for 60 days or until the Department mails your permanent license to you. If for any reason you do not receive your driver license in 60 days, contact your local Driver License office.

b. **Record the number of your original license** in case you lose your license.

c. **Always carry your license with you when driving.** You must show your license to the following people upon request:

1) any peace officer, sheriff, constable, judge, justice of the peace, or state trooper who may ask to see it.

2) anyone with whom you are involved in a crash.

DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE PENALTIES

1st conviction - up to $200 fine

2nd conviction in one year - $25-$200 fine

3rd conviction in one year after 2nd conviction - $25-$500 fine and 72 hours to 6 months in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment

RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY BE PLACED ON YOUR LICENSE

A reasonable restriction or endorsement may be placed on your driver license to improve the safety of your driving. This restriction or endorsement is not meant to interfere with your driving but to make you a better driver.

In such cases, a code letter is placed on the license which designates the type of restriction. The following table explains the different restrictions or endorsements and the code letter(s) assigned.

RESTRICTION CODE

A With corrective lenses
B LOFS age 21 or over
C Daytime only
D Not to exceed 45 MPH
E No expressway driving
I M/C not to exceed 250 cc
J Licensed M/C Operator age 21 or over in sight
K Moped
L Vehicle w/o air brakes - applies to vehicles requiring CDL
M CDL Intrastate Commerce only
P Stated on license
Q LOFS 21 or over vehicle above Class B
R LOFS 21 or over vehicle above Class C
S Outside mirror or hearing aid
T Automatic transmission
U Applicable prosthetic devices
V Applicable vehicle devices
W Power steering

ENDORSEMENT CODE

H Hazardous materials - CDL only
N Tank vehicle - CDL only
P Passenger - CDL only
S School Bus - CDL only
T Double/triple trailer (CDL and non CDL)
X Combination of hazardous materials and tank vehicle - CDL only

REMOVING RESTRICTIONS OR ADDING ENDORSEMENTS

Contact your local Driver License office for information concerning the removal or addition of any restrictions or endorsements from your driver license or instruction permit.

SPECIAL NOTE: All applicants for a driver license or an identification certificate are required by state laws (Section 521.142 and 521.101 of the Transportation Code) to submit their thumbprints to the Department. The purpose of requiring thumbprints is to assist the Department in determining the proper identity of a person who is applying for a driver license or identification certificate.

A DUPLICATE LICENSE

You should apply for a duplicate license or ID card if your license or ID card has been lost, destroyed, or for any change in information. This can be done at your local Driver License office. If you have a change of address, a duplicate license or ID card may also be obtained online at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*. Change of name and/or address must be reported to the Driver License office within 30 days. A license expiring in less than 12 months or in less than 30 days for provisional license should be renewed rather than duplicated. The cost for a duplicate license or change of address is $10.00.

A. IN-STATE LICENSEES—A licensee changing the address on a Texas driver license or identification card may apply at any Driver License office, online at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*, or by mail using a Department-approved form (DL-64) to: Driver Records Bureau MSC 0360, Texas Department of Public Safety, PO Box 15999, Austin, Texas 78761-5999. Upon receipt of a $10.00 fee and proper notification, the Department will mail a new license or ID card with the correct address information with your previous photograph or valid without photo. (Exception: Commercial Driver License (CDL) cannot be issued by internet, phone, or mail - you must apply in person.) You can obtain form DL-64 on our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*.

B. OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES—If you are out-of-state but maintaining a Texas license, you may apply online at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*, or by mail for a duplicate license (Exception: Commercial Driver License (CDL) cannot be issued online or by mail - you must apply in person). Use the Department's duplicate application form which can be obtained at any Driver License office or at our website at *www.txdps.state.tx.us* and remit with a $10.00 fee to: License Issuance Bureau MSC 0310, Department of Public Safety, Box 15999, Austin, Texas 78761-5999.

RENEWING YOUR LICENSE

A renewal notice invitation may be mailed to you about 6 weeks before your license expires. The notice will be sent to the last address that you provided to the Department of Public Safety. Remember, if you do not receive this notice, it is still up to you to renew your license.

Application for renewal—Application for renewal must normally be made in person at any Texas Driver License office. Licensees may also check online or by phone if they are eligible to renew by alternate means. Alternate types of renewals include: online at *www.txdps.state.tx.us*, by mail, or by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW. Alternate method will not be extended to: persons whose licenses are suspended, cancelled, revoked, or denied; Commercial Driver License holders; holders of occupational or provisional licenses; licensees

restricted because of driving ability or a medical condition that requires periodic reviews of such indication, including any medical or physical condition that may result in progressive changes to a licensee's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle; persons subject to sex offender registration requirements or a person who is 79 years of age or older.

You will be asked to answer questions concerning your medical history and if you have certain medical limitations, your case will be referred to the Texas Medical Advisory Board for their opinion about how your condition may affect your driving.

Persons returning to Texas from Military Service must present a Texas driver license and separation papers in order to obtain a renewal without a test, when their license has been expired over two years.

An out-of-state Texas licensee may mail an application for renewal. (Exceptions: a person subject to sex offender registration requirements, a person who is 79 years of age or older, or a person holding a Commercial Driver License (CDL) must be renewed in person.) The results of a vision check by an eye specialist or an authorized Driver License employee and the proper fee must be included. The license will be renewed and will be "valid to expiration date shown or until 45 days after return to Texas, whichever occurs first." You must enclose the required renewal fee (check or money order made payable to: Texas Department of Public Safety) with your application. Mail this application to:

LICENSE ISSUANCE BUREAU MSC 0310
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PO BOX 15999
AUSTIN TX 78761-5999

SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS

Operating a motor vehicle is a privilege. If this privilege is abused it may result in driver license suspension or revocation.

SUSPENSION: The temporary withdrawal of a driver license or driving privilege for a definite period of time.

REVOCATION: The termination of a driver license or driving privilege for an indefinite period of time. May be restored when all requirements for the revocation have been satisfied.

CANCELLATION: The withdrawal of a driver license or driving privilege until the driver is able to requalify.

DENIAL: The withholding of a driver license or driving privilege because the person is ineligible for a license. A driver license may be issued when eligibility requirements are met.

Mandatory suspensions, revocations, and convictions for offenses involving fraudulent government records, require a $100.00 reinstatement fee. Administrative License Revocations (ALR) requires a $125.00 reinstatement fee. Some mandatory suspensions also require the filing of an SR-22 (proof of financial responsibility).

A. MANDATORY SUSPENSIONS

Convictions of the following offenses **will** result in the automatic suspension of a driving privilege. (See the Commercial Driver License Handbook for additional information concerning disqualifications. Also, see Suspensions/Revocations for Individuals Under 21 for additional suspension information.)

• driving while intoxicated (DWI) by use of alcohol or drugs,

• drug offense,

• intoxication manslaughter,

• intoxication assault,

• failure to stop and render aid,

• causing the death or serious injury of anyone while operating a motor vehicle,

• any offense punishable as a felony under the motor vehicle laws of Texas,

• overtaking and passing a school bus (subsequent conviction),

• boating while intoxicated,

• evading arrest,

• driving while license invalid,

• altered/unlawful use of driver license,

• displaying or possessing a driver license or identification card that is fictitious or altered,

• lending a driver license or identification card to someone else,

• possessing more than one valid driver license or identification card,

• providing false information or documents when applying for a driver license,

• making, selling, or possessing a document deceptively similar to a driver license or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety,

• graffiti,

• fictitious license plate, registration certificate, or safety inspection sticker,

• fraudulent government records,

• racing a motor vehicle on public highway or street.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSIONS/REVOCATIONS

The Department of Public Safety has the authority to suspend/revoke the driver license or driving privilege of any driver, after an opportunity for proper hearing, for the following reasons. (See the Commercial Driver License Handbook for additional information concerning disqualifications.) A reinstatement fee is required for all discretionary suspensions/revocations.

• driving while license suspended,

• causing a serious accident while operating a motor vehicle,

• becoming incompetent to drive,

• repeated violations of traffic laws:

  • 4 or more convictions for moving violations occurring separately within any 12-month period or 7 or more within any 24-month period,

• habitual reckless or negligent driving,

• permit unlawful or fraudulent use of one's driver license,

• violating a driver license endorsement requirement,

• two or more convictions for violating a driver license restriction,

• failure to comply with the terms of a citation issued by another state that is a member of the Nonresident Violator Compact of 1977,

• failure to complete a DWI education program within 181 days if completion is a term of probation upon conviction of DWI,

• failure to complete a repeat offender alcohol education program as required when convicted of DWI,

• failure to complete a drug education program as required upon conviction of a drug offense,

• failure to provide medical information when requested,

• failure to take or pass an examination when requested,

• fleeing or attempting to flee from a police officer,

• has committed an offense in another state, which if committed in this state would be grounds for suspension or revocation,

• fail to stop for a school bus (second conviction),

• violates a probation order set by a previous hearing.

C. SUSPENSIONS/REVOCATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 21

Convictions or failure to comply with the following offenses will result in the automatic suspension of a driving privilege of persons under 21 years of age: (Also see Administrative License Revocation (ALR) for additional suspension information regarding minors.)

• Alcoholic Beverage Code offenses:

  - minor in possession,

  - attempt to purchase alcohol by a minor,

  - purchase of alcohol by a minor,

  - consumption of alcohol by a minor,

  - misrepresentation of age by a minor,

  - driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor,

  - failure to complete an alcohol awareness class,

• Health and Safety Code violations:

- fail to complete a tobacco awareness class when required,

- drug offense,

- an offense under the controlled substance act,

- a felony under chapter 481, that is not a drug offense.

• Family Code violations:

- delinquent conduct by a minor or juvenile,

- truancy.

The Department of Public Safety has the authority to suspend/revoke the driver license or driving privilege of a minor, after a proper hearing, for the following reasons:

• failure to appear or default in payment of a fine for a traffic or a non traffic violation,

• a juvenile court order under Section 54.042 Family Code,

• a court order under Section 106.115. Alcoholic Beverage Code,

• failure to pay fine; contempt; juvenile Art. 45.050 CCP,

• repeated violations of traffic laws:

- 2 or more convictions for moving violations occurring separately within any 12-month period for a driver who has a provisional driver license.

- 1 or more convictions for a moving violation if the driver holds a 60-day hardship (Minor's Restricted Driver License) license.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE REVOCATION (ALR)

The Administrative License Revocation (ALR) Law became effective January 1, 1995. A $125 reinstatement fee is required for all ALR suspensions.

• Chapter 524 of the Transportation Code provides for suspending the license (over 21) for failing a breath or blood test when the blood alcohol content (BAC) indicates a level of .08 or more.

• Chapter 724 of the Transportation Code provides for suspending the driver license or driving privilege of any individual who refuses to submit to a breath or blood test.

• Chapter 524 of the Transportation Code and Section 106.041 of the Alcoholic Beverage Code provides for suspending the driver license or driving privilege of individuals under 21 years of age for any detectable amount of alcohol. Senate Bill 35 as passed by the Texas Legislature became law on September 1, 1997. This law provides that a minor (a person who is under the age of 21) may not drive a motor vehicle with any detectable amount of alcohol (.00) in their system. This law is commonly referred to as the **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW**. This law provides for the suspension of a minor's driver license for any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor's system or refusal to provide a specimen of the minor's breath or blood for analysis. See Chapter 10 for more detailed information about the **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW** for minors.

E. CANCELLATIONS

The Department of Public Safety is authorized to cancel the license or ID card of individuals who do not meet certain qualifications. The following types of cases require cancellation of a driver license or ID card:

• suspension/revocation action from another state,

• parental authorization withdrawn (for individuals under 18 years of age),

• failure to give required information in the application for the license or ID card,

• person was not entitled to the license or ID card,

• incomplete driver education,

• voluntary surrender for medical or insurance purposes,

• false statement on application license or ID card.

F. COURT-ORDERED SUSPENSION/REVOCATION/CANCELLATION

The Department shall, upon receipt of an order from the court, suspend, revoke or cancel the driver license or driving privilege for the following:

• delinquent child support,

• requirement for a deep lung breath analysis mechanism (interlock device),

• failure to repay any overpayment of food stamps or financial assistance,

• mentally incapacitated,

• chemically dependent,

• fail to renew annually - classified sex offender.

G. DENIALS

The Department of Public Safety is authorized to deny the issuance of a driver license to a person who is ineligible to receive a license in this state. An applicant may be denied a driver license for the following reasons:

• suspension/revocation/cancellation/disqualification status in this state, another state, or Canadian Province,

• physical or mental incapacity that prevents the safe operation of a motor vehicle,

• acquiring motor vehicle fuel without payment,

• certain criminal mischief (graffiti),

• purchasing for or furnishing alcohol to a minor.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Department of Public Safety may deny the renewal of a driver license of a Texas licensee who fails to appear in court for traffic violations or certain other offenses within the jurisdiction of a justice or municipal court.

H. DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID

The penalties for driving a motor vehicle while your driver license or driving privilege is suspended, canceled, denied, or revoked are:

1. a fine not to exceed $200.00.

2. suspension of your driver license or driving privilege will be automatically extended upon the licensee being convicted of operating a motor vehicle while suspended, canceled, or revoked; such extended period of suspension will be for a like period of time as the original suspension.

3. A subsequent conviction is a Class B misdemeanor.

I. SANCTIONS FOR NON-DRIVING ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES BY MINORS

Texas' **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW** also provides sanctions for minors who commit offenses under the NON-DRIVING alcohol-related offenses. Generally speaking, a minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, falsely state that they are 21 years of age or older or present any document that indicates that they are 21 years of age or older to a person engaged in the selling or serving of alcoholic beverages, consume, or possess an alcoholic beverage. The penalty upon conviction of one of the above NON-DRIVING alcohol-related offenses and for Public Intoxication for a minor is as follows:

1st NON-DRIVING Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor—Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to $500.00, 8 to 12 hours of community service, and mandatory attendance of an alcohol awareness course. The minor's driver license will be suspended (or his/her privilege denied if not licensed) for 30 days.

2nd NON-DRIVING Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor—Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $500.00, 20 to 40 hours of community service, and may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course. The minor's driver license will be suspended (or his/her driving privilege denied if not licensed) for 60 days.

3rd NON-DRIVING Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21)—Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $250.00 nor more than $2,000.00, not less than 20 nor more than 40 hours of community service, and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days. The minor's driver license will be suspended (or his/her privilege denied if not licensed) for 180 days. Minors are not eligible for deferred disposition on the third and subsequent convictions.

Beginning September 1, 1999, a minor who is convicted of driving while his/her license is suspended because of a non-driving alcohol related offense is subject to the penalties of Driving While License Invalid (see Chapter One for Penalties).

J. OTHER SANCTIONS FOR NON-DRIVING ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES

A person who purchases an alcoholic beverage for a minor or who furnishes an alcoholic beverage to a minor can be punished by a fine up to $4,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year. A person who sells a minor an alcoholic beverage can be punished by a fine up to $4,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year.

K. ESSENTIAL NEED (OCCUPATIONAL) LICENSE

This is a special license issued by the Department of Public Safety to persons whose licenses have been suspended for causes other than physical or mental disability or impairment and can prove to a court an essential need to drive. Applications for such licenses are made to the district or county court of the county of the licensee's residence or to the court of original jurisdiction, whichever is applicable.

A person who is issued this license must carry a certified copy of the court order with him when operating a motor vehicle. This person must allow a police officer to examine the order at the officer's lawful request. This license may not be issued to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

Fee: $10.00 per year

L. DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

The Driver Responsibility law is governed by Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 708, which established a system to assess surcharges based on certain traffic offenses that have occurred on or after September 1, 2003. A surcharge is an administrative fee charged to a driver based on the convictions reported to the driving record. There are two criteria that determine if a surcharge will be assessed. Those two criteria are: Point System and Conviction Based surcharges.

POINT SYSTEM

Points are assessed to moving traffic violation convictions. Once the conviction has been added to the driver record, points will be assigned and will remain on the driver record for a period of three years. Points are assigned as follows:

• 2 points for a Texas or out-of-state moving violation conviction

• 3 points for a Texas or out-of-state moving violation conviction that resulted in a crash

A surcharge will be assessed when the driver accumulates a total of 6 points or more on their record. The driver is required to pay a $100 surcharge for the first six points and $25 for each additional point. The driver record will be reviewed annually and if it continues to reflect 6 or more points, the surcharge will be assessed. Drivers may be required to pay for one or more years. Point surcharges may vary with each annual assessment if convictions are added or removed from the driver record.

CONVICTION BASED

Drivers who receive a conviction for one of the offenses below will pay an annual surcharge **for a period of three years** from the date of conviction. No points are assessed for these offenses because the surcharge is automatic upon conviction.

Once the conviction has been reported to DPS, surcharges are assessed as follows:

Type of Conviction	Surcharge Per year for 3 years
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)- 1st offense	$1,000
DWI- 2 or more	$1,500
DWI with blood alcohol concentration of 0.16 or greater	$2,000
No Insurance	$ 250
Driving While License Invalid	$ 250
No Driver License	$ 100

DRP AMNESTY AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Surcharges assessed on or after September 1, 2007 will be eligible for the Amnesty and Incentive programs, which will be implemented in early 2009.

If an individual provides proof of insurance for a No Insurance surcharge assessment, the surcharge would be reduced to 75% of the initial surcharge amount. For individuals entering an installment agreement, the policy would be verified monthly to ensure compliance is maintained. The individual would be required to maintain liability insurance for the life of the surcharge assessments to qualify for the reduction each year. If the person defaults during the year, the reduction would be voided and the initial assessment would be applied.

If an individual has a Driving without a Valid License surcharge and obtains the appropriate type of license for the cited offense, the sur-

charge would be reduced to 75% of the initial surcharge amount. The individual would be required to maintain a valid driver license for the life of the surcharge assessments to qualify for the reduction each year. If the person defaults during the year, the reduction would be voided and the initial assessment would be applied.

If an individual receives a surcharge assessment for an Intoxication, Driving While License Invalid, or Point surcharge, and the history reflects compliance with the law by no additional convictions being reported on the history since the initial offense, the subsequent year surcharge assessments will be reduced. The second year surcharge will be reduced to 90% of the initial surcharge amount if the history meets the established criteria. The third year surcharge will be reduced to 80% of the initial surcharge amount if the history meets the established criteria.

CHAPTER 2

VEHICLE INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION

VEHICLE INSPECTION

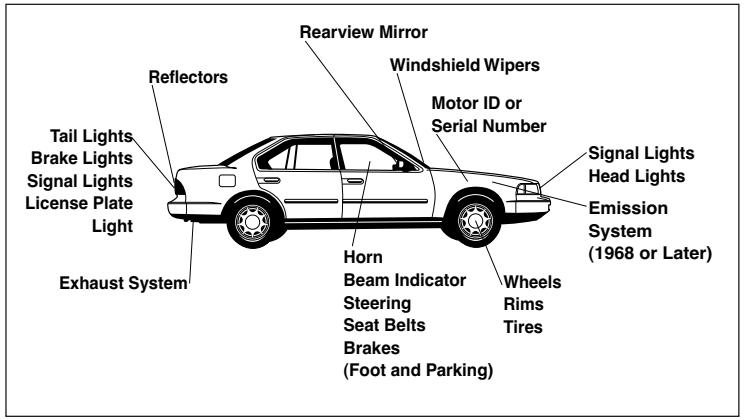
Keep your car in good condition. The state inspection program gives you further safety protection. Its purpose is to ensure that the Texas vehicles on the highways are in safe working condition.

All motor vehicles registered in Texas, including motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds must be inspected each year by an official motor vehicle inspection station. Evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle being inspected must be presented at the time of inspection. If evidence of financial responsibility is not presented, an inspection certificate will not be issued.

When a vehicle passes inspection, an approved certificate must be placed on the windshield. Motorcycles and mopeds shall have the inspection certificate displayed near the rear license plate. These certificates are good for one year from the month of inspection. Any vehicle involved in a crash must be reinspected after repairs have been made.

In addition to the safety inspection, an emissions test is required for motor vehicles that are capable of being powered by gasoline from two years old to and including twenty-four years old, and registered in or required to be registered in and primarily operated in a designated county. Designated counties include Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Montgomery, El Paso, Travis and Williamson counties.

EQUIPMENT INSPECTED ANNUALLY



REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

You must have the following equipment in proper working order for your car to be considered safe:

1. **BRAKES**

   Foot Brake—must stop car within a distance of 25 feet at a speed of 20 miles per hour.

   Parking Brake—should be adequate to stop and hold car.

2. **LIGHTS**

   Two Headlights—one on each side on the front—a beam indicator showing when the high headlight beam is on.

   Tail Lights—all vehicles shall be equipped with two tail lights, except that models manufactured prior to model year 1960 shall be required to have only one tail light.

   Brake Lights—all vehicles shall be equipped with two brake lights (stop lights) except that models manufactured prior to model year 1960 shall be required to have only one brake light (stop light).

   Turn Signals—every motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, and pole-trailer

shall be equipped with electric turn signals (motorcycles and certain trailers excepted), except that passenger cars and trucks less than 80 inches in width and manufactured prior to model year 1960 need not be equipped with electrical turn signals.

License Plate Light—a white light lighting the rear license plate when the headlights (or auxiliary lamps) are lighted.

Reflectors—two red reflectors, one on each side of car. (May be in combination with tail lights)—placed at a height of 15 to 60 inches and visible up to 600 feet. Reflectors must be visible up to 350 feet on vehicles manufactured prior to the year model 1960.

Parking Lights—white or amber on the front, red to the rear (may be in combination with other lights).

3. **HORN—**must be heard for a distance of 200 feet.

4. **MUFFLER—**a muffler and exhaust system—all 1968 or later models must be equipped with an exhaust emission system to help reduce air pollution.

5. **SAFETY GLASS—**all new cars must be equipped with safety glass. All replacements of glass for any car must be with safety glass.

6. **LICENSE PLATES—**must have one valid plate at the front and one at the rear of passenger and commercial vehicles except dealer plates and those commercial vehicles that are only issued one license plate.

7. **WINDSHIELD WIPER—**for safety in bad weather.

8. **REARVIEW MIRROR—**shall be so located as to be able to reflect a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

9. **SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM—**farm tractors and machinery, road construction machinery, animal-drawn vehicles and certain other motor vehicles designed to travel at 25 miles per hour or less must display the slow-moving vehicle emblem.

10. **FRONT SEAT BELTS—**are required equipment if seat belt anchorages were part of the original equipment of the automobile.

11. **TIRES—**all vehicles are required to be equipped with tires that are in proper and safe condition with a minimum tread depth of 2/32nds of an inch.

12. **FUEL CAP—**the fuel cap on gasoline–powered vehicles from 2 to 24 years old will be checked to determine if the fuel cap is missing or defective. (EXCEPTIONS: antique vehicles, circus vehicles, slow moving vehicles,

motorcycles, and vehicles operated exclusively by a fuel other than gasoline and vehicles newer than 2 years or older than 24 years.)

For house trailer information on lights, flares, flags, etc., see page 15-1, Special Requirements for Commercial Motor Vehicles. For motorcycle equipment and information, see separate Motorcycle Supplement.

EQUIPMENT WHICH YOU MUST NOT HAVE

Certain equipment is considered unsafe and therefore not allowed:

1. A red light showing from the front—except on an emergency vehicle.

2. A bell, siren, or exhaust whistle—except on an emergency vehicle.

3. A muffler cutout.

4. Anything that extends more than three inches beyond the left side or six inches beyond the right side of the body, running board, or fenders of your car.

5. Flashing red lights on the front—except on emergency vehicles, school buses, and church buses.

(See "Flashing Lights" under "Optional Equipment.")

Minimum road clearance—a vehicle must not be modified or weighted in such a manner that the body is below the lowest part of the rims of the wheels.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

1. **Spotlight—**must be turned off for a vehicle approaching from opposite direction. If headlights fail, it may be used with the beam striking the road not more than 50 feet in front of the vehicle on which it is used.

2. **Side cowl or fender light—**two permitted—must show amber or white light without glare.

3. **Running board courtesy lights—**one on each side permitted—must show amber or white light without glare.

4. **Backup lights—**two permitted separately or in combination with other lights. Do not use when vehicle is in forward motion.

5. **Flashing lights—**widespread flashing lights may be used on any vehicle

to warn of unusual traffic hazards—must show flashing amber or white to the front and flashing amber or red to the rear and must flash simultaneously.

6. **Additional lights—**any motor vehicle may have up to three additional driving lights mounted on the front—not less than 12 nor more than 42 inches from the road surface.

7. **Sunscreen or window tinting—**if used, must comply with appropriate state regulations for your vehicle make and model.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

When a nonresident owner or operator establishes residency in Texas or enters into gainful employment, his vehicle may be operated for 30 days thereafter, after which time the vehicle must be currently registered in Texas.

A new resident desiring to register his vehicle must obtain a new Texas vehicle inspection certificate and verification of the vehicle identification number by a state-approved vehicle inspection station prior to registration. The vehicle owner will then be provided the necessary form for processing the vehicle registration. Evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle being registered must be presented at the time of registration. If evidence of financial responsibility is not presented, then the vehicle cannot be registered. A new Texas resident must register every vehicle that he owns before applying for a Texas driver license. The registration receipt issued by the county tax assessor-collector for each vehicle will be acceptable proof of registration when applying for a Texas driver license.

CHAPTER 3

SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

(The Liability Insurance Law)

The Safety Responsibility Act was enacted to ensure all drivers are financially responsible for the death, injury, or property damage they may cause while operating a motor vehicle. All owners and/or operators of motor vehicles in Texas must have at least the minimum amount of liability insurance.

• $25,000 against injury or death of one person;

• $50,000 against injury or death of two persons;

• $25,000 against property damage.

In order to comply with the Safety Responsibility Act, a driver, unless exempt, must maintain liability insurance or be self-insured under the provisions of the Act. Evidence of financial responsibility must be presented to the proper authorities at the time a person applies for a driver license, registers a motor vehicle, or obtains a motor vehicle inspection certificate.

Every owner and/or operator of a motor vehicle in Texas is required, as a condition of driving, to furnish upon request, evidence of financial responsibility to a law enforcement officer or to another person involved in a crash. The following list includes what is acceptable proof of financial responsibility.

• a liability insurance policy in at least the minimum amounts listed above, or

• a standard proof of liability insurance form prescribed by the Texas Department of Insurance and issued by a liability insurer that includes:

- the name of the insurer;

- the insurance policy number;

- the policy period;

- the name and address of each insured;

- the policy limits or a statement that the coverage of the policy complies with at least the minimum amounts of liability insurance required by this Act; and

- the make and model of each covered vehicle;

- an insurance binder that indicates the owner and/or operator is in compliance with the Act;

- a certificate or copy of a certificate issued by the state comptroller that shows that the owner of the vehicle has on deposit with the treasurer money or securities in at least the amount ($55,000) required by Texas Transportation Code (TRC), Section 601.122;

- a surety bond issued by the Department of Public Safety that shows that the vehicle is a vehicle for which a bond is on file with the Department as provided by TRC, Section 601.121;

- a copy of a certificate issued by the county judge of a county in which the vehicle is registered that shows that the owner of the vehicle has on deposit with the county judge, cash or a cashier's check in at least the amount ($55,000) required by TRC, Section 601.123; or

- a certificate issued by the Department that shows a person has more than twenty-five (25) vehicles registered in his or her name, qualifies as a self-insurer in accordance with TRC, Section 601.124.

If an owner and/or operator fails to show proof of financial responsibility when required, he may receive a citation. The court will dismiss the charge if proof is provided that a liability insurance policy was in effect when the citation was issued.

Upon conviction of operating a motor vehicle without sufficient evidence of financial responsibility, when required, a driver is subject to a $175 minimum fine and not more than a $350 maximum fine. Second and subsequent convictions will result in driver license and motor vehicle registration suspensions in addition to a minimum fine of $350 and not more than a $1,000 fine. Also, a second or subsequent conviction requires the court to order impoundment of the motor vehicle being driven or operated by the person at the time of the offense, provided that the defendant was an owner of the vehicle at the time of the offense and is an owner of the vehicle on the date of conviction. The vehicle shall be impounded for a period of 180 days. Before the court orders the release of the vehicle, evidence of financial responsibility must be presented to the court.

The license and motor vehicle registration of a driver will be suspended:

• Upon conviction of a traffic violation providing for automatic suspension of a driver license, unless proof of insurance is presented to the DPS;

• If a judgment resulting from a crash has not been satisfied within 60 days of the judgment;

• If an installment agreement arising out of a settlement of a crash is in default;

• If, while uninsured, involved in a crash in which another person is killed, injured, or there is at least $1,000 damage to one person's property and there exists a reasonable probability of a judgment being rendered against the driver.

• When required to maintain proof of financial responsibility, this proof must remain on file for two years.

More specific information about compliance with the Safety Responsibility Act may be obtained at any Department of Public Safety office or by writing to:

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT and COMPLIANCE BUREAU
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PO BOX 4087
AUSTIN TX 78773-0330
WEBSITE: *www.txdps.state.tx.us*

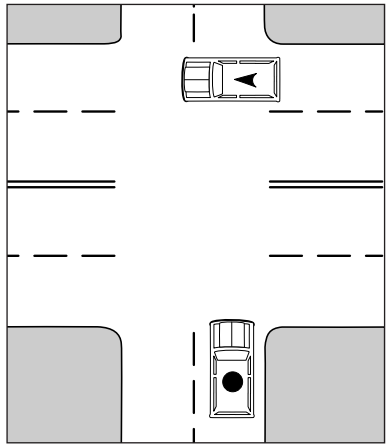
CHAPTER 4
RIGHT-OF-WAY

Drivers, at times, must yield to others. There are certain rules to help determine the right-of-way, but if the other driver doesn't follow these rules, give him the right-of-way. Remember, in every situation, right-of-way is something to be given, not taken. All drivers should know and understand the rules which determine the right-of-way.

RIGHT-OF-WAY AT INTERSECTIONS

Situation 1—Intersections controlled by signs and signals.—When signs and signals control traffic at an intersection, obey them. Know the meaning of these signs and signals, some of which are explained in Chapter 5 of this handbook.

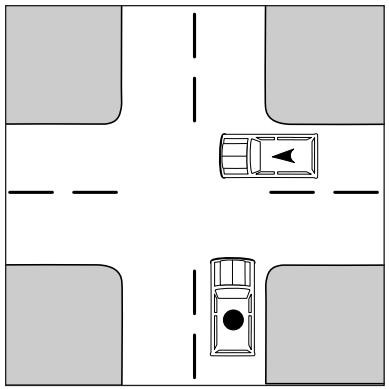
Situation 2—Single or two-lane road intersecting with multiple-lane road.—When driving on a single or two-lane road you must yield to: (1) vehicles traveling on a divided street or roadway, or (2) vehicles traveling on a roadway with three or more lanes.



• Yield to vehicle on multi-lane highway

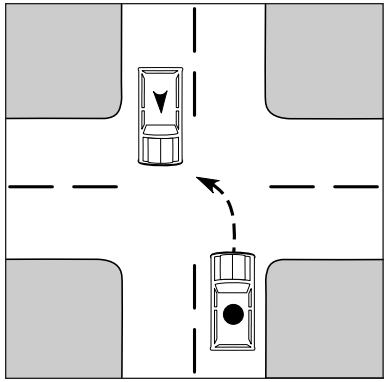
Situation 3—Unpaved road intersecting with a paved road.—If you are driving on an unpaved road, which intersects with a paved road, you must yield the right-of-way to vehicles traveling on the paved road.

Situation 4—Intersections not controlled by signs and signals, multi-lanes, or pavement.—When approaching an intersection of this type, you shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle which has entered the intersection on your right or is approaching the intersection from your right. If the road to your right is clear, or if approaching vehicles are far enough from the intersection to make your crossing safe, you may proceed. Since there are no traffic controls at this intersection, make sure that there are no approaching vehicles from the left. You may legally have the right-of-way, but you should be sure the other driver yields to you before you proceed.



• Yield to vehicle on right

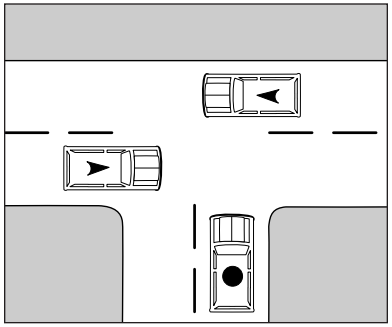
Situation 5—Turning left.—When turning left you must yield the right-of-way to any vehicles coming straight through from the other direction.



TURN LEFT RULE
• Yield to vehicles approaching

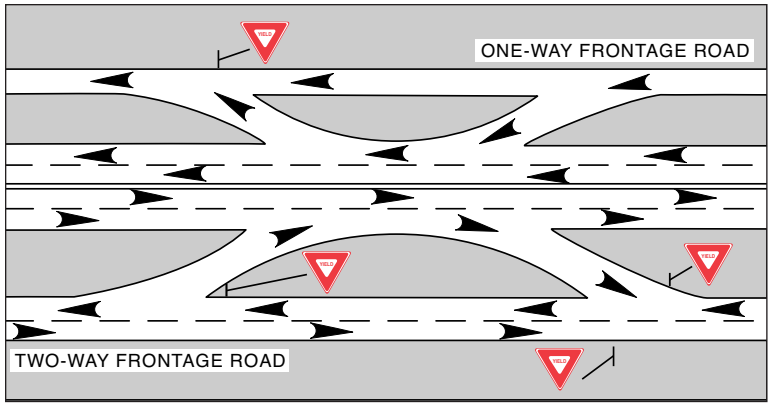
Situation 6—Private roads and driveways.—When entering or crossing a road, street, or highway from a private road, alley, building, or driveway after stopping prior to the sidebar, you shall yield the right-of-way to all approaching vehicles and pedestrians.

Situation 7—T Intersection.—When approaching an intersection of a through street from a street that ends at the intersection, first you must stop and then yield the right-of-way to the vehicles on the through street.



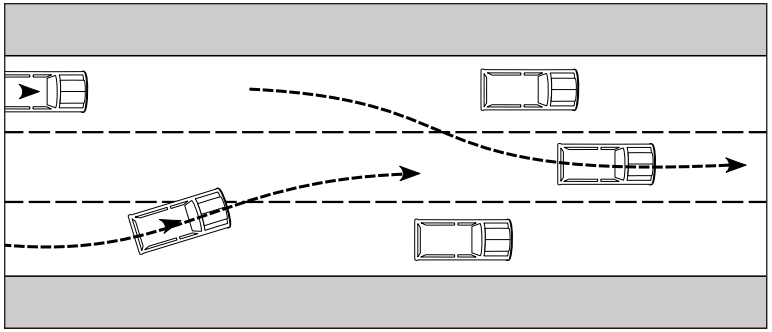
• Stop and yield to vehicles on through street

Situation 8—Entering or leaving controlled-access highway.—The driver of a vehicle proceeding on an access or frontage road of a controlled-access highway shall yield the right-of-way to:

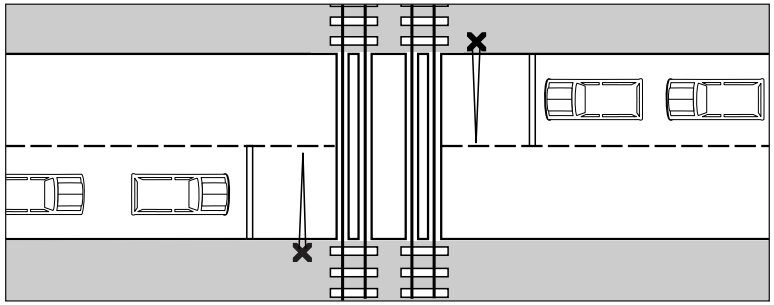


a. a vehicle entering or about to enter the road from the highway; or,

b. a vehicle leaving or about to leave the road to enter the highway.



Situation 9—Driving on multiple-lane roadways.—On a roadway divided into three (3) or more lanes providing for one-way movement, a vehicle entering a lane of traffic from a lane to the right shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle entering the same lane of traffic from a lane to the left.



Situation 10—Railroad grade crossings.—Texas law requires obedience to a signal indicating approach of a train. Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver of such vehicle shall stop within fifty (50) feet but not less than fifteen (15) feet from the nearest rail of such railroad if:

1. A clearly visible railroad signal warns of the approach of a train;

2. A crossing gate is lowered or a human flag person warns of the approach or passage of a railroad train;

3. The driver is required to stop by other law, a rule adopted under a statute, an official traffic-control device or a traffic-control signal;

4. A railroad engine approaching within approximately fifteen hundred

(1,500) feet of the highway crossing emits a signal audible from such distance and such engine by reason of its speed or nearness to such crossing is an immediate hazard; or

5. An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

6. A person who fails to obey the law regarding railroad grade crossings is subject to a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $200.

The driver of a vehicle required to stop at a railroad grade crossing as provided by this law shall remain stopped until the driver is permitted to proceed and it is safe to proceed.

ADDITIONAL SAFE DRIVING PROCEDURES AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS ARE:

1. If a railroad crossing is marked only with a crossbuck sign - **reduce speed**, look both ways, and **listen** for audible signal whistle. If a train is approaching - **STOP**; if not, proceed only upon exercising due care.

2. If red lights are flashing at a railroad crossing - **STOP**. If a train is approaching, remain stopped until the train passes by and the lights stop flashing.

3. If railroad crossing arms have been lowered - **STOP**. You must wait until the train has passed and the gates are raised.

4. **Never stop on tracks**. If your car stalls on the tracks and you cannot restart it, get out and try to push it off the tracks. If you cannot push it off the tracks, get help. If a train is approaching and your vehicle is stalled, get out quickly and get clear of the tracks. Run in the direction from which the train is approaching to avoid flying debris, staying clear of the tracks.

5. Be sure all tracks are clear before you proceed across. There may be two or more sets of tracks. One train could be blocking the view of another.

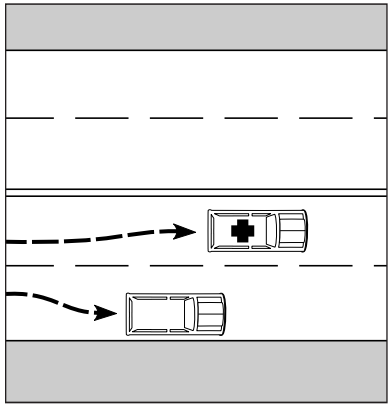
6. Remember, trains do not and cannot stop at crossings - they always have the right-of-way.

7. Audible signals or whistles may be difficult to hear when approaching railroad crossings. It is suggested that you roll your window down, turn your radio down, and listen carefully.

8. If you encounter a railroad grade crossing signal problem, please call the Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters Communications Center in Austin (toll-free number is 1-800-772-7677) or your local police department

or county sheriff's office. Each railroad crossing signal has an identifying number. Please note the number and be ready to provide it when reporting a problem.

GIVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES



You must yield the right-of-way to police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles which are sounding a siren or bell or flashing a red light by pulling to the right edge of the roadway and stopping. In the event traffic is so congested as to prevent you from safely doing so, slow down and leave a clear path for the emergency vehicle.

You must not follow within 500 feet of a fire truck answering an alarm or an ambulance when the flashing red lights are on. Do not drive into or park in the block where the fire truck has answered an alarm or park your vehicle so as to interfere with the arrival or departure of an ambulance to or from the scene of an emergency.

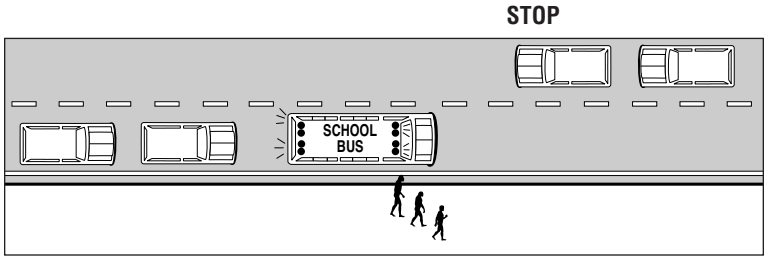
Drivers nearing a stopped emergency vehicle that has lights activated, unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, must:

- Vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle, if the highway has two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle; or

- Slow to a speed not more than 20 mph less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 mph or more; or

- Slow to a speed not more than 5 mph when the posted speed limit is less than 25 mph.

GIVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO SCHOOL BUSES



Drive with care when you near a school bus. If you approach a school bus from either direction and the bus is displaying alternately flashing red lights, you must stop and not pass until (1) the school bus has resumed motion, or (2) you are signaled by the driver to proceed, or (3) the red lights are no longer flashing.

You need not stop when meeting or passing a school bus which is (1) on a different roadway, or (2) upon a controlled-access highway where the school bus is stopped in a loading zone and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

A person who fails to obey the law regarding yielding the right-of-way to school buses displaying alternating, flashing lights, is subject to a fine of not less than $200.00 or more than $1,000.00. A second or subsequent conviction can result in a license suspension up to 6 months. The offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the person causes serious bodily injury to another or a state jail felony if the person has been previously convicted of causing serious bodily injury to another.

YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO PEDESTRIANS

Avoid turning your car into a deadly weapon. You should always be on the lookout for people on foot whether or not they have the right-of-way. Drivers must yield to pedestrians in the following situations:

Situation 1—Uncontrolled intersections.—At an uncontrolled intersection no traffic signs or signals if the pedestrian has entered the crosswalk, you the driver should give him the right-of-way.

Situation 2—Controlled intersections.—If the pedestrian has a "WALK" signal, or, if no pedestrian control signals exist, at a green light, you should give the pedestrian the right-of-way. If the light changes after the pedestrian has already entered the crosswalk, you should still give the pedestrian the right-of-way.

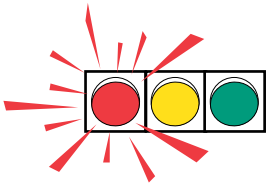
CHAPTER 5

SIGNALS, SIGNS, AND MARKERS

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

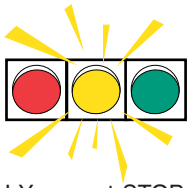
Traffic signals help provide for the orderly movement of traffic. Drivers must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. You must obey a traffic officer at all times even if he is telling you to do something which is ordinarily considered against the law.

STEADY RED LIGHT



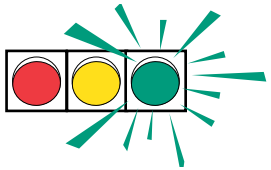
Stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection. You may turn right unless prohibited by law. You may also turn left if both streets are one way unless prohibited by law. You must yield to all pedestrians and other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

STEADY YELLOW LIGHT



Caution—red light coming up! You must STOP before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection, if you can do so safely. If a stop cannot be made safely, you may proceed cautiously through the intersection before the light changes to red.

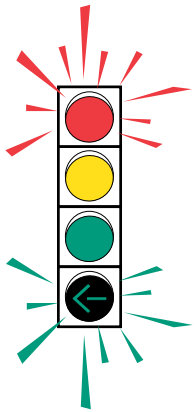
STEADY GREEN LIGHT



Go if it is safe to do so. You may go straight ahead or you may turn, unless prohibited by some other sign or signal. Watch for vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection. Beware of careless drivers who may try to race across the intersection to beat a red light.

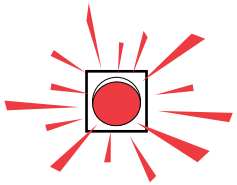
A Green Arrow showing at the same time as a Red Light

Proceed carefully in the direction of the arrow after yielding the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians.



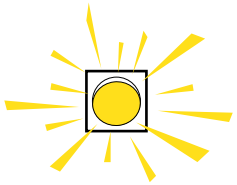
A Flashing Red Light

Stop completely before entering the crosswalk or intersection, then proceed when you can do so safely. Vehicles on the intersecting roadway may not have to stop.

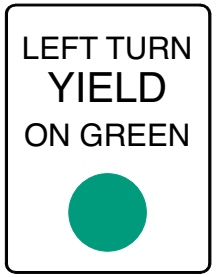


A Flashing Yellow Light

Caution—Slow down and proceed with caution.



You may turn left on a light that is green. **However,** you must yield the right-of-way if other traffic is approaching from the opposite direction.



TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs can help you to be a better driver. They help you in the following ways:

1. They **WARN** of hazards ahead that would otherwise be difficult to see.
2. They **GUIDE** drivers to their destination by identifying the route.
3. They **INFORM** of local regulations and practices.
4. They **REGULATE** the speed and movement of traffic.

STANDARD COLORS:

RED:
Stop or prohibition.

GREEN:
Indicated movements permitted, direction guidance.

BLUE:
Motorist services guidance.

YELLOW:
General warning.

BLACK:
Regulation.

WHITE:
Regulation.

ORANGE:
Construction and maintenance warning.

BROWN:
Public recreation and scenic guidance.

KNOW THESE SIGNS BY THEIR SHAPES —so that you will know what to do at a distance.

OCTAGON:
Exclusively for Stop signs.

HORIZONTAL RECTANGLE:
Generally for guide signs.

EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE:
Exclusively for Yield signs.

PENNANT:
Advance warning of No Passing Zones.

DIAMOND:
Exclusively to warn of existing or possible hazards on roadways or adjacent areas.

VERTICAL RECTANGLE:
Generally for regulatory signs.

PENTAGON:
School advance and school crossing signs.

ROUND:
Railroad advance warning signs.

"STOP" A red stop sign with white letters or a yellow sign with black letters. Stop before the crosswalk or intersection. Do not block the pedestrian crosswalk. A stop sign means that **you must bring you car to a complete stop.** Slowing down is not enough.

If you stop behind other stopped vehicles, you must make another stop at a clearly marked line or before entering the intersection if a stop line is not present.

The **"4-WAY" or "ALL WAY"** sign added to a stop sign advises that all approaching traffic to this intersection must stop.

"YIELD" This sign tells you that the road you are on joins with another road ahead. You should slow down or stop if necessary so that you can yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the other road.

"SCHOOL ZONE" The speed shown is in effect when the yellow light is flashing. Be extremely careful for school children.

WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs alert drivers to conditions which lie immediately ahead and tell them what to look for. There may be road hazards, changes in direction or some other situation which you should know about. Not only must warning signs be observed for the sake of safety, but to disregard them may be a traffic violation.

Warns of a traffic control signal ahead.

The divided highway on which you are traveling ends ahead. Be careful as you approach the point where two-way traffic begins again.

Height of underpass from road surface is shown. Do not try to enter if your load is higher than the figure shown on the sign.

Slow down on wet road. Do not suddenly turn, speed up, or stop.

Advises that you are approaching a section of highway where the opposing flows of traffic are separated by a median island.

You should drive in the right-hand lane and expect oncoming traffic in the left-hand lane.

You are approaching a point where two roadways come together, but you are not required to merge, an additional lane begins. Watch for traffic in the new lane.

The road curves one way (right) and then the other way (left). Slow down, keep right and do not pass.

Road ahead makes a gradual curve in the direction of the arrow (right). Slow down, keep right and do not pass.

Crossroad ahead. Slow down, look carefully in all directions.

Another road enters the road you are traveling on from the direction shown. Watch for traffic from that direction.

Road ahead makes a sharp turn in the direction of the arrow (right). Slow down, keep right and do not pass.

You are approaching a point where other traffic lanes come together with the one you are on. Watch for traffic from that direction.

There is a winding road ahead. Drive slowly and carefully and do not pass.

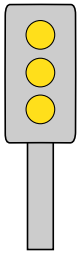
Pedestrian Crossing. You are near an area where a large number of pedestrians cross the street. Slow down and watch for people crossing the street on foot.

You are near a school. Slow down, and prepare to stop suddenly if necessary. Watch for children.

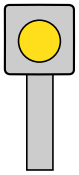
Gives advance notice of a reduction in the number of lanes of pavement ahead.

The surface of the road is covered with loose gravel. Go slow enough to keep complete control of your vehicle. Do not apply brakes suddenly or make sharp turns.

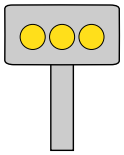
Warns of a hazardous condition on bridge caused by ice. This sign will be displayed continuously during wintertime periods. Drivers should slow down and avoid applying their brakes if icy conditions exist.



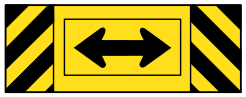
Mounted in front of an obstruction which is close to the edge of the road, such as culverts, or center piers on divided highways.



Used to indicate the alignment of the road as an aid to night driving.



Mounted immediately in front of an obstruction, or at short changes in road alignment.



You are approaching a “T” Intersection and must turn left or right. Be prepared to yield the right-of-way at the intersection if necessary.

This sign is used to mark the ends of the side rails of narrow bridges and other obstructions so that they may be easily seen.

Indicates traffic is permitted to pass on either side of a traffic island or an obstruction.

There is a low place in the road. Slow down in order to avoid losing control of your vehicle or an uncomfortable jolt.

Use extreme caution to avoid running off the paved portion of the highway, because the dirt on the side of the pavement is soft and may cause you to lose control of the car.

Slow your speed and watch for trucks entering or crossing the highway.

The bridge ahead is not as wide as the road. Slow down and use caution.

The pavement ahead narrows; reduce speed. Room for two cars to pass, but with caution.

The hard-surfaced pavement changes to an earth road or low-type surface. Slow down.

Two roads cross. Slow down, look to the right and left for other traffic, be prepared to stop.

There is a significant drop from the pavement edge to the shoulder. If you must leave the pavement–slow down and steer firmly.

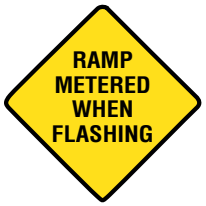
The pavement has been grooved to lessen the possibility of slippery pavement in wet weather. Motorcyclists should use caution.

There is a sudden high place in the road ahead. Slow down in order to avoid losing control of your vehicle or an uncomfortable jolt.

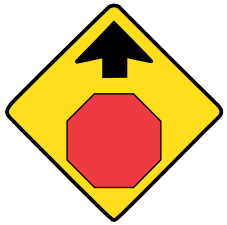
Slow your speed and watch for persons who may be disabled or who may be crossing the roadway in a wheelchair.

You are approaching a downgrade; **all** drivers approach with caution. It may be necessary to use a lower gear to slow your vehicle.

The road ahead curves sharply. Slow down, keep right, and do not pass.



This sign will have yellow lights flashing (top and bottom) when the freeway ramp ahead is metered. The ramp meter (red or green) directs motorists when to enter the freeway.



Be prepared for a stop sign ahead.

The road ahead makes a sharp turn to the right and then a sharp turn to the left. Slow down, keep right and do not pass.

The lane ends ahead. If you are driving in the right lane, you should merge into the left lane.

Slow down, the road surface ahead is in poor condition.

REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS

Regulatory signs tell us what we must do. Drivers are required to obey them in the same manner as traffic laws. These signs are one way to help protect your safety.

ONE WAY: If you wish to turn at an intersection where this sign is posted, do so only in the direction indicated by the arrow.

ADVISORY SPEED SIGN: This sign gives the highest speed which you can safely travel around the turn ahead.

DO NOT PASS: Do not pass other vehicles.

SPEED LIMIT: This sign tells you the maximum speed (in miles per hour) you are permitted to travel.

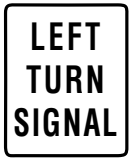
SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP RIGHT: Stay in the right-hand lane if you are driving slower than other vehicles on the roadway.

HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) PREFERENTIAL LANE: Buses and vehicles used for carpools may use this lane only between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday.

DO NOT CROSS YELLOW LINES: The distance you can see ahead is so limited that passing another vehicle is so hazardous that you may not pass.

Vehicles driving in the right lane must turn right at the next intersection unless the sign indicates a different turning point.

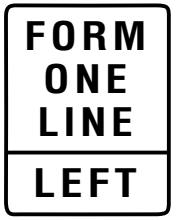
This sign marks a place where you may cross over to the other side of the divided highway.



A green signal will indicate when you may turn left.

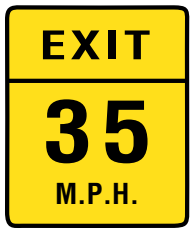
Reminds drivers that the shoulder of the road should be used only by vehicles required to stop because of mechanical breakdown, tire trouble, lack of fuel or other emergencies.

The road ahead is not open to any traffic. Look for detour or other route.



Instructs drivers that all traffic on the same roadway must merge into one lane.

This sign indicates that two lanes of traffic are permitted to turn left. The traffic in the left lane must turn left, traffic in the other lane has a choice.



Indicates the speed at which the exit ramp from a freeway or expressway may be traveled safely.

Indicates the maximum speeds permitted on the roadway for daytime and nighttime.

Turning left at an intersection where this sign is posted is prohibited.

Making a U Turn at an intersection where this sign is posted is prohibited.

If you see this sign facing you, you are driving the wrong way on a one-way street, and you are directly opposing the flow of traffic.

Trucks are prohibited from using or entering the street or roadway where this sign is displayed.

Drive to the right of this sign. This sign is used in advance of islands and medians.

The road or street ahead is for one-way traffic traveling in the opposite direction. You must not drive into it in the direction you are going.

Do not park, stop, or stand your vehicle in a parking space reserved for disabled persons unless your vehicle has a disabled license plate or windshield identification card.

Driver should not change lanes or turn across the double white lines.

Oncoming traffic must stop for vehicles turning at an intersection. Vehicles turning at a protected light should use caution.

The center lane of a highway is reserved for the exclusive use of vehicles turning left in either direction and not used for passing or overtaking. The only time a vehicle should enter the center lane is at a point where the vehicle will have time to slow down or stop in order to make a safe left turn maneuver. The center lane should never be used for passing or as a through traffic lane.

On highways with more than one lane with vehicles traveling in the same direction and this sign is present, slower traffic should travel in a lane other than the farthest left lane. The farthest left lane is for “passing vehicles only”.

GUIDE SIGNS

Guide signs are especially helpful when you are not in your home area. They tell you what road you are on and how to get where you wish to go. They furnish information which makes the trip more pleasant and interesting. This page shows only a few examples of many such guide signs.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: This sign not only tells you which way to go but also how far you must travel.

LITTER BARREL: The only place where you may lawfully throw your litter on the highway is in a litter barrel. This sign advises that such a barrel is one mile ahead. Litter barrels are also found at all rest and picnic areas.

TEXAS
ROUTE MARKER

TEXAS
ROUTE MARKER

A short state highway in a city or urban area.

These signs tell you what road you are on. Plan your trip and know which roads you wish to take.

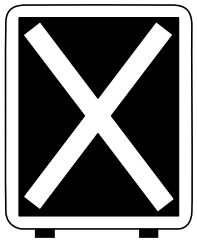
These signs are usually mounted above the roadway. The arrows indicate the lane or lanes to be used to follow a particular highway route.

The lane that has this sign above it exits ahead.

Indicates an officially designated highway that branches off the regularly numbered highway and goes through the business portion of the city.

MILEPOSTS PROVIDE A MEANS OF IDENTIFYING THE LOCATION OF CRASHES, BREAKDOWNS, OR OTHER EMERGENCIES.

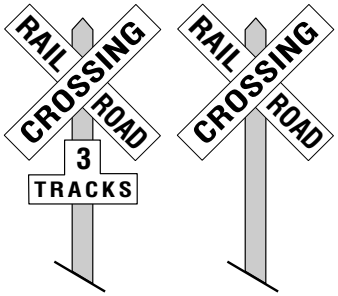
Erected every mile on Interstate highway starting at state line.



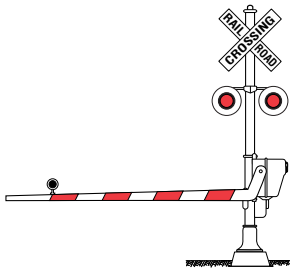
Lane-use control signals are special overhead signals that indicate whether a motorist should or should not drive in a specific lane. If a red X appears above a lane, a driver should not drive in that lane. A steady yellow X means that a driver should prepare to vacate, in a safe manner, the lane over which the signal is located because a lane control change is being made. A steady downward green arrow means that a driver is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal is located. These type signals can be used on streets, highways, or freeways.

RAILROAD WARNING SIGNS

Railroad Crossing. You are within a few hundred feet of a railroad crossing. You should slow down and be prepared to stop. If you see a train coming—STOP—never try to beat it.



Railroad Crossbuck signs are posted at every railroad, highway, road, or street grade crossing and show the location. If more than one track is to be crossed, it will show the number of tracks. Always slow, look, listen, and be prepared to yield the right-of-way to an approaching train.



Gate and Flashing Light. Stop when the lights begin to flash before the gate lowers across your side of the road. Remain stopped until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing.

At railroad crossings, stop within 15 to 50 feet of the nearest rail when:

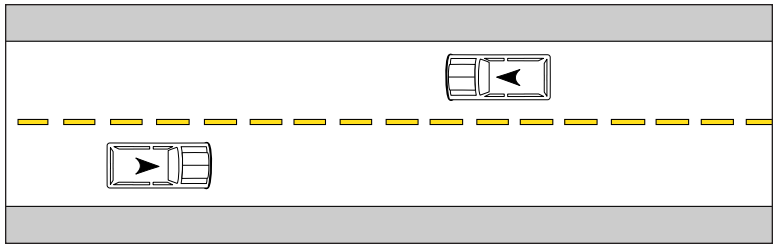
1. You are directed by a flag person.
2. There are flashing red lights or gongs sounding.
3. There is any warning device telling you that a train is coming.

(See pages 4-4 and 4-5 for **Important Information Concerning Railroad Crossings.**)
(Also, truck and bus drivers should refer to page 15-18.)

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

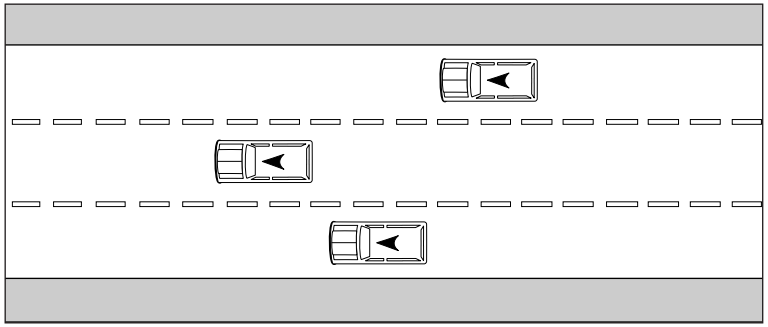
Pavement markings help you just like signs and signals. They are used to warn and direct drivers and to regulate traffic.

TWO-LANE RURAL ROADWAY
Two-Way Traffic



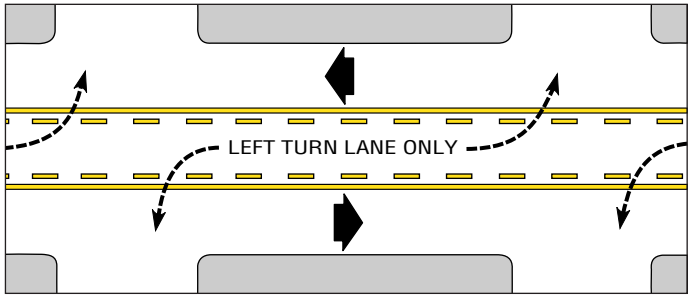
Keep to the right of the yellow center line. You may cross the broken line when passing another vehicle or when the right half of the roadway is closed to traffic. **DO NOT CROSS THE LINE IF IT IS NOT SAFE TO DO SO.**

THREE LANE ONE-WAY ROADWAYS



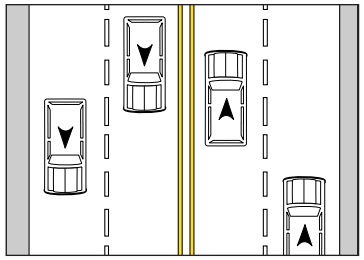
On a one-way roadway, when each lane is marked with a broken white line, you may drive in any lane. When turning from a one-way road be sure to move into the proper lane well in advance of your turn.

LEFT TURN LANE



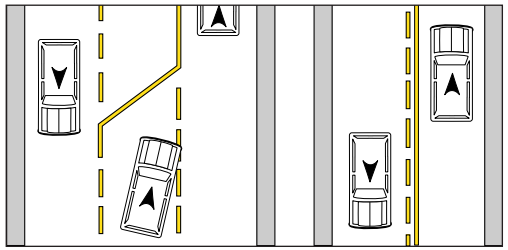
The only time a vehicle should enter the center lane is at a point where the vehicle will have time to slow down or stop in order to make a safe left turn maneuver. The center lane should never be used for passing or as a through traffic lane.

MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY (Four or more lanes)



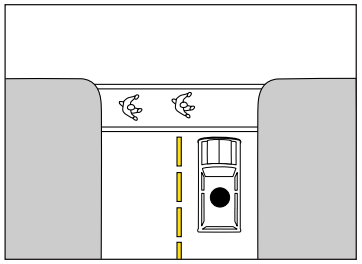
Do not cross the double yellow line to pass. Stay in your lane as much as possible. If you are driving slower, keep in the right-hand lane.

SOLID AND BROKEN LINE



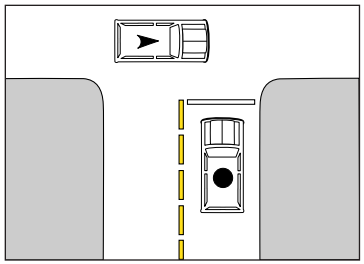
A solid yellow line on your side of the road marks a “no-passing zone.”

CROSSWALKS

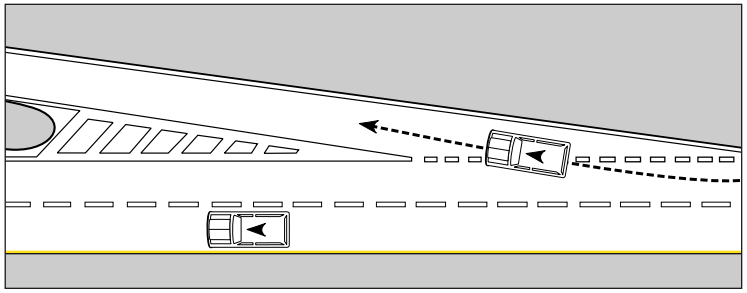


White crosswalk lines are painted across a road to indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Pedestrians should use these areas when crossing the road. At intersections where stop lines are missing, you must stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by traffic signs or signals or pedestrians.

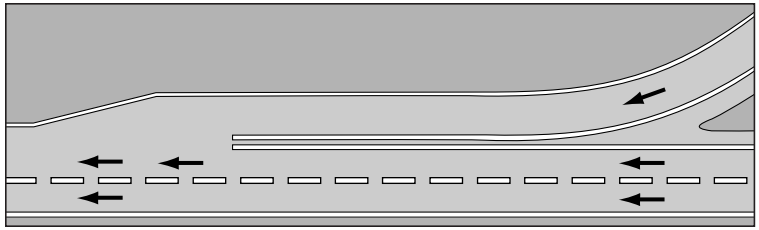
STOP LINES



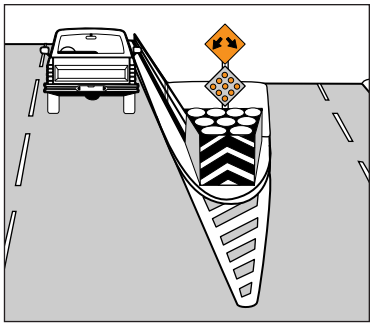
White stop lines are painted across pavement lanes at traffic signs or signals. Where these lines are present, you should stop behind the stop line.



Solid white lines are used for pavement edge lines, shoulder markings, channelizing, transitions and lane use control. Crossing a solid white line should be avoided if possible. The solid yellow line on the left edge of the roadway is a guide to drivers that driving to the left of the yellow line is prohibited because the line is marking the left edge of the roadway. This type of yellow line can be found on interstate highways.



Crossing is prohibited where there is a pavement marking of double solid white lines.



Barrels engineered to act as an impact cushion is a new concept in reducing the seriousness of crashes. These barrels are usually installed in front of a solid obstacle and at an area of high crash frequency.

If you see this flag, slow down, the bicycle operator may have impaired hearing. This sign may also be displayed on vehicles to alert others that the driver may be hearing impaired.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DEVICES

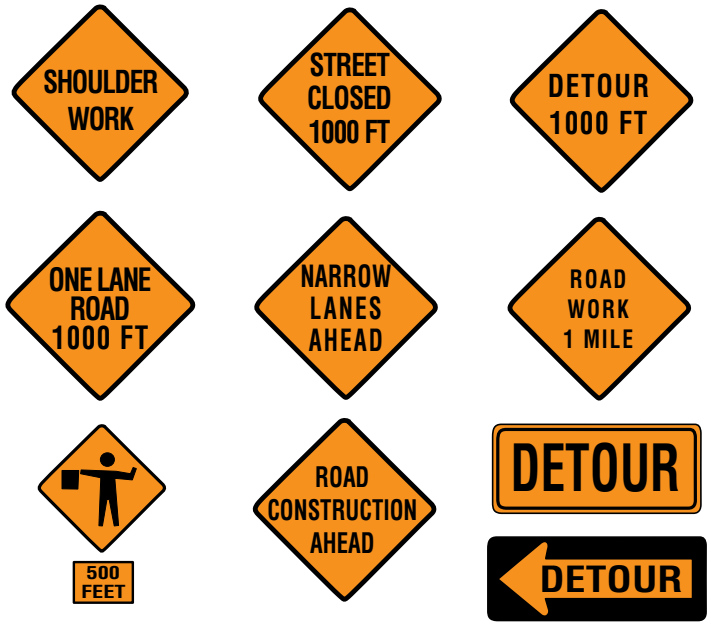
Various traffic control devices are used in construction and maintenance work areas to direct drivers or pedestrians safely through the work zone and to provide for the safety of the highway workers.

The most commonly used traffic control devices are signs, barricades, drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrow panels and flag persons. Orange is the basic color for these devices.

SPECIAL NOTE: Traffic fines are doubled for violations of the law that occur in construction zones where workers are present.

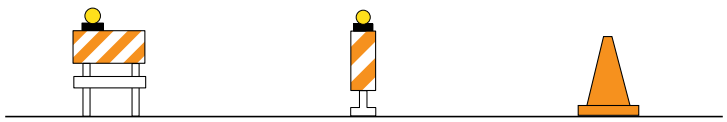
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SIGNS:

Construction and maintenance signs are used to alert drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in or near work areas. Most signs in work areas are diamond shaped. A few signs are rectangular.

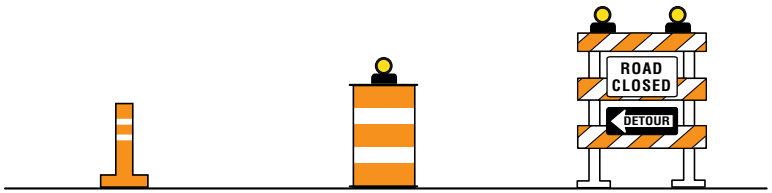


CHANNELIZING DEVICES:

Barricades, vertical panels, drums, cones and tubes are the most commonly used devices to alert drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in highway and street work areas and to guide drivers safely through the work zone. At night they are often equipped with flashing or steady burn lights.



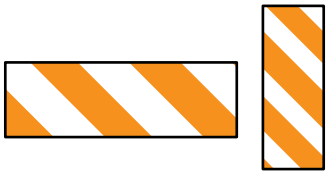
BARRICADE PANEL CONE



TUBE DRUM BARRICADE

The diagonal stripes on the barricade or vertical panel guide the driver towards the direction to which the traffic is to pass. Stripes sloping downward to the right mean the driver should bear to the right. Conversely, stripes sloping downward to the left mean bear to the left.

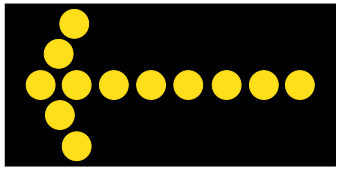
PASS TO THE LEFT

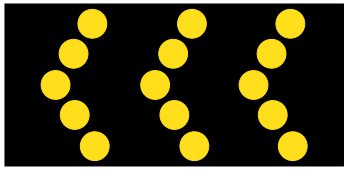


PASS TO THE RIGHT

FLASHING ARROW PANELS:

Large flashing or sequencing arrow panels may be used in work zones both day and night to guide drivers into certain traffic lanes and to inform them that part of the road or street ahead of them is closed.

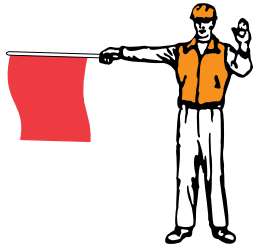




flag persons:

Flag persons are often provided in highway and street work zones to stop, slow or guide traffic safely through the area. Flag persons wear orange vests, shirts or jackets and use stop/slow paddles or red flags to direct traffic through work zones.

OR



TRAFFIC STOP

OR

TRAFFIC PROCEED

1. **Color Orange = Work Zone = Danger**

   a. Traffic control devices are used to direct motorists and pedestrians safely through work zones and to protect workers.

   b. Be prepared to slow or stop.

   c. Be prepared to change lanes.

   d. Be prepared for the unexpected.

2. **Advance Warning Signs**

   a. Pay attention.

   b. Follow instructions.

   c. Reduce speed to at least the posted construction zone speed signs.

3. **Lane Change Signs.**

   a. Slow and prepare to change lanes when safe.

   b. Be prepared for drivers who wait until the last second to move to the open lane.

   c. Maintain reduced speed until you clear the construction area. There should be a sign indicating that you are leaving the construction area.

   d. Return to normal driving lane only after checking traffic behind you.

4. **Work Areas**

   a. Further reduce speed as you approach workers and equipment.

   b. Be prepared for unexpected movements of workers and equipment.

5. **Flag persons**

   a. Flag persons are used in cases of extreme hazard.

   b. Flag persons instructions must be obeyed.

   c. When instructed to stop, do so in your lane - do not veer right or left.

   d. Do not attempt to go forward until the flag person instructs you to do so.

   e. Proceed with caution - expect the unexpected.

   f. Always be on the lookout for oncoming vehicles in your lane of traffic.

CHAPTER 6

SIGNALING, PASSING, AND TURNING

SIGNALING

A good driver always lets others know if he is going to turn or stop. Your signal helps others plan ahead. A surprise move often results in crashes. Be alert–watch and give signals.

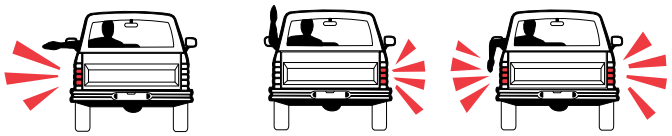
ALWAYS SIGNAL when you are going to:

1. Change lanes.
2. Make a turn.
3. Pull away from a parking space which is parallel to the curb.
4. Slow down or stop.

HOW TO SIGNAL

You may use either signal lights or hand and arm signals. Make sure your signals can be easily seen by others. Extend your hand and arm well out of the car window and signal in plenty of time.

During non-daylight hours, hand and arm signals are usually not visible except in well-lighted areas. Be sure your signal lights are working properly. When signaling a stop, pump your brakes a few times to attract attention.



Left Turn Right Turn Stop or Slow Down

Signal continuously for at least 100 feet before you turn or stop. **Be sure to turn off your signal light after you use it. Your unintended signal still means "turn" to other drivers.**

PASSING

KEEP TO THE RIGHT

NEVER drive on the left half of the road in the following instances:

1. When pavement markings prohibit driving on the left (a "No Passing Zone").

2. When there are two or more traffic lanes in each direction.

3. When within 100 feet (about five car lengths) of or crossing an intersection or railroad crossing.

4. When on a hill, curve, or any other place where vision is limited.

5. When within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

You should always keep to the right half of the road EXCEPT:

1. When passing another vehicle on a two or three-lane street.

2. When driving on a one-way street.

3. When the right half of the road is blocked.

BASIC SAFETY RULES WHEN PASSING LEFT OR RIGHT

It is not always safe to pass. You should be patient and wait until the time is right. Crashes resulting from improper passing can be deadly.

1. Make certain that the way is clear.

2. Give the proper signal before changing lanes.

3. Tap your horn when necessary to avoid surprising the driver ahead.

4. Avoid cutting in too quickly if you must return to your original lane.

HOW TO PASS ON A TWO-LANE ROAD

1. Keep enough distance between you and the car in front of you so you can see ahead clearly. Check rearview and side mirrors and turn your head and look back—someone may be passing you. Signal left.

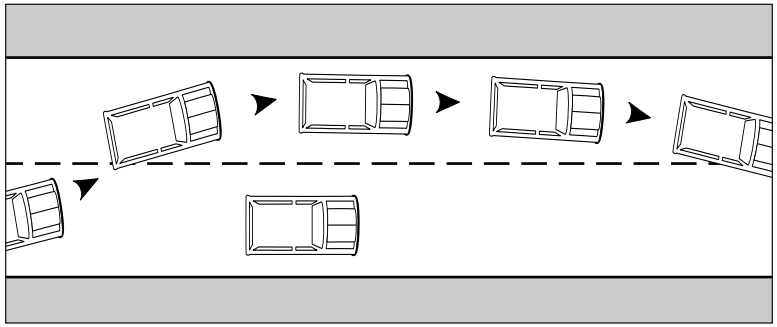
2. Check well ahead for "No Passing Zone" and oncoming cars. Be sure you have time and space enough to overtake the car ahead and return to the

right lane before an approaching car comes within 200 feet of you.

3. Tap your horn when necessary to alert the driver ahead.

4. Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until safely clear of overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rearview mirror before returning to right lane.

5. Signal right turn to return to right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off after you have completed the lane change.



PASSING ON THE RIGHT

In Texas and many other states, you may pass on the right only when conditions permit you to do so safely, such as:

1. The road is clear of parked vehicles or other things and is wide enough for two or more lanes in each direction.

2. You are on a one-way road.

3. You may pass on a paved shoulder when the vehicle you are passing is slowing or stopped on the main travelled portion of the highway, disabled, or preparing to make a left turn.

Do not pass on the right by driving off the paved portion of the highway.

WHEN YOU ARE PASSED

1. Do not increase your speed.

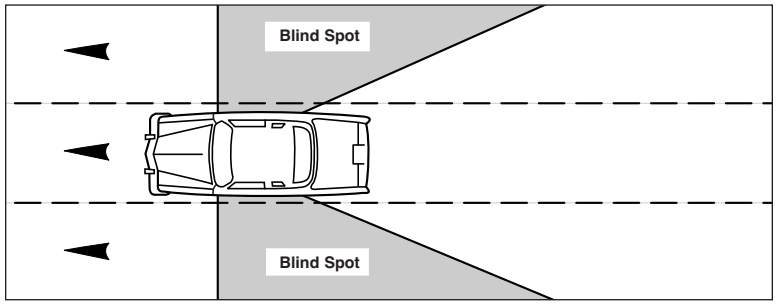
2. Keep in your lane.

3. When being passed on the left, and lanes are not marked, move to the right as far as you safely can.

4. Make it as safe and easy as you can for the other driver to pass you.

Blind Spot Driving

Don't drive in another driver's "blind spot." Either pass the other driver or drop back. When you pass a car, get through the blind spot as quickly as you can. Approach cautiously, but once you are alongside, speed up and get by quickly.



TURNS

Turning a corner appears to be a simple operation. However, much confusion in traffic and many crashes are caused by drivers who do not turn correctly.

Study the diagrams showing the correct method of making right and left turns on the following pages. There are 7 steps in making a good turn:

1. **Make up your mind before you get to the turning point**. Never make a "last minute" turn—it is too dangerous.

2. **Look behind and to both sides** to see where other vehicles may be before you change lanes.

3. **Move into the proper lane as soon as possible.** The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should move into the proper lane. If you cannot get

into the proper lane at least within one-half block before you turn, you should not turn but continue straight ahead.

4. **Give the proper turn signal at least 100 feet before you make your turn.** If using a hand signal, hold it until you are close enough to the intersection for others to know what you intend to do. Do not hold the signal while making the turn—you need both hands on the wheel.

5. **Slow down to a reasonable turning speed**. Do not use the brake or clutch while actually turning.

6. **Make the turn correctly**. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and proceeding slowly enough at the time you begin to turn.

7. **Finish the turn in the proper lane.**

RIGHT TURN - LEFT TURN

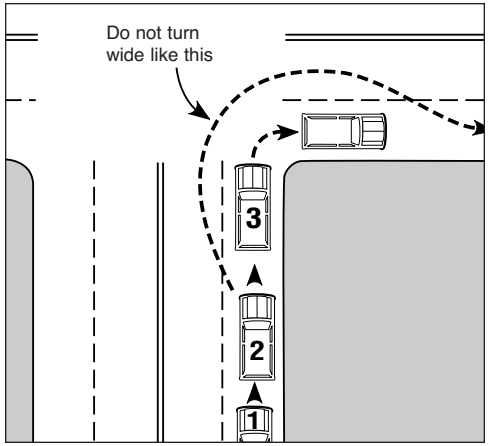
How To Make a Right Turn

1. Well ahead of the turning point, signal for a lane change and when it is safe, move your vehicle to the far right lane.

2. Begin right turn signal, and start slowing down at least 100 feet from the corner.

3. Look both ways before starting to turn.

4. Keep as close as possible to the right edge of the road. Turn using both hands on the wheel.



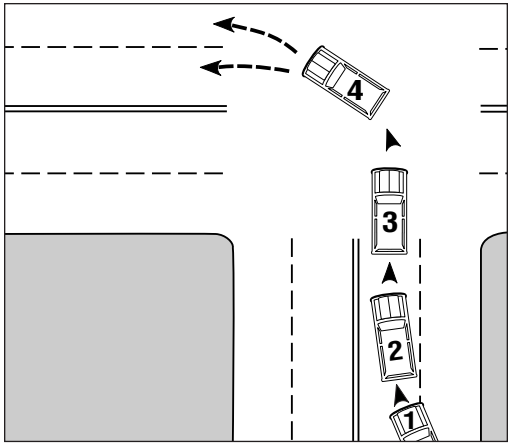
How To Make a Left Turn

1. Well ahead of the turning point, signal for a lane change and when it is safe, move close to the center lane.

2. Begin left turn signal and start slowing down at least 100 feet from the corner.

3. Look in all directions carefully before starting to turn. Stay to the right of the centerline as you enter the intersection. Yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.

4. Complete the turn to the right of the centerline of the road into which you are turning by entering the lane in which you will interfere the least with other traffic.



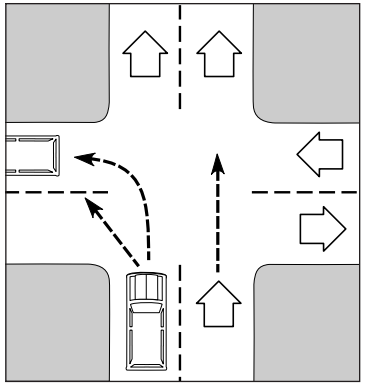
OTHER TURNING PROCEDURES

In addition to the turns illustrated watch for pavement markings and signs:

1. Which permit turning right or left from or into two or more traffic lanes.

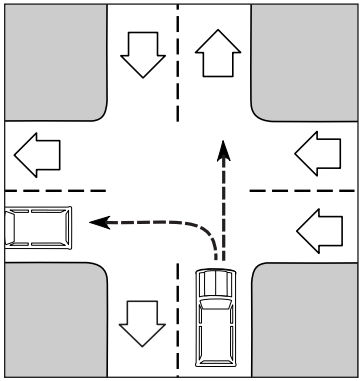
2. Which give other special turning or lane information.

MAKING A LEFT TURN FROM OR INTO A ONE-WAY STREET



Left From One-Way Into Two-Way Street

1. If you are turning **left** from a one-way street, turn from the left lane.



Left From Two-Way Into One-Way Street

2. If you are turning **left** into a one-way street, enter that street in the left lane.

CHAPTER 7

STOPPING, STANDING, OR PARKING

Not all crashes happen while vehicles are being driven. An improperly parked vehicle may also cause an accident. When you leave your vehicle, set the parking brake, stop the motor, and remove the key. Check over your shoulder for any oncoming traffic before opening your car door.

DO NOT PARK, STOP, OR STAND A VEHICLE:

1. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.

2. On a sidewalk.

3. Within an intersection.

4. On a crosswalk.

5. Between a safety zone and adjacent curb or within 30 feet of a place on the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone.

6. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic.

7. Upon a bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel.

8. On any railroad track.

9. At any place where an official sign prohibits stopping.

DO NOT PARK OR STAND A VEHICLE (whether occupied or not): (Temporarily stopping to comply with signs, signals, etc., is not considered parking or standing.)

1. In front of a public or private driveway.

2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.

4. Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or other traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway.

5. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of said entrance.

DO NOT PARK A VEHICLE (whether occupied or not) within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.

PARKING, STOPPING, OR STANDING ON A HIGHWAY OUTSIDE AN URBAN AREA: Never park or leave your vehicle standing on the paved part of any highway outside of a business or residential district when you can park off the roadway. If you cannot park off the road:

1. Leave plenty of room for others to pass.

2. Be sure that your vehicle can be seen for at least 200 feet from each direction.

3. If at night, use your parking lights or leave your headlights on dim.

4. A person may stop, stand, or park a bicycle on a sidewalk if the bicycle does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic on the sidewalk.

DISABLED PARKING:

State law provides that it is a violation (Class C misdemeanor - up to $500 fine) for a person to park, stand, or stop a vehicle in a disabled person parking space. The law specifically states:

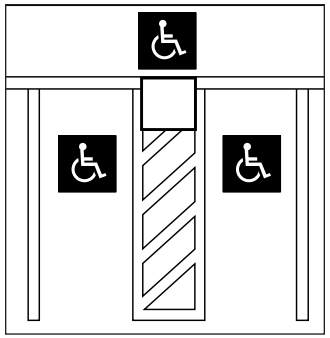
1. You may not park in a disabled parking space unless the vehicle has a disabled license plate or state issued removable windshield identification card;

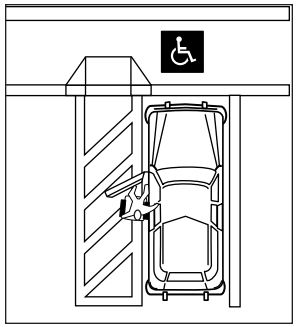
2. You may not use a disabled parking windshield identification card unless transporting the disabled person to whom it was issued;

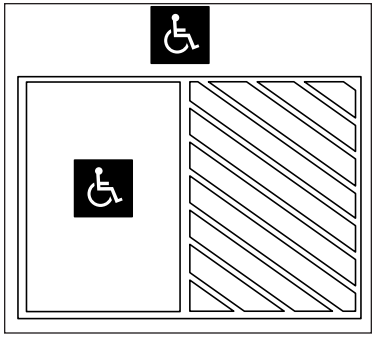
3. You may not lend your windshield identification card to someone else;

4. You may not block an access or curb ramp.

Additionally, certain municipalities also prohibit stopping or standing in a disabled parking space unless bearing a disabled parking windshield identification card or disabled license plate.







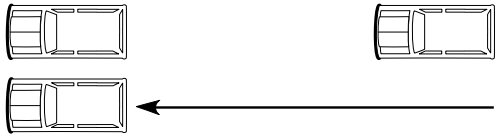
Do not park in striped areas adjacent to handicap parking spaces or in a striped area in front of an entrance to a business adjacent to a disabled parking space. Striped areas are for wheelchair lifts.

UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLE:

It is unlawful for any person in charge of a motor vehicle to permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, and effectively setting the brake, and when standing on any grade, without turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the roadway.

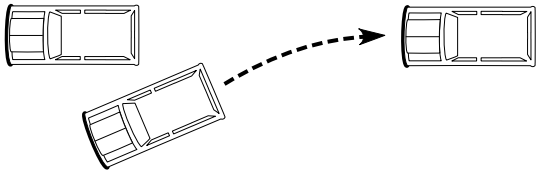
PARALLEL PARKING

1



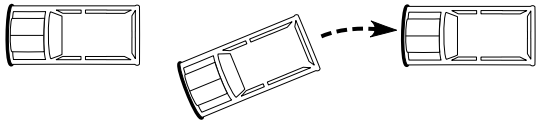
Choose a space large enough for your car. Signal, stop even with front car about two feet out from it.

2



Make sure you will not interfere with oncoming traffic, then turn your front wheels all the way to the right and back slowly toward the curb.

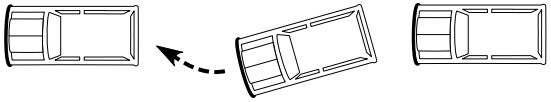
3



When your front seat is opposite the rear bumper of the car ahead, quickly turn your steering wheel all the way to the left. Back slowly to the car behind without touching it. You should be about six inches from the curb. Do not park more than 18 inches from the curb or edge of roadway.

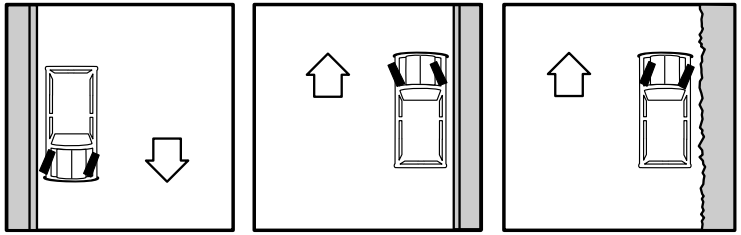
SPECIAL NOTE: On a roadway allowing two-way traffic, the driver must park with the vehicle's right-hand wheels within 18 inches of the **righthand** curb or edge of roadway.

4



Straighten your front wheels and pull into the final parking position. Center car in space.

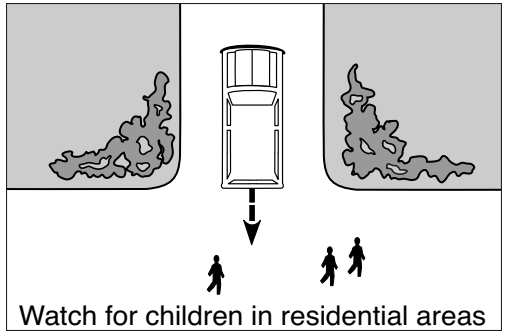
PARKING ON HILLS



Turn wheels to curb | Turn back of wheels to curb | Turn wheels to right

LEAVING A PARKING SPACE

Exercise care when backing up. Children often play between parked cars.
LOOK BACK BEFORE AND WHILE BACKING



COASTING

It is unlawful to coast on a downgrade with the gears or transmission in neutral.

CHAPTER 8

SPEED AND SPEED LIMITS

You must always obey the maximum and the minimum speed limits.

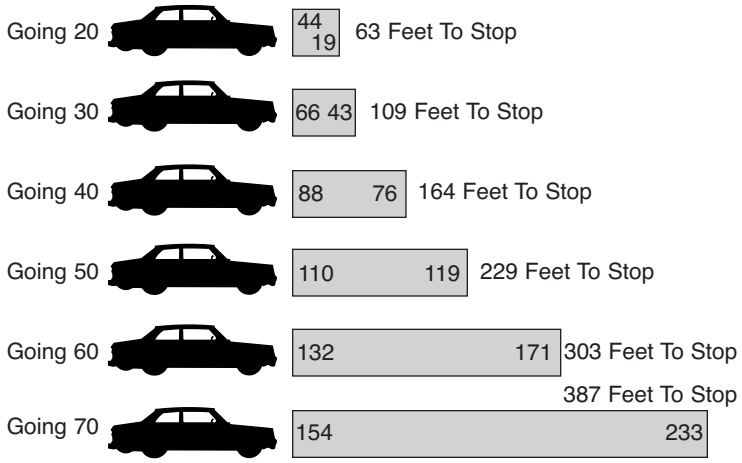
SPEED

Generally you should drive at the same speed as the main stream of traffic. You should always be aware of how fast you are traveling. You must obey speed limits, but a good driver does even more.

1. **A Good Driver—**always keeps a safe distance from the car in front of him. The faster you go the greater the distance you should keep from the car ahead of you. A good rule is to stay at least two (2) seconds behind the vehicle ahead of you. Example: When the vehicle ahead of you passes a fixed object and you reach this same fixed object in less than two (2) seconds, you are following too close.

APPROXIMATE STOPPING DISTANCES

It takes the average person 1-1/2 seconds to think, react and apply the brakes. The following table shows how far you travel in that 1-1/2 seconds, plus how many feet you travel while skidding to stop.



AND THIS IS WITH GOOD BRAKES AND TIRES ON DRY, LEVEL PAVEMENT

2. **A Good Driver—**knows when he should slow down.

• **Slow down** when the road is wet (rain, snow, sleet). Many drivers find out too late what a little rain can do. Roads become slippery when wet, making your car harder to control. The only wise thing to do is slow down. Make sure you have complete control of the situation at all times.

• **Slow down** when road is crowded.

• **Slow down** when your vision is limited. You should always be able to stop within the distance that you can see ahead of your car. In darkness or bad weather, do not over-drive your range of vision.

3. **A Good Driver—**always adjusts his speed according to his own physical condition and the condition of his vehicle. If you are tired or not feeling well–don't drive. Never force yourself to drive.

SPEED LIMITS

All drivers are required to obey posted maximum and minimum speed limits. These limits are designed to provide for the orderly flow of traffic under normal driving conditions. During periods of heavy traffic, inclement weather, low visibility, or other poor driving conditions, speed must be adjusted so that accidents will be avoided. The following chart shows the maximum speed limits for all vehicles under different conditions. **Drivers must be aware that cities and counties have the authority to change these limits.**

	Daytime (MPH)	Nighttime (MPH)
URBAN DISTRICT	30	30
ALLEY	15	15
BEACHES	15	15
COUNTY ROADS adjacent to a public beach (if declared by the commissioners court of the county)	15	15
HIGHWAY NUMBERED BY THIS STATE OR THE UNITED STATES OUTSIDE AN URBAN DISTRICT		
Passenger cars, motorcycles, light truck, passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer, truck or truck-tractor, truck or truck-tractor towing a trailer or semi-trailer, buses, school activity bus	70	65
School buses that have passed a commercial vehicle inspection	60	55
FARM TO MARKET AND RANCH TO MARKET ROADS		
Passenger cars, motorcycles, light truck, passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer, buses, school activity bus	70	65
School buses that have passed a commercial vehicle inspection	60	60
FARM TO MARKET AND RANCH TO MARKET ROADS		
Trucks or truck-tractor, trucks or truck-tractor towing a trailer or semi-trailer	60	55
HIGHWAY NOT NUMBERED BY THIS STATE OR THE UNITED STATES AND OUTSIDE AN URBAN DISTRICT		
Passenger cars, motorcycles, light truck, passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer, truck or truck-tractor, truck or truck-tractor towing a trailer or semi-trailer, buses, school activity bus	60	55
School buses that have not passed a commercial vehicle inspection or are traveling on a highway not numbered by the United States or this state	50	50

In this chapter, "**Light truck**" means a truck with a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of not more than 2,000 pounds, including a pick-up truck, panel delivery truck, and carry-all truck.

In this chapter, "**Urban district**" means the territory adjacent to and including a highway, if the territory is improved with structures that are used for business, industry, or dwelling houses and are located at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of at least one-quarter mile on either side of the highway.

After meeting certain requirements, the Texas Transportation Commission has been given the authority to raise the daytime speed limit to 75 miles per hour on parts of the state highway system if the highway is located in a county with a population density of less than 15 persons per square mile AND if the Commission determines that speed is a reasonable and safe speed for that part of the highway system. This increased speed limit does NOT apply to: trucks, other than light trucks and light trucks pulling a trailer; and truck tractors, trailers, and semi-trailers.

The Texas Transportation Commission also may establish a speed limit of 80 miles per hour in daytime on a part of Interstate Highway 10 or Interstate 20 in Crockett, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kerr, Kimble, Pecos, Reeves, Sutton, or Ward County if the Commission determines that 80 miles per hour daytime is a reasonable and safe speed for that part of the highway system. This increased speed limit does NOT apply to: trucks, other than light trucks and light trucks pulling a trailer; and truck tractors, trailers, and semi-trailers.

After meeting certain requirements, the Texas Transportation Commission has been given the authority to raise the speed limit to not more than 85 miles per hour on a highway segment of the Trans-Texas Corridor designated by Chapter 227, Transportation Code, if the Commission determines that speed is a reasonable and safe speed for that part of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

CHAPTER 9

SOME SPECIAL DRIVING SITUATIONS

Never drive when you become sleepy. It is much more dangerous to drive during the night than during the day. We do not see as well as we do during daylight. When taking a trip, do your driving during the daylight hours—it's safer.

HEADLIGHTS

When driving at night slow down. Be sure you can stop within the distance lighted by your headlights.

You should lower (dim) your headlights when you are:

1. Within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle.
2. When following closely (within 300 feet) behind another vehicle.
3. When driving on lighted roads.
4. When driving in fog, heavy rain, sleet, snow, or dust.

If you must park on an unlighted highway at night, leave your parking lights or lower beam headlights on.

• You must use your headlights beginning one-half hour after sunset and ending one-half hour before sunrise, or any other time when persons or vehicles cannot be seen clearly for at least 1,000 feet.

• Avoid looking directly into the headlights of approaching vehicles. You should shift your eyes down to the lower right side of your traffic lane.

• Turn signals flashing on one side only should not be used on parked or disabled vehicles.

FREEWAY DRIVING

Within the past few years, many thousands of miles of super highways have been built. Depending on where you are they are known as freeways, toll roads, throughways, turnpikes, and expressways. These roads are designed for maximum safety, but you must know how to use them properly. In Texas, a freeway is defined as “A divided arterial highway with full control of access and with no crossings at grade”.

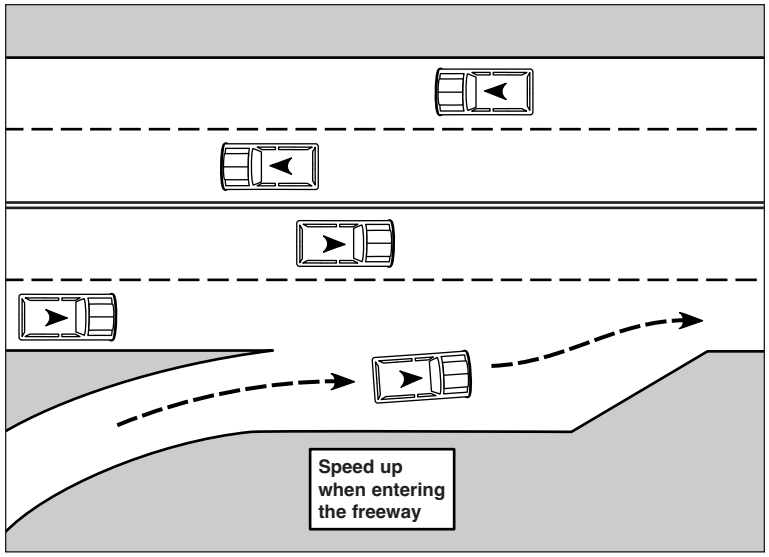
Before you use a freeway

Plan your trip in advance so that you know your entrance, direction, and exit. Make sure that you and your car are in good condition. If you cannot or do not wish to drive at or above the minimum speed limit, do not use the freeway.

ENTERING THE FREEWAY

1. You must yield the right-of-way to vehicles already on the freeway.

2. Enter the speed change lane, stay to the right, signal left, and when the way is clear increase your speed so you can merge with the flow of traffic.



DRIVING THE FREEWAY

CHOOSING THE PROPER LANE—Look twice before changing speed or lanes and always signal.

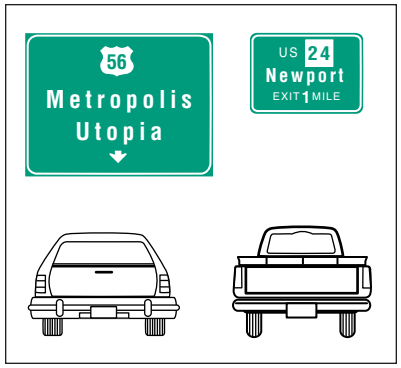
• Use right-hand lane:

If you wish to drive at the minimum speed limit or below the normal flow of traffic.

• Using the middle or left-hand lane:

1. Use the middle or left-hand lane if you are traveling faster than other traffic.

2. If you plan to leave the freeway soon, change to the exit lane as soon as possible.



• Observe specific instructions indicating in which lane you should drive.

ONCE YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR LANE—

• Stay in the middle of your lane.

• Stay in your lane—do not weave in and out of traffic.

• Maintain a constant speed. Keep pace with the traffic. Do not speed up and slow down unnecessarily.

• Stay at least 2 seconds behind the vehicle ahead of you. In bad weather increase the time to at least 4 seconds. Watch the cars ahead of you. Be ready if one of them should stop suddenly.

• Adjust your speed to allow others to enter the freeway safely.

• Good driving practices indicate that vehicles 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.

LEAVING THE FREEWAY

• Move into the proper lane well in advance of the exit. The greater the traffic the earlier you should move into the proper lane. Exit signs are usually placed at least 1000 yards ahead of the exit turn-off.

• Slow down on the speed change lane or exit ramp. While exiting slow down even more, so that by the time you are off the freeway you are going within the slower speed limit. Watch your speedometer until you become used to the slower speed.

FIGHT FREEWAY HYPNOSIS

• 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 freeway hypnosis. **All drivers should be aware of its danger and of the methods for fighting it.**

• **STOP OFTEN**. Even if you are feeling well you should stop at least every two hours or every 100 miles. Get out of your car and walk around. Allow your muscles to relax.

• **DO NOT DRIVE MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS PER DAY.**

• **KEEP SHIFTING YOUR EYES**. Look at different objects—near and far, left and right. Read the road signs as you approach them. Check your rearview mirror.

SOME EXTRA FREEWAY TIPS

1. Keep a window open so that there is always fresh air in your car to help keep you alert and awake.

2. On bright days wear good sunglasses. Never wear sunglasses at night.

3. Stay out of another driver's blind spot—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.

4. Avoid using a cell phone while driving, as use may cause distraction and driver inattention. If you must use a cell phone, safely pull off the road or use a hands-free headset.

VEHICLE BREAKDOWN

• If you can't get the car off the pavement, get everyone out of the car and off the road. Portable warning devices should be used to warn oncoming traffic.

• **Move your car off the pavement** to the side of the road. A car with a flat or blowout can be driven slowly off the road.

• **Turn on your emergency warning lights**. If you do not have warning lights, use your taillights. At night, besides your taillights, turn your inside lights on.

• **Tie a white cloth** to your radio antenna, door handle, or some other place where it may be easily seen. If you do not have a white cloth, raise your hood.

CONTROLLING YOUR CAR IN SOME SPECIAL SITUATIONS

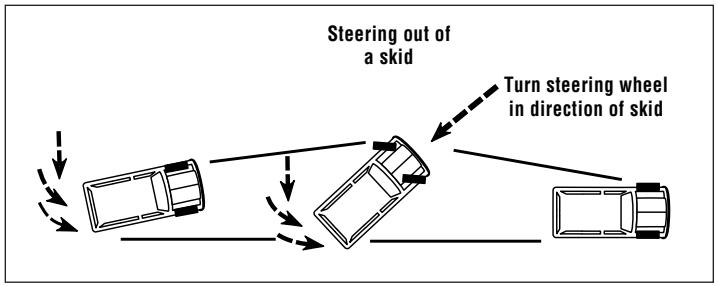
There is one basic rule that applies in all driving situations, and especially in emergency situations—**think** before you **act**.

Steering out of a skid—An automobile skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. If your car starts to skid:

• DON'T JAM ON THE BRAKES. Take your foot off the gas pedal (accelerator).

• TURN YOUR STEERING WHEEL IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SKID. As you recover control, gently straighten the wheels.

• You can avoid a skid if you slow down when road and weather conditions are poor. Also check your tires—poor tires are dangerous.



Brake failure—When brakes fail don't panic. Remember your parking brake and shift to a lower gear. Apply your parking brake cautiously so that you do not lock the brakes and throw your car into a skid.

Running off the pavement—If you run off the pavement:

• Don't hit the brakes suddenly and hard. Grip the steering wheel tightly and take your foot off the gas pedal.

• Use your brakes carefully and don't try to swing back onto the pavement. Wait until your speed is reduced, check traffic behind you, then carefully drive back onto the pavement.

Flat tire or blowout—Check the air pressure in your tires frequently. Check the pressure when the tires are cool.

If you should have a flat or blowout:

• Do not "slam" on the brakes.

• Take your foot off the gas and gently apply the brakes.

• Steer straight ahead to a stop.

Driving down a steep hill—Use a low gear to help slow your vehicle down. Never coast in neutral or with your foot on the clutch.

WINTER DRIVING

Most drivers realize that winter creates additional hazards for automobiles, but many of them don't know what to do about it. Here are a few simple precautions which you should follow:

1. **Equip your vehicle with chains or snow tires**. Chains are by far the most effective, and they should be used where ice and snow remain on the roadway. One word of caution...neither chains nor snow tires will permit you to drive on slick pavement at normal speeds, so don't let yourself get a false feeling of security

2. **Maintain a safe interval.** You must increase the distance from the vehicle ahead of you according to the conditions of the pavement. Many needless rear-end collisions occur on icy streets because drivers forget to leave stopping space. Snow tires will slide on ice or packed snow. To keep safe you must keep your distance.

3. **Reduce speed to correspond with conditions**. There is no such thing as a "safe" speed range at which you may drive on snow or ice. You must be

extremely cautious until you are able to determine how much traction you can expect from your tires. Avoid locking of brakes on glazed ice as it will cause a loss of steering and control. Every city block and every mile of highway may be different, depending upon sun or shade and the surface of the roadway.

4. **Keep windows clear**. Remove snow and ice before you drive, even if you're just going to the corner drugstore. Make certain the windshield wipers and defroster are working properly.

5. **Watch for danger spots ahead**. There may be ice on bridges when the rest of the pavement is clear. Snow melts more slowly in shady areas. Take precautions when approaching turns.

6. **Get the feel of the roadway**. Start out very slowly. It is both futile and foolish to burn the rubber off your tires by spinning the wheels. Test your brakes gently after the car is in motion to determine how much traction you will have. Start slowing down before you come to a turn.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH BICYCLES

Bicycle Rules For Motorists

1. A bicycle is a vehicle and any person riding a bicycle has all of the rights and responsibilities as a driver of a vehicle.

2. Bicyclists are required to ride as far right in the lane as possible only when the lane can be safely shared by a car and a bicycle, side by side. Even then, there are certain conditions that allow a bicyclist to take the full lane such as:

a. The person is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

b. The person is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway.

c. There are unsafe conditions in the roadway such as fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, potholes, or debris.

d. The lane is of substandard width making it unsafe for a car and a bicycle to safely share the lane side by side. When this is the case, it is best for the cyclist to take the full lane whether riding single file or two abreast.

3. Bicyclists are not restricted to the right lane of traffic. One-way, multi-

laned streets are one example. Another instance is when the bicyclist is changing lanes to make a left turn. The bicyclist should follow the same path any other vehicle would take traveling the same direction.

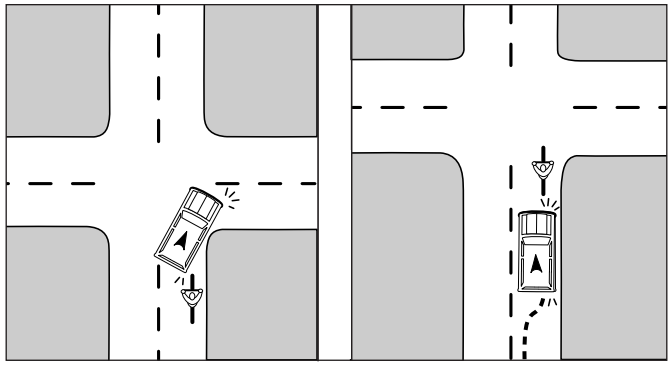
4. Motorists should merge with bicycle traffic when preparing for a right hand-turn. Avoid turning directly across the path of bicycle traffic.

Common Motorists Mistakes

1. The most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning left in the front of oncoming bicycle traffic. Oncoming bicycle traffic is often overlooked or its speed misjudged.

2. The second most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning right across the path of the bicycle traffic. The motorist should slow and merge with the bicycle traffic for a safe right-hand turn.

3. The third most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist pulling away from a stop sign and failing to yield right-of-way to bicycle cross traffic. At intersections, right-of-way rules apply equally to motor vehicles and bicycles.



Wrong Way Turning right, merge right!

SHARING THE ROAD WITH TRUCKS

Whether you're sharing the road with a passenger car, motorcycle, truck, bus, or other large vehicle, it's important for safety's sake to obey traffic laws, abide by the rules of the road, and drive defensively.

Are there any special rules for sharing the road with a truck? Yes! Following are some suggestions from professional truck drivers.

PASSING

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

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

If the driver blinks the truck's lights after you pass, it's a signal that it is clear to pull back in front of the truck. Be sure to move back only when you can see the front of the truck in your rear view mirror. After you pass a truck, maintain your speed.

When a truck passes you, you can help the truck driver by keeping to the far side of your lane. You'll make it easier for the truck driver if you reduce speed slightly. In any event, don't speed up while the truck is passing. After passing, the truck driver should signal to let you know that the truck will be returning to your lane.

When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far as possible to the side to avoid a sideswipe accident and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles. Remember turbulence pushes the vehicles apart. It does not pull them together.

FOLLOWING A TRUCK

Tractor-trailers take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger car traveling at 55 mph can stop in approximately 240 feet, which is about three-fourth's the length of a football field. A fully loaded tractor-trailer may take more than 400 feet to come to a complete stop, well over the length of a football field.

If you're following a truck, stay out of its "blind spot" at the rear. Avoid following too closely, and position your vehicle so the truck driver can see your vehicle in the truck's sideview mirror. An excellent rule of thumb for motorists sharing the road with a tractor-trailer is, "if you can't see the truck driver in his side mirror, he can't see you." Then you will have a good view of the road ahead, and the truck driver can give you plenty of warning for a stop or a turn. You will have more time to react and make a safe stop.

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

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

RIGHT TURNS

Pay close attention to truck turn signals. Trucks make wide right turns and sometimes must leave an open space to the right just before the turn. To avoid a crash, don't pass a truck on the right if there is a possibility that it might make a right turn.

BACKING CRASHES

Never try to cross behind a truck which is preparing to back up. Often, when a truck driver is preparing to back the truck from a roadway into a loading area, there is no choice but to temporarily block the roadway. It is here that some drivers and pedestrians attempt to pass behind the truck rather than wait the few seconds for the truck to complete its maneuver. In passing close behind the truck, the driver or pedestrian enters the truck's blind spot and a crash may occur.

MANEUVERABILITY

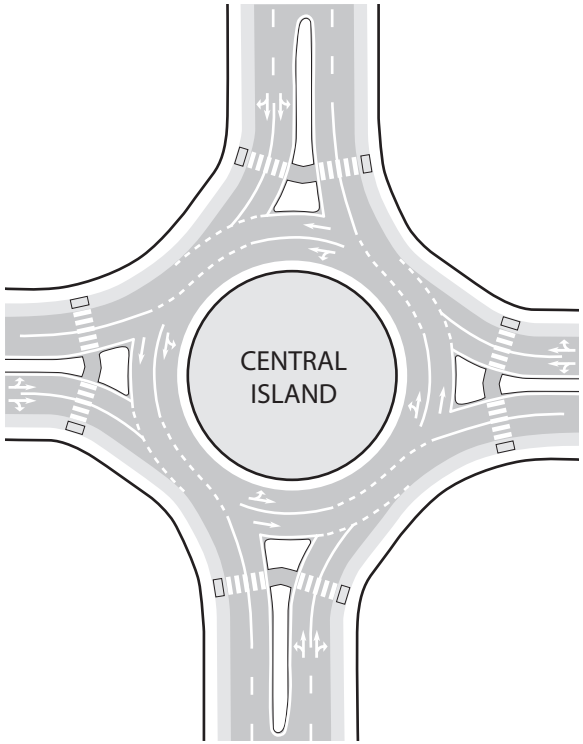
Trucks are designed to carry many products to and from towns and cities; they are not designed to be as maneuverable as cars. Trucks have longer stopping and accelerating distances, a wider turning radius, and weigh more. On multi-lane highways tractor-trailers stay in the center lane to help the flow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

- Cutting off a truck or bus in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn. Cutting into the open space in front of a truck or bus removes the driver's cushion of safety. Trying to beat a truck to a single-lane construction zone represents a particularly dangerous situation. Take a moment to slow down and exit or pull behind a truck—it will only take you a few extra seconds.

- Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer. Because of its large size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed than it is. A substantial number of car-truck collisions take place at intersections because the driver of the car does not realize how close the truck is or how quickly it is approaching.

ROTARY TRAFFIC ISLANDS

Rotary traffic islands are also known as traffic circles or roundabouts. An operator moving around a rotary traffic island shall drive only to the right of the island.



OBEYING WARNING SIGNS AND BARRICADES

It is a violation to disobey the instructions, signals, warnings, or markings of a warning sign; or drive around a barricade.
The offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $1 or more than $200, except that fines double in a construction or maintenance work zone when workers are present.
The offense is a Class B misdemeanor where a warning sign or barricade has been placed because water is over any portion of a road, street, or highway.

FLOODS

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related.

These are the facts:

• Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling.

• Twelve inches of water will float many cars.

• Two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs, and most other vehicles.

• Water across a road may hide a missing segment of roadbed or a missing bridge. Roads weaken under floodwater and drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the vehicle's weight.

National Weather Service and Governor's Division of Emergency Management officials also say that if your car or truck stalls in floodwater, the best advice is get out quickly and move to higher ground. Better yet, when there's water on the road: *Turn Around, Don't Drown.* Saving your life is as simple as choosing an alternate route.

For more information about Turn Around, Don't Drown:
www.srh.weather.gov
For more information about FLASH (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes):
www.flash.org

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

[The above materials from *Turn Around, Don't Drown*, were used with permission from the Southern Regional Headquarters, NOAA, per Paul Yura (Paul.Yura@noaa.gov) and Walt Zaleski (Walt.Zaleski@noaa.gov), Warning Coordination Meteorologist Program, Manager NWS, Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas.]

CHAPTER 10

HOW ALCOHOL AND DRUGS AFFECT A PERSON'S ABILITY TO DRIVE

Millions of people take drugs every day and don't realize these drugs can affect their driving. Alcohol, tranquilizers, marijuana—or any other drug—can affect the mental and physical (psychomotor) skills needed to drive. Even some over-the-counter medicines can affect driving skills.

Different people's driving skills can be affected differently by the same drug. The driver's weight and emotional state, the amount of the drug and when it was taken—all influence the driver's ability to size up an emergency situation or to judge speed or distance.

Taking more than one drug at the same time can be especially dangerous because each can add to the impact of the other. This is especially true when one of the drugs is alcohol.

Possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage increases the minimum term of confinement by 6 days for a 1st offense.

It is illegal to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage in a passenger area of a motor vehicle that is located on a public highway, regardless of whether the vehicle is being operated or stopped or parked. Conviction of this offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed $500.

The definition for intoxication includes both alcohol and drugs.

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs was a contributing factor in 8% of crashes. However, alcohol or drugs accounted for 28% of all fatal crashes in the state. It is the second most common factor for crashes in Texas.

TEXAS HAS TOUGH ALCOHOL-RELATED LAWS FOR MINORS

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) is a problem that affects all Texans. To make Texas safer, laws have been enacted to deter people from drinking and driving or to punish those who choose to drink and drive.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI) - PENALTIES for DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS:

1st DWI OFFENSE (Class B misdemeanor) - Punishable as a fine not to exceed $2,000.00, confinement in jail for not less than 72 hours nor more than 180 days, and a driver license (or driving privilege) suspension of not less than 90 days nor more than 365 days. The court may probate the jail sentence and waive the driver license suspension on the first offense ONLY. Possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage increases the minimum term of confinement by 3 days to 6 days for a 1st offense.

2nd DWI OFFENSE (Class A misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine not to exceed $4,000.00, confinement in jail for not less than 30 days nor more than 1 year, and a driver license (or driving privilege) suspension of not less than 180 days nor more than 2 years.

3rd (or subsequent) DWI OFFENSE (Felony of the Third Degree) - Punishable by a fine not to exceed $10,000.00, confinement in the penitentiary for not less than 2 years nor more than 10 years, and a driver license (or driving privilege) suspension of not less than 180 days nor more than 2 years.

DWI with Child Passenger Under 15 (State Jail Felony) - Punishable by a fine not to exceed $10,000 confinement in jail for not less than 180 days nor more than 2 years.

Intoxication Assault (Felony of the Third Degree) - Punishable by a fine not to exceed $10,000.00, confinement in the penitentiary for not less than 2 years nor more than 10 years, and a driver license (or driving privilege) suspension of not less than 90 days nor more than 1 year.

Intoxication Manslaughter (Felony of the Second Degree) - Punishable by a fine not to exceed $10,000.00, confinement in the penitentiary for not less than 2 years nor more than 20 years, and a driver license (or driving privilege) suspension of not less than 180 days nor more than 2 years.

THE NUMBER ONE KILLER

The number one killer of teenagers is driving under the influence. More than 4,000 teens are killed and another 110,000 seriously injured each year in car crashes involving alcohol. Not all have been drinking, but some are passengers or innocent targets of people who drink and drive. These statistics mean that

from a high school of 475 students, two are likely to be killed or injured in drunk driving crashes. One could be your best friend. One could be you.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR MINORS

In Texas a “minor” is someone under 21 years of age. Generally speaking, a minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, or even possess an alcoholic beverage.

Since a minor should not even possess an alcoholic beverage, the 1997 Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill 35, which established **ZERO TOLERANCE** for minors who commit offenses under the non-driving alcohol-related laws as well as for minors who drive under the influence.

ZERO TOLERANCE means just that. Even if a minor is not intoxicated as defined under the DWI statute, if the minor has ANY detectable amount of alcohol in his system while he or she is operating a motor vehicle in a public place, as far as the law is concerned, the minor driver has committed the criminal offense of **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI by a Minor).**

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR (DUI BY A MINOR)

Any Offense DUI by a Minor (10 years of age or older but less than 17) (“Delinquent Conduct” under the Family Code) - Punishable by a fine up to $500.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service, and the minor’s driver license may be suspended (or driving privilege denied).

1st Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class C misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine of up to $500.00, not less than 20 nor more than 40 hours of community service. Attendance in an Alcohol Awareness Course is required and, if the minor is under 18, the parent may be required to attend the course. The minor’s driver license will be suspended for 120 days.

2nd Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class C misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine of up to $500.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service. The Alcohol Awareness Course may be required.

3rd Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class B misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine not less than $500.00 or more than $2,000.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service, and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days.

The court may not give deferred disposition on the third offense of DUI by a minor.

IMPLIED CONSENT LAWS AS THEY APPLY TO MINORS

In Texas, if a person is arrested for an offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating a motor vehicle in a public place, or a watercraft, while intoxicated, or the person is a minor and has **ANY** detectable amount of alcohol in their system while operating a motor vehicle in a public place, the person is deemed to have consented to submit to the taking of one or more specimens of the person's breath or blood for analysis to determine the alcohol concentration or the presence in the person's body of a controlled substance, drug, dangerous drug, or other substance. Refusal to provide a specimen results in the suspension of the driving privilege and any driver license. The suspension for a minor who refuses is 180 days for the first refusal, and 2 years for subsequent refusals. A minor who gives a specimen which confirms that he or she has been operating a motor vehicle in a public place with ANY detectable amount of alcohol in their system (but which is below the 0.08% BAC legal limit of intoxication) will have their driver license suspended (or their driving privilege will be denied if unlicensed) for 60 days for the first offense, for 120 days for the second offense, and for 180 days for the third and subsequent offenses. The minor may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to contest the suspension.

DWI/DUI ARRESTS ARE COSTLY—In terms of monetary costs, penalties, and inconveniences. It can also be a humiliating experience. It is not worth the risk of being arrested. Some fines can be up to $10,000, not including the cost of a bail bondsman, an attorney, or other court-required costs.

OTHER SANCTIONS FOR NON-DRIVING ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES BY MINORS

Texas' **ZERO TOLERANCE LAW** also provides sanctions for minors who commit offenses under the non-driving alcohol-related offenses. Generally speaking, a minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, falsely state they are 21 years of age or older or present any document that indicates that they are 21 years of age or older to a person engaged in the selling or serving of alcoholic beverages, consume, or possess an alcoholic beverage. The penalty upon conviction of one of the above non-driving alcohol-related offenses and for Public Intoxication for a minor is as follows:

1st Non-driving Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor—Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to $500.00, 8 to 12 hours of community service, and mandatory attendance of an alcohol awareness course. The minor's driver license will be suspended (or his/her privilege denied if not licensed) for 30 days.

2nd Non-driving Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor—Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to $500.00, 20 to 40 hours of community service, and may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course. The minor's driver license will be suspended (or his/her driving privilege denied if not licensed) for 60 days.

3rd Non-driving Alcohol-Related Offense by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21)—Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine not less than $250.00 or more than $2,000.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service, and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days. The minor's driver license will be suspended or his/her privilege denied for 180 days. Minors are not eligible for deferred disposition on the third and subsequent convictions.

Beginning September 1, 1999, a minor who is convicted of driving while his/her license is revoked because of a non-driving alcohol related offense is subject to the penalties of Driving While License Invalid (see Chapter One for Penalties).

OTHER SANCTIONS FOR NON-DRIVING ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES

A person who purchases an alcoholic beverage for a minor or who furnishes an alcoholic beverage to a minor or a person who sells a minor an alcoholic beverage can be punished by a fine up to $4,000 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year.

MARIJUANA

Research has shown that even typical social doses of marijuana can affect concentration, judgment, and the sensory and perceptual skills needed for careful driving. People who are under marijuana's influence have impaired sensory and perceptual abilities.

STIMULANTS

While heavy amphetamine use will keep drivers awake and active for long stretches of time, it will also make them less coordinated, edgy, and, as one accident study found, four times more likely to be involved in a car crash. Research shows that typical social amounts of cocaine can produce lapses in attention and concentration.

Although caffeine can help the drowsy driver stay alert, it can't make the drunk driver sober. Studies show that ordinary amounts of caffeine do not improve an inebriated subject's driving skills.

TRANQUILIZERS AND OTHER SEDATIVE-HYPNOTICS

The sedative-hypnotic drugs, including barbiturates, are powerful depressants that calm people down or help them sleep. Sleepy or over-sedated drivers, however, are not good drivers.

OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS

Many over-the-counter drugs produce drowsiness in some people that can affect their driving. Drivers should read the labels and be especially careful with antihistamines, other cold preparations, or any medicine that relaxes or promotes sleep.

ANY DRUG

Any drug you take might affect your ability as a driver. If you take more than one drug, or if you mix drugs (especially tranquilizers or other sedative-hypnotics) with alcohol, you could be asking for trouble—on the road and off. If you have doubts about a particular drug or drug mix, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

ALCOHOL

Each year alcohol, a depressant drug that affects coordination, judgment, perception, and emotional state, is responsible for half of all American highway deaths.

Alcohol increases the depressant effects of tranquilizers and barbiturates. Mixing these drugs, on or off the road, can be extremely hazardous.

THE ALCOHOL TEST

If a person is arrested for an offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating a motor vehicle in a public place, or a watercraft, while intoxicated or an offense under section 106.041. Alcoholic beverage code, the person is deemed to have consented to submit to the taking of one or more specimens of the person's breath or blood for analysis to determine the alcohol concentration or the presence in the person's body of a controlled substance, drug, dangerous drug, or other substance. A person arrested for an offense described by this subsection may consent to submit to the taking of any other type specimen to determine the person's alcohol concentration. Refusal to give a blood or breath specimen for analysis will result in a driver license suspension of 180 days. If a person submits to giving a blood or breath specimen and the results show a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater, the driver is subject to a driver license suspension of 90-365 days. A person having a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more is intoxicated according to the law.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED DWI— DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS— PENALTIES

Offense	Fine		Confinement	DL Suspension
*1st DWI	0-$2,000.00	and	72 hours-180 days in jail	90 days-365 days
2nd DWI	0-$4,000.00	and	30 days-1 year in jail	180 days-2 years
3rd DWI or subsequent	0-$10,000.00	and	2-10 years in the penitentiary	180 days-2 years
DWI with Child Passenger Under 15 yoa	0-$10,000.00	and	180 days-2 years	Depends on 1st, 2nd or 3rd Offense
Intoxication Manslaughter	0-$10,000.00	and	2-20 years penitentiary	180 days-2 years
Intoxication Assault	0-$10,000.00	and	2-10 years	*90 days-2 years

* Court **may** probate jail sentence and waive driver license suspension on first offense.

WHY IS DRINKING AND DRIVING SO DANGEROUS?

Drinking alcohol and driving is a major cause of serious collisions. In 2001, alcohol was found to be the main cause of 28% of all fatal crashes.

You lose your judgment when you drink or use drugs. It is often the first thing about you that changes. Loss of judgment, or good sense, affects how you react to sounds, what you see, and the speed of other vehicles around you.

Good judgment may be as simple as saying, "No!" to a friend who wants to try racing your new car on a country road. However, if you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs, your good judgment may turn into, "Sure, go ahead, take my new car." Your ability to reason with your friend has all but disappeared. Do not give in.

WHAT IS THE LIMIT?

Some myths about drinking alcohol say that taking cold showers, drinking black coffee, or exercising will sober a person up. This is not true. Only time, body weight, the number of drinks, and how much has been eaten, can affect how long it takes anyone to "sober up." It takes about one hour for the body to get rid of each "drink." If a person has had more than one drink an hour, one hour of "sobering up" time should be allowed for each extra drink. Better still, someone who has not been drinking should drive.

EVERY DRIVER

People are different. So are drugs. The circumstances under which people take drugs are different. So are the effects of drug taking. But safe driving always requires the same thing: an observant eye, a steady hand, and a clear head.

Drugs and Driving? Why take the risk?

DRINKS	BODY WEIGHT IN POUNDS								INFLUENCED
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	POSSIBLY
2	.06	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	IMPAIRED
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06	
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08	LEGALLY
6	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	
7	.26	.22	.19	.16	.15	.13	.12	.11	
8	.30	.25	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.13	
9	.34	.28	.24	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	
10	.38	.31	.27	.23	.21	.19	.17	.16	

Subtract .015% for each hour of drinking. One drink is 1 oz. of 80 proof liquor at 40%, 12 oz. of beer at 4.5%, or 4 oz. of wine at 12%.

KNOW YOUR LEGAL LIMIT

In Texas that means 0.08% of Blood-Alcohol Concentration or any amount which results in loss of normal use of mental or physical faculties. This is only a guide and not sufficiently accurate to be considered legal evidence. The figures you calculate are averages. Individuals may vary somewhat in their personal alcohol tolerance. Food in the stomach affects the rate of absorption. Medications, health, and psychological condition are also influential factors. In any case, if you've been drinking at all, be careful!

DRIVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS COURSES TO BECOME BETTER EDUCATED ABOUT THE EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. INSURANCE COMPANIES PROVIDE LIABILITY INSURANCE DISCOUNTS TO DRIVERS WHO COMPLETE THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS COURSES.

SUREST POLICY IS. . .DON'T DRIVE AFTER DRINKING

CHAPTER 11

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

1. If you are operating a motor vehicle that is involved in a crash resulting in **injury** to or **death** of a person, you must immediately stop your vehicle at the scene of the crash (or as close as possible to the scene of the crash) without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. If your vehicle is not stopped at the scene of the crash, you must immediately return to the scene of the crash. You must remain at the scene of the crash until you have complied with the following:

a. Give your name and address, the registration number of the vehicle you were driving, and the name of your motor vehicle liability insurer to any person injured or the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision;

b. Show your driver license (if requested and available) to any person injured or the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision; and

c. Provide any person injured in the crash reasonable assistance, including transporting or making arrangement for transporting the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary, or if the injured person requests the transportation.

Failure to stop and comply with the above requirements is an offense punishable by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for up to 5 years; confinement in the county jail for up to 1 year; a fine not to exceed $5,000; or both the fine and imprisonment or confinement. (This is for the 1st offense. Second and subsequent offenses have enhanced penalties.)

2. If you are operating a motor vehicle that is involved in a crash resulting **ONLY in damage to a vehicle** that is driven or attended by a person, you must immediately stop your vehicle at the scene of the crash or as close as possible to the scene of the crash without obstructing traffic more than is necessary. If your vehicle is not stopped at the scene of the crash, you must

immediately return to the scene of the crash. You must remain either at the scene of the crash (or, if the crash occurs on a main lane, ramp, or shoulder, median, or adjacent area and each vehicle involved can be normally and safely driven, each operator shall move their vehicle as soon as possible to a designated crash investigation site, if available, a location on the frontage road, the nearest suitable cross street, or other suitable location) until you have complied with the following:

a. Give your name and address, the registration number of the vehicle you were driving, and the name of your motor vehicle liability insurer to any person injured or the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision;

b. Show your driver license (if requested and available) to any person injured or the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision; and

c. Provide any person injured in the crash reasonable assistance, including transporting or making arrangement for transporting the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary, or if the injured person requests the transportation.

3. If you are operating a motor vehicle that collides with and damages an **unattended vehicle**, you must immediately stop and;

a. Locate the operator or owner of the unattended vehicle and give that person the name and address of the operator and owner of the vehicle that struck the unattended vehicle; or

b. Leave in a conspicuous place in (or securely attach in a plainly visible way to) the unattended vehicle a written notice giving the name and address of the operator and the owner of the vehicle that struck the unattended vehicle and a statement of the circumstances of the collision.

4. If you are operating a motor vehicle that is involved in a crash resulting ONLY in **damage to a fixture** or landscaping legally on or adjacent to a highway, you must:

a. Take reasonable steps to locate the owner (or person in charge) of the property and to notify them of the crash and of your name and address and the registration number of the vehicle you were driving;

b. If requested and available, you must show your driver license to the owner or person in charge of the property; and

c. If the crash is not investigated by a law enforcement officer and the crash resulted in injury to or the death of a person or damage to the property of any one person to an apparent extent of $1,000 or more, you

must make a written report of the crash and file the report with the Texas Department of Transportation not later than the 10th day after the date of the crash.

Failure to comply with the above requirements is an offense. If the damage to ALL vehicles is less than $200, this offense is a Class C misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not to exceed $500. If the damage to ALL vehicles is $200 or more, this offense is a Class B misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000; confinement in jail for up to 180 days; or both such fine and confinement. (This is for the 1st offense. Second and subsequent offenses have enhanced penalties).

5. If you are operating a vehicle involved in a crash that results in injury or **death** of a person or **damage** to a vehicle to the extent that it cannot be normally and safely driven, you must immediately by the quickest means of communication give notice of the crash to the: local police department if the crash occurred in a municipality; local police department or the sheriff's office if the crash occurred not more than 100 feet outside the limits of a municipality; or sheriff's office or the nearest office of the Texas Department of Public Safety if occurs elsewhere.

6. When you give your name, address, vehicle registration number, and insurance information to anyone who was involved in the crash, if requested and available, you must also show your driver license to the other driver(s) involved in the crash. Be sure to get the same information from the other driver(s). Record the insurance company name and the policy number exactly as shown on the driver's proof-of-insurance card. Similar company names can cause confusion. If you have the name of the driver's company, call the Texas Department of Insurance toll-free at 1-800-252-3439 to get the company address and telephone number.

7. Remember, if you are involved in a crash and the crash is not investigated by a law enforcement officer and the crash resulted in death or damage to the property of any one person to an apparent extent of $1,000 or more, you must make a written report of the crash and must file the written report with the Texas Department of Transportation not later than the 10th day after the date of the crash. The written report must be on the appropriate form approved by the Department.

8. If you are involved in a hit-and-run crash, report this to a law enforcement agency for investigation. The Texas Department of Insurance advises that uninsured motorist coverage will pay for damage in hit-and-run crashes reported to a law enforcement agency.

AIDING THE INJURED

When calling a doctor or ambulance, state the place of the crash clearly and

correctly.

Do not assume that people are not injured simply because they say they are not. Send for skilled help as quickly as possible. Unskilled handling can do more harm than good.

Do not move or lift the victim unless it is absolutely necessary. If victims must be moved get help and try not to change the position in which they were found.

Stop serious bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, applied with pressure by hand or by bandaging.

Keep the victim comfortable. If it is hot, cool the victim and provide shade as much as possible. If it is cool, cover the victim with blankets or coats if necessary and if available.

CHAPTER 12

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The driver should always pay special attention to the pedestrian and the bicyclist. However, there are certain safety rules which pedestrians and bicyclists should follow.

THE PEDESTRIAN (person on foot)

Laws and Other Safety Tips For Pedestrians

• Obey all traffic control signals unless you are otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal.

• Do not cross the street between two intersections. It is dangerous to cross in the middle of the block.

• Use sidewalks when available, and do not walk in the street.

• Walk on the left side of the road if there are no sidewalks. Step off the pavement when a car approaches.

• If you cross a street at any point other than within a crosswalk at an intersection, you (the pedestrian) must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

• If you cross a street without using a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing which has been provided, you the pedestrian must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

• When crossing at a crosswalk, keep right if possible.

• Blind, partially blind, or disabled persons may carry a white cane while walking. **Others must not display such a cane on any public street or highway.**

• No person may stand in the roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, contributions, or business. A person may stand in a roadway to solicit a charitable contribution if **authorized to do so by the local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway**.

• Do not suddenly walk or run into the street in the path of a vehicle. These sudden actions may make it impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.

• **Wait on the curb**, not in the street, until the traffic signals change to green or read “Walk.”

• Always wear white or light colored clothing, or carry a light or reflector when walking at night.

• **Look both ways before crossing** the street and before stepping from behind parked cars.

• Be extra careful when getting off a streetcar or bus.

• Get in and out of cars on the curb side of the road when possible.

• Do not walk on a roadway when you are under the influence or consuming an alcoholic beverage. Alcohol is a contributing factor to pedestrian traffic crashes.

• Pedestrians should be aware that local authorities (cities, counties) may have ordinances that require pedestrians to comply with the directions of an official traffic control (signals, signs, etc.) and prohibit pedestrians from crossing a roadway in a business district or a designated highway except in a crosswalk.

THE MOTORIST

Laws and Safety Tips For Motorists

• If you see a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street, slow down, use your horn if necessary, and be prepared to stop.

• Be alert to a pedestrian guided by an assistance animal or carrying a white cane. A driver shall take the necessary precautions to avoid injuring or endangering a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street. The driver shall bring the vehicle to a full stop if injury or danger can only be avoided by that action. Remember, the white cane indicates the person may be blind, partially blind, or disabled.

• Watch especially for blind persons at bus stops, intersections, business areas, and near schools for the blind.

CHAPTER 13

BICYCLE VEHICLE LAW AND SAFETY

BICYCLE TRAFFIC LAW

1. “Bicycle” means every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.

2. “Vehicle” means a device, in, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn on a public highway, other than a device used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.

3. A bicycle is a vehicle and any person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle, unless it cannot, by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle.

4. A bicyclist should always obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals. Never ride opposite the flow of traffic. Stop at all stop signs and stop at red lights.

5. A person operating a bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway shall ride as near as possible to the right curb or edge of the roadway unless:

a. The person is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

b. The person is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway.

c. There are unsafe conditions in the roadway such as fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, potholes, or debris.

d. The lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.

6. A person operating a bicycle on a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near as possible to the left curb or edge of the roadway.

7. Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway. Persons riding two abreast on a laned roadway must ride in a single lane.

8. A person riding a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat.

9. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

10. No person riding a bicycle shall attach the same or himself to any streetcar or vehicle upon a roadway.

11. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

12. Bicyclists may ride on shoulders.

13. Bicyclists may signal a right-hand turn using either the left arm pointing up or the right arm pointed horizontally.

14. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

15. Every bicycle in use at nighttime shall be equipped with the following:

a. A lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible at a distance of at least 500 feet to the front of the bicycle.

b. A red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety which shall be visible from distances 50 to 300 feet. A red light on the rear visible from a distance of 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector.

16. Hearing-impaired bicycle riders may display a safety flag. (See page 5-22.)

BICYCLE SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Although not required by law, it is highly suggested that bicycle riders wear an approved bicycle helmet.

2. When riding on pedestrian facilities, reduce speed and exercise caution.

3. Do not weave in and out of parked cars.

4. Move off the street to stop, park, or make repairs to your bicycle.

5. A bicyclist should select a route according to the person's own bicycling skill and experience.

6. It is not required by law, but bicycles should be equipped with a mirror.

WET WEATHER RIDING

The visibility of motorists is greatly decreased. Wear highly visible clothing when riding on a bicycle. Water makes certain surfaces slick. Be aware of manhole covers and painted stripes on the road. Water obscures some hazards. Watch for potholes filled with water.

COMMON MOTORIST MISTAKES THAT BICYCLE RIDERS SHOULD KNOW

1. The most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning left in the face of oncoming bicycle traffic. Oncoming bicycle traffic is often overlooked or its speed misjudged.

2. The second most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning right across the path of the bicycle traffic. The motorist should slow down and merge with the bicycle traffic for a safe right-hand turn.

3. The third most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist pulling away from a stop sign, failing to yield right-of-way to bicycle cross traffic. At intersections, right-of-way rules apply equally to motor vehicles and bicycles.

CHAPTER 14

ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

To avoid crashes, the defensive driver should:

1. Stay alert and keep his eyes moving so that he can keep track of what is happening at all times.

2. Look for trouble spots developing all around him.

3. Have a plan of action if the other driver does the wrong thing.

4. Know that the law requires drivers to protect each other from their own mistakes.

SAFETY BELTS

The driver and front seat passengers, in a passenger vehicle are required to use safety belts. The law also requires that children under 5 years of age and less than 36 inches in height (regardless of age) must be secured in a child passenger safety seat if occupying a seat in a vehicle that is equipped with a safety belt. All other children under 17 years of age must be secured in a safety belt if occupying a seat in a vehicle that is so equipped.

Safety belt means a lap belt and any shoulder straps included as original equipment on or added to a vehicle.

Safety belt usage requirements now include all pickups, SUVs and trucks.

Safety belts are life belts. They help to keep you:

- From being thrown from your car. (Your chances of being killed are five times greater if you are thrown from your car.)

- From hitting the dashboard too hard.

- In better control of your car.

Whatever your reason for not wearing safety belts, it is not reasonable and may violate the state law.

VEHICLES WITH OPEN BEDS

A person commits an offense if the person operates an open bed truck or an open flatbed truck or draws an open flatbed trailer when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying the bed of the truck or trailer. (It is a defense to prosecution that the person was (1) operating or towing the vehicle in a parade or in an emergency; (2) operating the vehicle to transport farm-workers from one field to another field on a farm-to-market road, ranch-to-market road, or county road outside a municipality; (3) operating the vehicle on a beach; (4) operating a vehicle that is the only vehicle owned or operated by the members of a household; or (5) operating the vehicle in a hayride permitted by the governing body of or a law enforcement agency of each county or municipality in which the hayride will occur.)

OPEN BED PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

A person may not operate a truck, road tractor, or truck tractor when another person occupies a trailer or semi-trailer being drawn by the truck, road tractor, or truck tractor. (Class B Misdemeanor) (It is a defense to prosecution that the person was (1) operating or towing the vehicle; (A) in a parade or in an emergency; (B) to transport farm-workers from one field to another field on a farm-to-market road, ranch-to-market road, or county road outside a municipality; or (C) in a hayride permitted by the governing body of or a law enforcement agency of each county or municipality in which the hayride will occur; (2) the person operating or towing the vehicle did not know that another person occupied the trailer or semi-trailer; or (3) the person occupying the trailer or semi-trailer was in a part of the trailer or semi-trailer designed for human habitation.)

WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE

It is suggested that the driver should:

1. Move the vehicle safely to the right edge of the roadway or street as soon as possible and stop.

2. Place the vehicle's gear selector in a parking position, set the emergency brake, turn the engine off, and activate the hazard warning lights.

3. **Remain in the vehicle**, lower the driver's window, and **WAIT FOR THE OFFICER TO ISSUE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**

4. **FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE OFFICER.**

5. Require all occupants to remain in the vehicle unless other instructions are given by the officer.

6. Give the appropriate signals and safely return to the proper lane of traffic when released by the officer.

FALSE IDENTIFICATION OFFENSE

A person commits an offense if they give a false or fictitious name to a police officer who has lawfully arrested or detained the person.

ROAD RAGE

Each year road rage or aggressive driving causes hundreds of deaths and injuries to drivers across the United States. Aggressive driving occurs when a driver becomes angry or irritated and, consequently, fails to follow the rules of the road. An aggressive driver will intentionally aggravate or attempt to aggravate other drivers and in some cases will even cause bodily injury, property damage, or death to other drivers or individuals.

Listed below are some tips on avoiding road rage.

Plan your trip or schedule in advance and allow extra time in case your vehicle breaks down or in case of traffic congestion due to an accident, road construction, or rush-hour traffic.

When caught in traffic do not get angry. Try to relax, listen to music you enjoy, take into consideration that some traffic congestion in some cases is temporary and you will soon be on your way.

Should you need to use the horn, tap the horn - do not blow the horn.

Do not confront other drivers or make obscene gestures.

Do not cut into another driver's lane of traffic. Properly signal your intentions to change lanes and change lanes when safe to do so. Ensure you turn your turn signal off after you complete your lane change.

Do not intentionally slow down or slam on your brakes or speed up to keep someone from passing or from entering your lane of travel.

Do not tailgate - follow at a safe distance.

Always remember to drive friendly and report aggressive driving to the local authorities.

NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRONIC VEHICLES AND MOTOR ASSISTED SCOOTERS

A neighborhood electronic vehicle is defined as any vehicle subject to Federal Motor Safety Standard 500 (20-25 mph top speed).

A motor assisted scooter is defined as a self-propelled device with:

- At least two wheels in contact with the ground;
- A braking system capable of stopping device under normal operating conditions;
- A gas or electric motor not exceeding 40cc;
- A deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device; and
- The ability to be propelled by human power alone.

Both vehicles may only be operated on a street or highway for which the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less.

Note: Counties and municipalities may prohibit the operation of either vehicle on any street or highway for safety reasons.

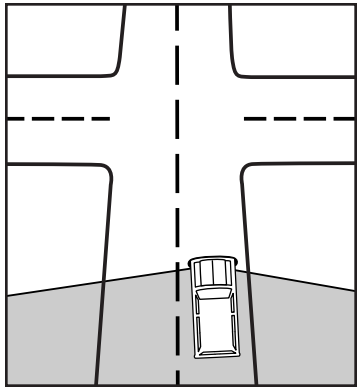
Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (Segway)

EPAMD (Segway) is defined as a two non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person that is self-balancing and propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts or one horsepower.

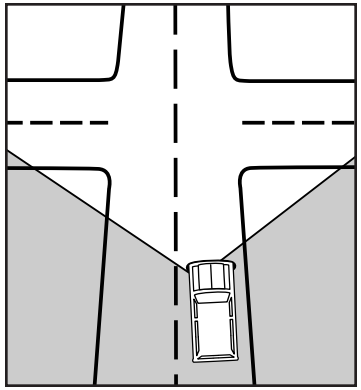
A person may operate an EPAMD on a residential street, roadway, or public highway with a speed limit of 30 mph or less only:

- While making a direct crossing of a highway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk;
- Where no sidewalk is available; or
- When so directed by a traffic control device or by a law enforcement officer.

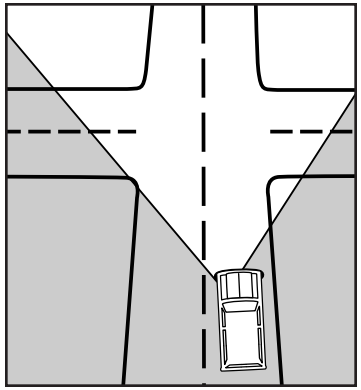
SPEED REDUCES YOUR FIELD OF VISION



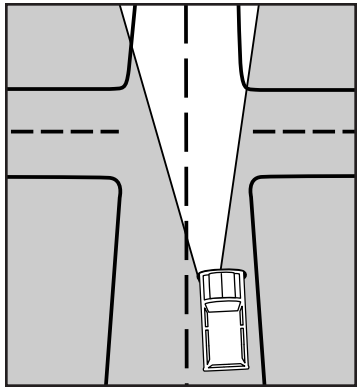
STATIONARY
Field of vision 180° or more



20 M.P.H
Field reduced to approximately 2/3

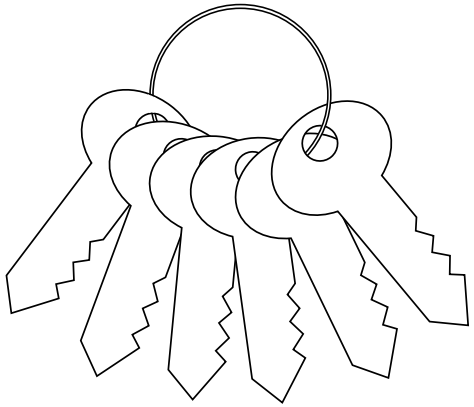


40 M.P.H.
Field reduced to approximately 2/5



60 M.P.H.
Field reduced to approximately 1/5

YOUR KEYS TO SAFE DRIVING



- **Good vision –** Look with your eyes but see with your mind.
- **Obeying traffic laws**
- **Proper care of your car –** Don't depend on yearly inspections.
- **Courtesy –** Safety comes before right-of-way.
- **Proper signaling –** Failure to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate.
- **Physical fitness –** Let someone else take the wheel if you are not physically and mentally alert.

SHARING THE ROADS WITH MOTORCYCLES

WHY BE AWARE OF MOTORCYCLISTS?

Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the roadway. Approximately one-half of all motorcycle crashes involve another motor vehicle. Motorcycles are small and may be difficult to see. Motorcycles have a much smaller profile than other vehicles, which can make it more difficult to judge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle.

WHY DON'T DRIVERS SEE MOTORCYCLISTS?

There are several reasons why drivers may not see the motorcyclist coming:

Motorists tend to look for other cars, not for motorcyclists.

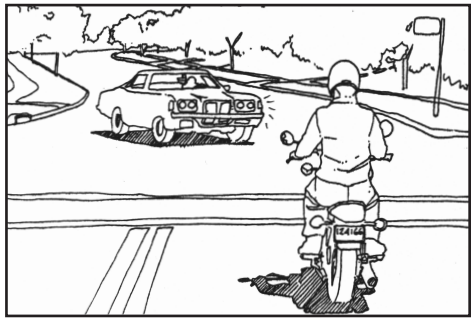
The profile of a motorcycle is much smaller than the profile of larger vehicles. This makes an approaching motorcyclist harder to see. Estimating their distance and oncoming speed is also more difficult.

Motorcycle riding requires frequent lane movements to adjust to changing road conditions.

WHAT ARE THE SITUATIONS WHEN CRASHES ARE MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR?

Crashes are most likely to occur in these high-risk situations:

Left turns



The most common crash between cars and motorcyclists is at an intersection when the automobile driver is making a left turn in front of a motorcycle. Over forty percent of all motorcycle crashes occur at intersections. Nearly 66 percent of those crashes were caused by the other vehicle turning left in front of the motorcyclist.

Car's blind spot

Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always make visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

Hazardous road conditions

Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to you may pose a major hazard to motorcyclists. Motorcyclists may change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.

Weather conditions

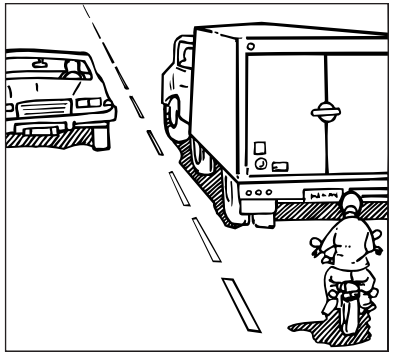
When the road surface is wet or icy, motorcyclists' braking and handling abilities are impaired.

Strong winds

A strong gust of wind can move a motorcycle across an entire lane if the rider isn't prepared for it. Wind gusts from large trucks in the other lane can be a real hazard.

Large vehicles

A large vehicle such as a van, bus, or truck can block a motorcycle from a driver's view. The motorcyclist may seem to suddenly appear from nowhere.



If you **drive aware** of motorcyclists in these situations, you can help make the streets and roads safer for everyone.

HOW CAN I DRIVE AWARE?

1. **Look out for motorcyclists**. Be aware that although you may not see any cars, there may be an unnoticed motorcycle. Be careful at intersections, and always take a second look for a motorcycle before making a turn at an intersection, particularly when making left turns.

2. **Anticipate a motorcyclist's maneuvers**. Motorcyclists may change positions in the lane to respond to road conditions, weather, or other factors. Expect and allow room for such actions.

3. **Signal your intentions.** Always signal your intention before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position. Signal your intentions even if you don't see cars or motorcycles in front or behind you. Again, be particularly careful when making left turns across lanes of approaching traffic. Look carefully in all directions for approaching motorcyclists. Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle. Motorcycle signals usually are not self canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.

4. **Respect a motorcycle.** Allow the motorcyclist a full a lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in the traffic lane for an automobile and a motorcycle, remember the motorcycle is entitled to their full lane and they may need the room to maneuver safety. Do not attempt to share the lane with the motorcycle.

5. **Allow plenty of space when following a motorcycle.** The slightest contact can mean a spill and/or injury for the rider. Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist will have enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. In dry conditions motorcycles can stop more quickly than a car.

The Texas Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Operator Training and Safety Program was created in 1983 by the legislature to improve rider skills and reduce the number and severity of motorcycle crashes in the state. A portion of each motorcycle license initial and renewal fee is used to support the program. The program sets up and monitors motorcycle training classes throughout the state, and promotes motorcycle safety and awareness through campaigns, exhibits, and materials. Contact the Motorcycle Safety Unit at the DPS website *www.txdps.state.tx.us/msb* or by phone (toll free in Texas 1-800-292-5787 or residents of the Austin area may call 512-424-2021) for information about motorcycle safety, or to locate the nearest training location.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH LIGHT RAIL

In recent years, light rail has been established in many major cities in the State of Texas. As you travel these areas, you will notice that these trains move along the streets just like other vehicles. Light rail is very quiet, in fact the trains are quieter than most buses and cars. So, whether you are riding light rail, or just walking or driving near the trains or tracks, it's important to stay alert and observe the safety rules:

Stop

- Do not walk in front of, between or behind the trains.
- Trains can't start or stop quickly regardless of traffic flow.
- Do not drive, stop or park your vehicle on the tracks. It's dangerous and illegal.

Look

- Cross the tracks only at designated pedestrian crossings and only when it is safe to do so.
- Look both ways before crossing the tracks. Trains travel in both directions.
- Obey all warning signs, flashing lights, signals and crossing gates. Police will issue tickets to violators.

Listen

- Stay alert. Light rail is quieter than a bus or most cars. You may not hear it coming.
- Listen for train horns and signal bells.
- Follow instructions from police officer.

And ...

- Never race a train or run in front of a train.
- Never try to beat the train to a crossing. Even with a tie you lose.
- Never drive around crossing gate arms.
- Never put anything on or near the tracks.

TRANSPORTING CARGO AND MATERIALS

In order to prevent cargo or loose materials from falling or spilling from a car, truck, trailer, etc. onto the roadway and possibly causing crashes or damage to the roads, state law requires that drivers comply with certain requirements.

State law mandates that a vehicle shall be equipped and maintained to prevent loose material from escaping by blowing or spilling. A vehicle bed carrying a load may not have a hole, crack, or other opening through which loose material can escape. The bed shall be enclosed by side panels and on the front by a panel or the vehicle cab. The rear shall be enclosed by a tailgate or panel. The load shall be covered and the covering firmly secured at the front and back, unless the load is completely enclosed by the load-carrying compartment, or does not blow or spill over the top of the load-carrying compartment. The tailgate of the vehicle shall be securely closed to prevent spillage during transportation.

State law mandates that no person shall load or transport any loose material on or over the public highways, such as dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, or other material (except agricultural products in their natural state), that is capable of blowing or spilling from a vehicle unless: (1) the bed carrying the load must be completely enclosed on both sides and on the front and on the rear by a tailgate, board or panel, and all must be so constructed as to prevent the escape of any part of the load by blowing or spilling; and (2) the top of the load must be covered with a canvas, tarpaulin, or other covering firmly secured to the front and back to prevent the escape of the load because of blowing or spilling. This requirement does not apply to any load-carrying compartment that completely encloses the load or to the transporting of any load of loose materials that are not blowing or spilling over the top of the load-carrying compartment.

SAFETY CHAINS

Safety chains are required when certain types of vehicles are towing trailers in order to prevent the trailer from breaking loose and causing a serious crash. State law mandates that a person may not operate a passenger car or light truck while towing a trailer, semi-trailer, or house trailer on a public highway unless safety chains of a type approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety are attached in a manner approved by the Department from a trailer, semi-trailer, or house trailer to the towing vehicle. The requirements of this law do not apply to a passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer used for agricultural purposes or to any trailer or semi-trailer, or house trailer which is operated in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

TOWING

When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar, chain, rope, cable, or other connection must not be longer than fifteen (15) feet from one vehicle to another. (This 15-foot limit does not apply to pole trailers.) When a chain, rope, or cable is used as a connection, a white flag not less than twelve inches square must be attached to it.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Cars produce carbon monoxide which is a deadly gas. Make sure that you are getting plenty of fresh air.

Don't:

Leave the motor running in a garage.

Leave the vents open when following closely behind another car.

Leave the motor running and the windows closed while the car is parked.

Drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system.

Operate the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed.

Do: Move a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning to fresh air and give artificial respiration.

STEERING LOCK OPERATION:

Vehicles have various systems used to remove the key from the ignition. Remember some ignitions will automatically lock the steering wheel if the key is removed while moving. Here are some common steering wheel lock systems and a description on how to remove the key.

The Transmission Park System - Park
Shift the transmission into the "park" position. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Two Hand Button System
Park. This system requires two hands. Depress the button below the steering column. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

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

The One Hand Button System
Park. Depress button located near the ignition. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Push In System
Park. Turn key to OFF, push in. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

The Turn and Remove System
Park. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

1992 Automobile Safety Foundation

CHAPTER 15

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE

PAPERS, PERMITS

1. **Papers**. All commercial motor vehicles, truck tractors, trailers, or semi-trailers must carry registration papers (receipt for license plates) on the vehicles while operating on a public highway. These papers shall be presented to an authorized officer on request. These papers will show the weight of the vehicle empty and how much it is registered to haul.

2. **Motor Carriers.** A motor carrier that is required to register with the Texas Department of Transportation must have a Cab Card in each registered vehicle.

3. **Shipping Papers.** Shipping papers and current Research and Special Programs Administration (R.S.P.A.) registration may be required to be carried in commercial vehicles that transport hazardous materials.

4. **International Fuel Tax Agreement.** A photocopy of an interstate carrier's original International Fuel Tax Agreement (I.F.T.A.) permit is required to be carried on qualified commercial vehicles.

5. **Special Permits**. If you wish to haul a load or move equipment that is heavier, longer, wider, or higher than the law allows you must obtain a special permit from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). A permit will not be granted if the load can reasonably be dismantled.

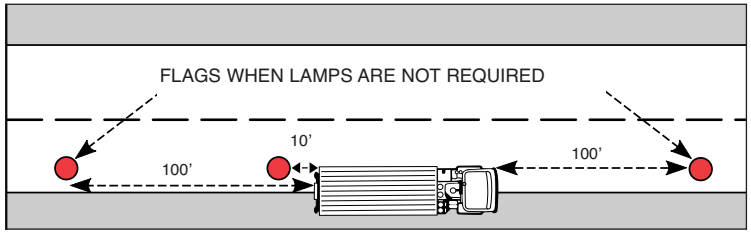
EQUIPMENT

1. **Flares, Fuses, or Reflectors**. No person shall operate a truck, bus, truck-tractor, or any motor vehicle towing a house trailer, upon any highway outside the city limits or upon any divided highway at any time from a half hour

after sunset to a half hour before sunrise unless there shall be carried in such vehicle the following: at least three flares, or three red burning fuses, or three red electric lanterns, or three portable red emergency reflectors. During times when lighted lamps are not required two red flags (12 inches square with standards to support the flags) may be used in place of flares, lights, or reflectors. Motor vehicles transporting explosives or any cargo tank truck used for the transportation of any flammable liquid or compressed flammable gases, or any motor vehicle using compressed gas as a fuel shall not use flares, fuses, or any signals produced by flame. D.O.T. approved triangular reflectors can be used in lieu of the above equipment.

The first thing the driver of a truck, bus, truck-tractor, trailer, semi-trailer or pole-trailer or a vehicle carrying explosive cargo that is stopped for more than 10 minutes on a roadway outside a city limits or on a roadway of a divided highway or becomes disabled must do is put out the proper flares, flags, or reflectors.

TWO WAY ROADWAY



2. **Hazard Warning Signal Lights**. When any truck, bus, truck-tractor, trailer, semi-trailer, or pole-trailer 80 inches or more in width or 30 feet or more in overall length is stopped upon a roadway or adjacent shoulder, the driver shall immediately actuate electric hazard warning signal lights (flashers), which flash simultaneously. These lights need not be displayed by a vehicle legally parked inside the city limits, a vehicle stopped to receive or discharge passengers, a vehicle stopped at an official traffic control device, or a vehicle stopped at the direction of a police officer.

3. **Fire Extinguisher**

a. All school buses, buses, taxis, and other vehicles hauling passengers for hire or lease, and motor vehicles used to transport migrant agricultural workers must carry a chemical type fire extinguisher of at least one-quart capacity. The fire extinguisher must be in good condition and be located for immediate use.

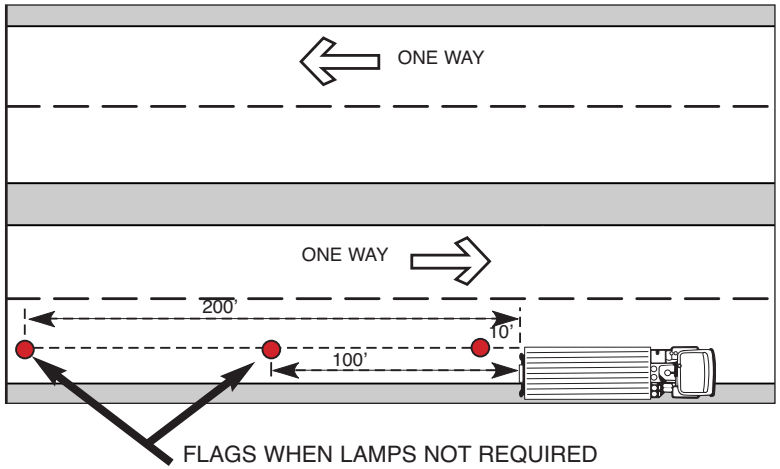
b. Commercial vehicles that are subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations must be equipped with a fire extinguisher that is properly filled and located so that it is readily accessible for use. The fire extinguisher must be securely mounted on the vehicle. (**Note**: Extinguishers, when required, must meet the standards of 393.95 of the Code of Federal Regulations.)

4. **Lighting and Reflectors**. Reflectors must be mounted not less than 24 inches nor more than 60 inches in height above the ground on every pole-trailer and on trucks, buses, truck tractors, trailers, semi-trailers which are 80 or more inches in width or 30 feet or more in overall length.

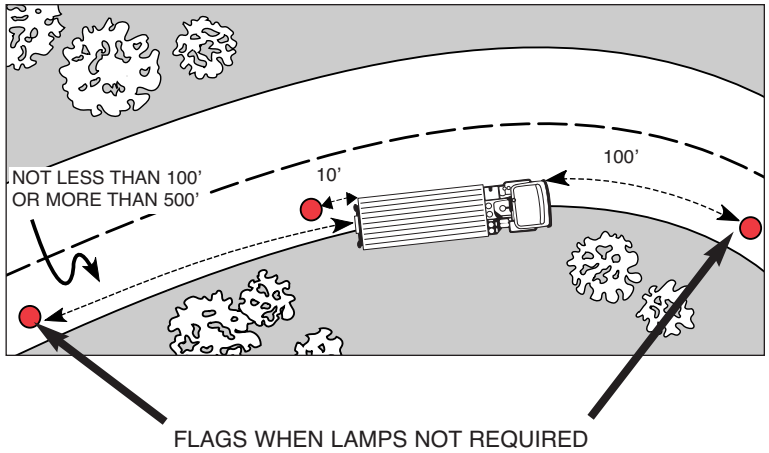
See diagrams for lighting and reflector requirements for your type vehicle.

Under certain weight and visibility conditions, farm, fertilizer, and boat trailers are exempt from lighting requirements. Mobile homes being moved during clear daylight under permit issued by TX DOT are exempt from lighting and reflector requirements. For further information concerning lighting requirements for these vehicles request the Department's publication on lighting and reflector requirements for trailers. This publication is available at any Department of Public Safety office or by writing to the Austin headquarters.

DIVIDED HIGHWAY

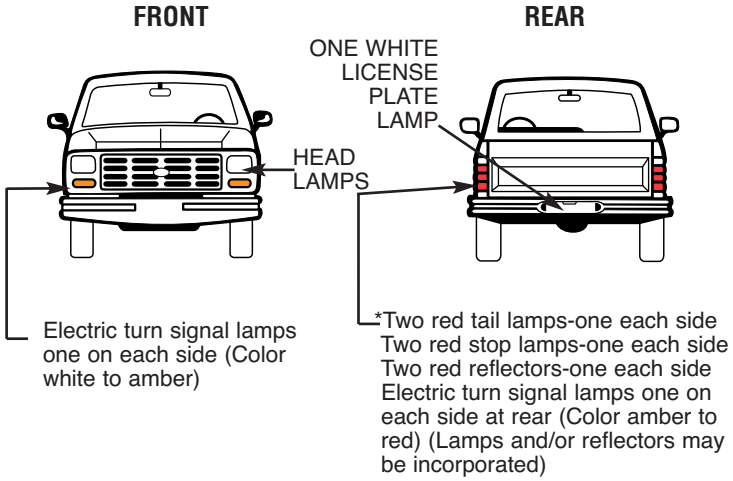


VISION OBSCURED

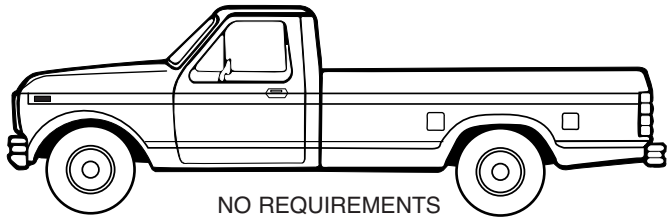


VEHICLE LIGHTING AND REFLECTOR REQUIREMENTS

ON EVERY TRUCK OR BUS LESS THAN 80" IN WIDTH



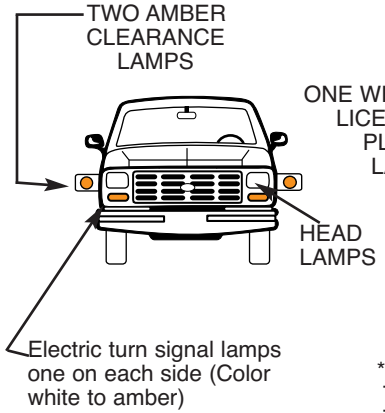
ON EACH SIDE



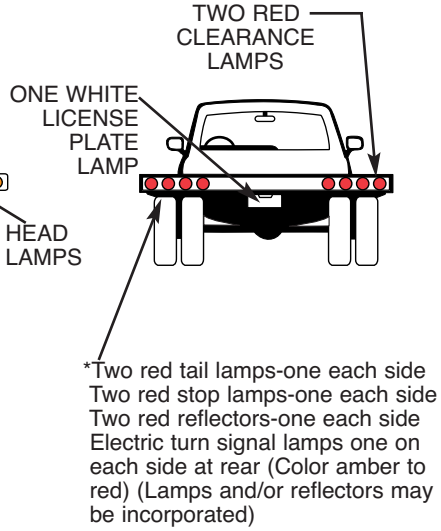
*Trucks manufactured or assembled prior to model year 1960 required to have at least one taillight.

ON EVERY TRUCK OR BUS 80” OR MORE IN WIDTH

FRONT



REAR



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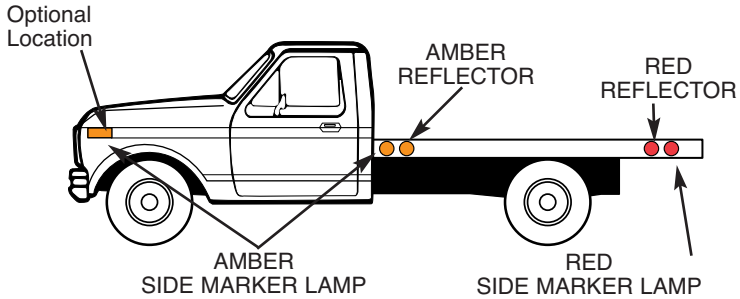
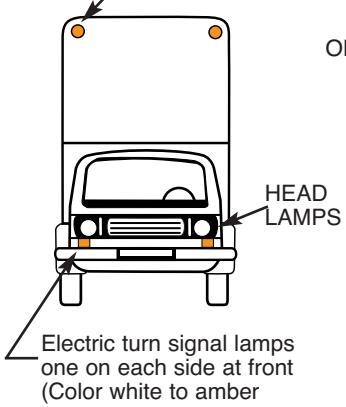


*Trucks manufactured or assembled prior to model year 1960 required to have at least one taillight.

FRONT



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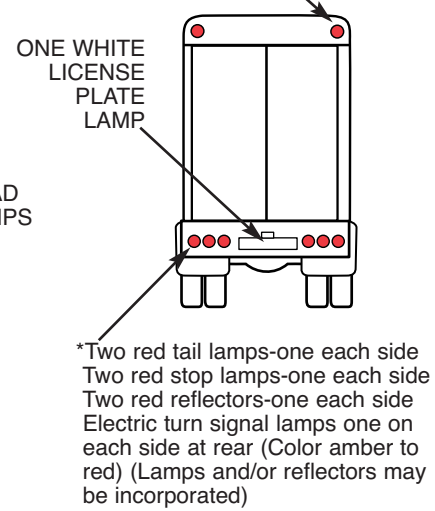
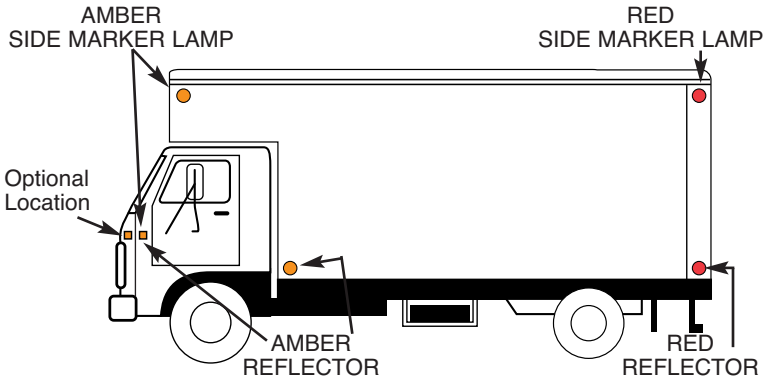
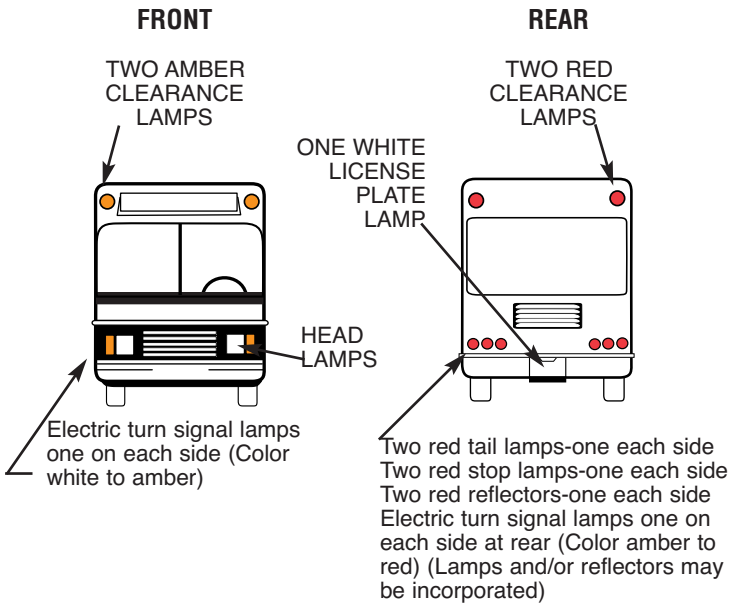
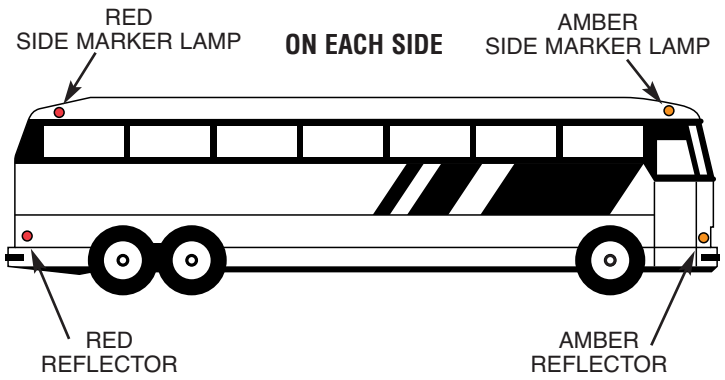


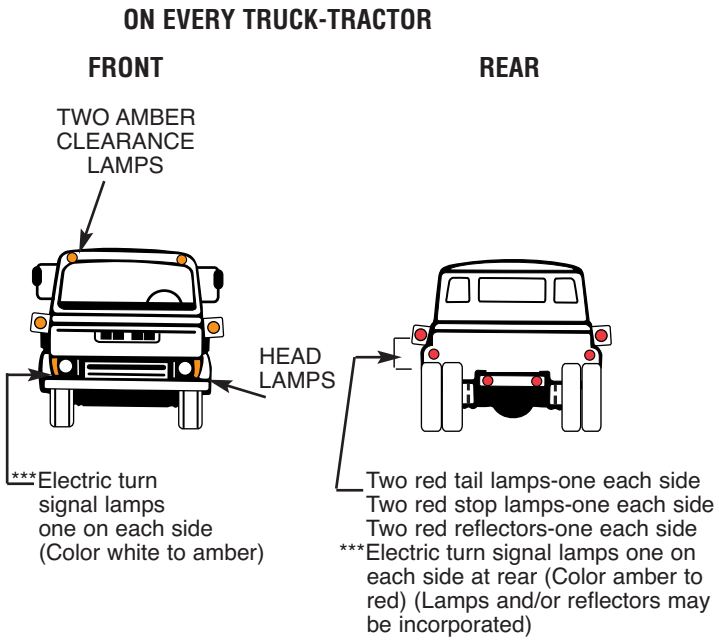
ON EACH SIDE

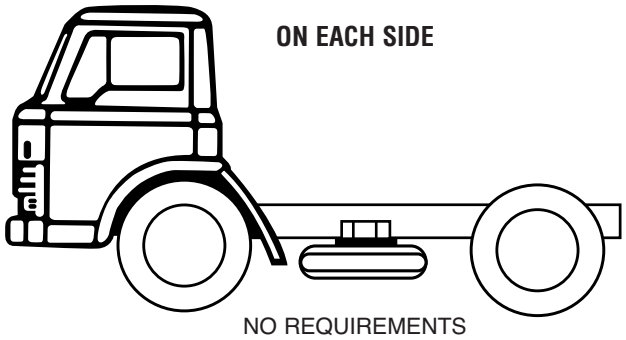


* Trucks manufactured or assembled prior to model year 1960 required to have at least one taillight.







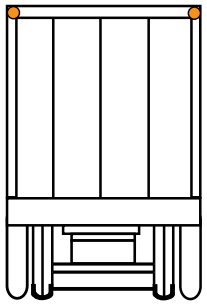


If two license plates are issued rear plate must be illuminated.
***Turn signal lamps on truck tractors may be incorporated into one double-faced lamp mounted on each side of vehicle, provided signal is visible to front and rear when truck tractor is operated as single unit.

ON EVERY TRAILER 80” OR MORE IN OVERALL WIDTH

FRONT

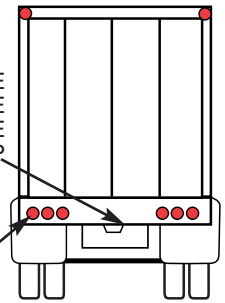
TWO AMBER CLEARANCE LAMPS



REAR

TWO RED CLEARANCE LAMPS

ONE WHITE LICENSE PLATE LAMP



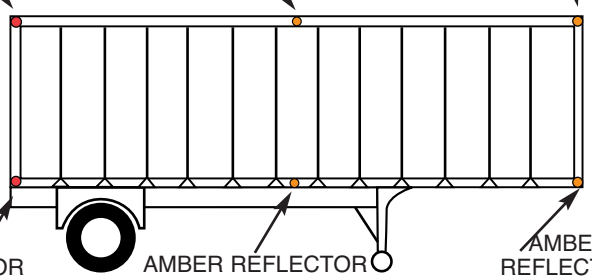
Two red tail lamps-one each side
Two red stop lamps-one each side
Two red reflectors-one each side
Electric turn signal lamps one on each side at rear (Color amber to red) (Lamps and/or reflectors may be incorporated)

ON EACH SIDE

RED SIDE MARKER LAMP

AMBER SIDE MARKER LAMP

AMBER SIDE MARKER LAMP



RED REFLECTOR

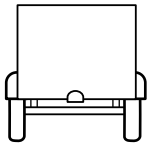
AMBER REFLECTOR

AMBER REFLECTOR

Intermediate side marker lamp and reflector required only on trailers measuring 30 feet or more in length.

ON EVERY TRAILER LESS THAN 80” IN WIDTH

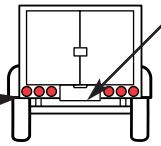
FRONT



NO REQUIREMENTS

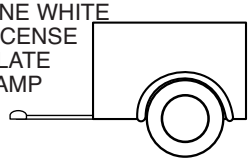
REAR

ONE WHITE LICENSE PLATE LAMP



Two red tail lamps-one each side
Two red stop lamps-one each side
Two red reflectors-one each side
Electric turn signal lamps one on each side at rear (Color amber to red) (Lamps and/or reflectors may be incorporated)

ON EACH SIDE



NO REQUIREMENTS

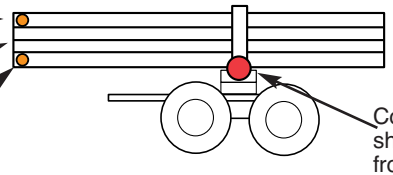
ON EVERY POLE TRAILER

ON EACH SIDE

AMBER SIDE MARKER LAMP

FRONT OF LOAD

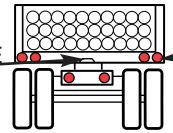
AMBER REFLECTOR



Combination lamp showing amber to the front, red to the side and red to the rear

REAR

ONE WHITE LICENSE PLATE LAMP



Two red tail lamps-one each side
Two red stop lamps-one each side
Two red reflectors-one each side
Electric turn signal lamps one on each side at rear (Color amber to red) (Lamps and/or reflectors may be incorporated

5. **Flashing Lights**. Flashing lights are permitted on authorized emergency vehicles, on highway maintenance and service equipment, on snow removal equipment, on a church bus that is clearly marked, and on school buses when stopping or stopped for children to board or alight. Flashing lights are also allowed to be used by tow trucks under the direction of a law enforcement officer at the scene of an accident or while hooking up a disabled vehicle in the roadway. A manufactured house over 12 feet wide and the accompanying escort vehicles will be allowed to use amber flashing lights during a TXDOT permitted move on a roadway, highway, or street.

6. **Special Regulations for Certain Vehicles**. When operated on the highway at night all animal-drawn vehicles, implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, and farm tractors not otherwise required to have lamps or lighting devices must have a white light on the front visible for 1,000 feet and two red lights on the rear visible for 1,000 feet and two red lights on the rear visible for 1,000, or one red light to the rear visible for 1,000 feet and two red reflectors visible from 100 to 600 feet.

7. **Brakes**

a. Trailers, semi-trailers, and pole-trailers with a gross weight of 4,500 pounds or less are exempt from brake requirements. Trailers, semi-trailers, and pole-trailers with a gross weight in excess of 4,500 pounds and which do not exceed 15,000 pounds and operated at speeds of 30 miles per hour or less are not required to be equipped with brakes. Trailers, semi-trailers, and pole-trailers with a gross weight in excess of 4,500 pounds and which do not exceed 15,000 pounds and are operated at speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour must have brakes acting on both wheels of the rear axle.

b. Every motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, and combination of such vehicles equipped with brakes shall have the braking system so arranged that one control device can be used to operate all brakes. This does not prevent the use of additional control devices to operate brakes on the towed vehicles. Surge or inertia brake systems may be used on trailers and semi-trailers with a gross weight of 15,000 pounds or less.

c. Under all conditions, the combination of vehicles must be capable of complying with the performance requirements. (Generally, if the trailer and the combination is 3,000 pounds or less, the combination must be able to stop within 40 feet when traveling 20 miles per hour; if the trailer and the combination is in excess of 3,000 pounds, the combination must be able to stop within 50 feet when traveling 20 miles per hour.)

d. A vehicle required to have brakes except a motorcycle and motor-driven cycle shall have a parking brake that will hold the vehicle on a grade, under all loading conditions, and on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material.

e. A bus, truck or truck tractor that uses air brakes must have a reservoir that meets performance requirements. A truck with at least 3 axles with vacuum brakes or a truck or truck tractor used to tow a vehicle with vacuum brakes must have a reservoir system that meets performance requirements. Both the air and vacuum brake systems must have a proper warning signal for malfunction of the brake system.

8. **Turn Signal Indicators.** All motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or pole-trailers (except motorcycles and certain trailers) shall be equipped with electrical turn signal lights, except that passenger cars or trucks under 80 inches in width and manufactured prior to the year model 1960 need not be equipped with electrical turn signals unless the body, cab or load of the vehicle or combination of vehicles extends to side more than 24 inches from the center of the top of the steering post, or the rear limit of the body or load exceeds more than 14 feet from the center of the top of the steering post.

9. **Mud Flaps**. All trucks and trailers with four or more tires on the rear axle must be equipped with safety guards or mud flaps behind the rear wheels. These flaps must reach to within 8 inches of the surface of the highway and are for the purpose of preventing the slinging of mud and slush. This provision does not apply to pole-trailers or to a truck-tractor when it is being operated alone and without being in combination with a semi-trailer.

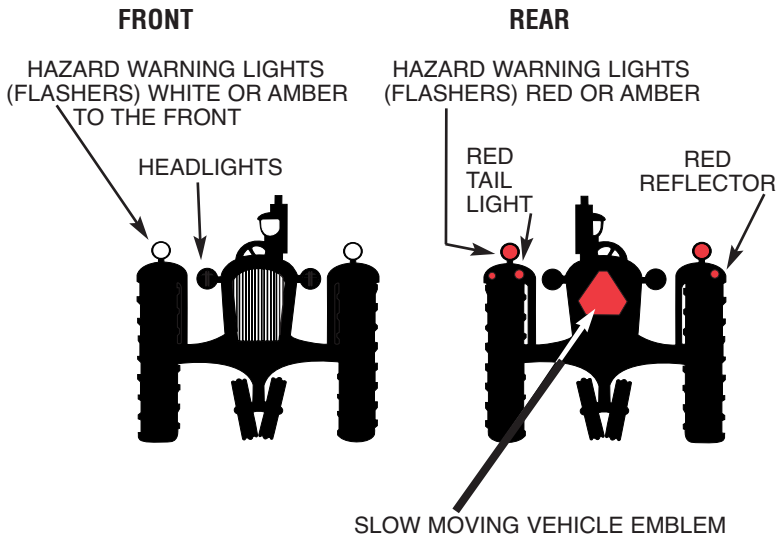
10. **Lighting Requirements for Farm Tractors and Implements of Husbandry.** Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1972, shall be equipped with the following lamps and reflectors:

a. At least two head lamps.

b. One red taillight (visible for at least 1,000 feet from the rear and mounted as far to left as possible).

c. At least two red reflectors (visible from 100 to 600 feet from the rear).

d. Vehicular hazard warning lights (flashers) which show white or amber to the front and red or amber to the rear. These lights must be activated when the vehicle is being operated on any highway. (See diagram.)



11. **Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem**. This emblem is now a requirement for all slow-moving vehicles. Slow-moving vehicles are those designed to operate at a maximum speed of 25 mph or less, and the term includes all vehicles, implements of husbandry, or machinery, including road construction machinery being drawn by animals or by slow-moving motor vehicles.

a. A person may not use a slow-moving vehicle emblem on a stationary object or a vehicle other than a slow-moving vehicle.

b. Exceptions. The following do not need the special emblem:

1) A vehicle being used in actual construction work while traveling within the limits of a construction area marked as required by the Texas Transportation Commission;

2) An implement of husbandry or machinery being towed by a slow-moving vehicle bearing a slow-moving vehicle emblem and this emblem remains visible.

12. **Unlawful Equipment**. It is unlawful to operate on a highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer with metal tires except for certain farm trailers. A tire may not have on its periphery a block, cleats, lugs, flanges, studs, spikes, or other protuberance of material other than rubber that project beyond the tread of the traction surface unless the protuberance does not damage the highway. (This does not prevent the use of tire chains for safety.)

AIR BRAKES

Air brakes use **compressed air** to make the brakes work. Air brakes are a good and safe way of stopping large and heavy vehicles, but the brakes must be well maintained and used properly.

Air brakes are really three different braking systems: service brake, parking brake, and emergency brake systems.

- The **service brake** system applies and releases the brakes when you use the brake pedal during normal driving.
- The **parking brake** system applies and releases the parking brakes when you use the parking brake control.
- The **emergency brake** system uses parts of the service and parking brake systems to stop the vehicle in the event of a brake system failure.

  The parts of these systems are discussed in greater detail below.

5.1 THE PARTS OF AN AIR BRAKE SYSTEM

There are many parts to an air brake system. You should know about the parts discussed here.

- **Air Compressor**

The air compressor pumps air into the air storage tanks reservoirs. The air compressor is connected to the engine through gears or a belt. The compressor may be air cooled or may be cooled by the engine cooling system. It may have its own oil supply, or be lubricated by engine oil. If the compressor has its own oil supply, check the oil level before driving.

- **Air Compressor Governor**

The governor controls when the air compressor will pump air into the air storage tanks. When air tank pressure rises to the “cut-out” level (around 125 pounds per square inch or “psi”), the governor stops the compressor from pumping air. When the tank pressure falls to the “cut-in” pressure (around 100 psi), the governor allows the compressor to start pumping again.

- **Air Storage Tanks**

Air storage tanks are used to hold compressed air. The number and size of air tanks varies among vehicles. The tanks will hold enough air to allow the

brakes to be used several times even if the compressor stops working.

- **Air Tank Drains**

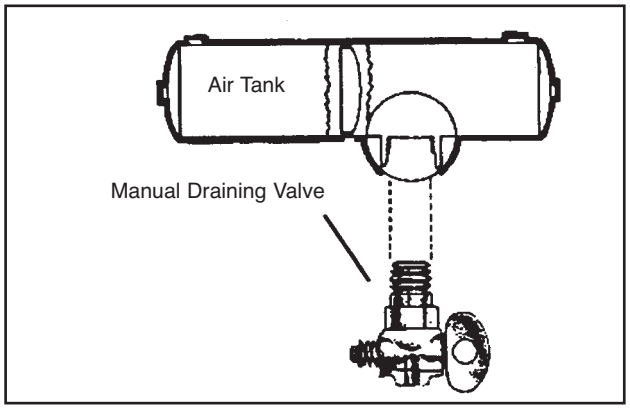
Compressed air usually has some water and some compressor oil in it which is bad for the air brake system. For example, the water can freeze in cold weather and cause brake failure. The water and oil tend to collect in the bottom of the air tank. Be sure that you drain the air tanks completely. Each air tank is equipped with a drain valve in the bottom. There are two types:

- Manually operated by turning a quarter turn, shown in Figure 5-1, or by pulling a cable. You must drain the tanks yourself at the end of each day of driving.

- Automatic--the water and oil is automatically expelled. They may be equipped for manual draining as well.

The automatic types are available with electric heating devices. These help prevent freeze-up of the automatic drain in cold weather.

Figure 5-1--Manual Drain Valve



- **Alcohol Evaporator**

Some air brake systems have an alcohol evaporator to put alcohol into the air system. This helps to reduce the risk of ice in air brake valves and other parts during cold weather. Ice inside the system can make the brakes stop working.

Check the alcohol container and fill up as necessary, every day during cold weather. **Daily air tank drainage is still needed to get rid of water and oil.** (Unless the system has automatic drain valves).

- **Safety Valve**

A safety relief valve is installed in the first tank the air compressor pumps air to. The safety valve protects the tank and the rest of the system from too much pressure. The valve is usually set to open at 150 psi. If the safety valve releases air, something is wrong. Have the fault fixed by a mechanic.

- **The Brake Pedal**

You put on the brakes by pushing down the brake pedal. It is also called the foot valve or treadle valve. Pushing the pedal down harder applies more air pressure. Letting up on the brake pedal reduces the air pressure and releases the brakes. Releasing the brakes lets some compressed air go out of the system, so the air pressure in the tanks is reduced. It must be made up by the air compressor. Pressing and releasing the pedal unnecessarily can let air out faster than the compressor can replace it. If the pressure gets too low, the brakes won't work.

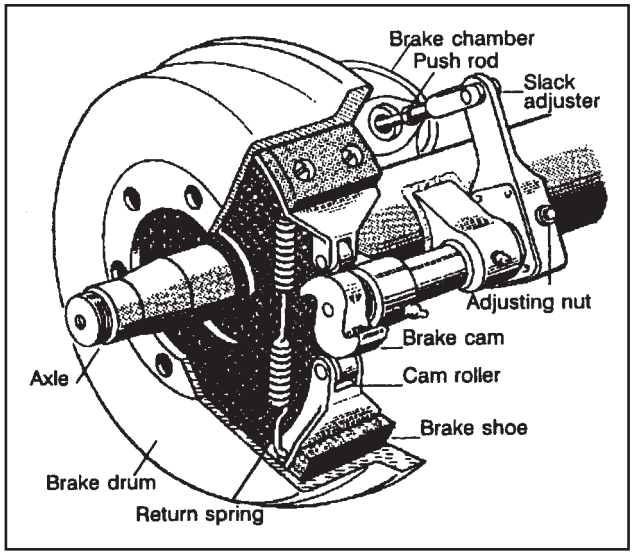
- **Foundation Brakes**

Foundation brakes are used at each wheel. The most common type is the s-cam drum brake, shown in Figure 5-2. The parts of the brake are discussed below:

Brake Drums, Shoes, and Linings. Brake drums are located on each end of the vehicle's axles. The wheels are bolted to the drums. The braking mechanism is inside the drum. To stop, the brake shoes and linings are pushed against the inside of the drum. This causes friction which slows the vehicle and creates heat. The heat a drum can take without damage depends on how hard and how long the brakes are used. Too much heat can make the brakes stop working.

S-cam Brakes. When you push the brake pedal, air is let into each brake chamber (see Figure 5-2). Air pressure pushes the rod out, moving the slack adjuster, thus twisting the brake cam shaft. This turns the s-cam so called because it is shaped like the letter "S". The s-cam forces the brake shoes away from one another and presses them against the inside of the brake drum. When you release the brake pedal, the s-cam rotates back and a spring pulls the brake shoes away from the drum, letting the wheels roll freely again.

Figure 5-2--S-cam Air Brake



Wedge Brakes. In this type brake, the brake chamber push rod pushes a wedge directly between the ends of two brake shoes. This shoves them apart and against the inside of the brake drum. Wedge brakes may have a single brake chamber, or two brake chambers, pushing wedges in at both ends of the brake shoes. Wedge type brakes may be self-adjusting or may require manual adjustment.

Disc Brakes. In air-operated disc brakes, air pressure acts on a brake chamber and slack adjuster, like s-cam brakes. But instead of the s-cam, a "power screw" is used. The pressure of the brake chamber on the slack adjuster turns the power screw. The power screw clamps the disc or rotor between the brake lining pads of a caliper, similar to a large c-clamp.

Wedge brakes and disc brakes are less common than s-cam brakes.

• Supply Pressure Gauges

All air-braked vehicles have a pressure gauge connected to the air tank. If the vehicle has a dual air brake system, there will be a gauge for each half of the system. Or a single gauge with two needles. Dual systems will be discussed later. These gauges tell you how much pressure is in the air tanks.

• Application Pressure Gauge

This gauge shows how much air pressure you are applying to the brakes. This gauge is not on all vehicles. Increasing application pressure to hold the same speed means the brakes are fading. You should slow down and use a lower gear.

The need for increased pressure can also be caused by brakes out of adjustment, air leaks, or mechanical problems.

• Low Air Pressure Warning

A low air pressure warning signal is required on vehicles with air brakes. A warning signal you can see must come on before the air pressure in the tanks falls below 60 psi. (Or one half the compressor governor cutout pressure on older vehicles.) The warning is usually a red light. A buzzer may also come on.

Another type of warning is the "wig wag." This device drops a mechanical arm into your view when the pressure in the system drops below 60 psi. An automatic wig wag will rise out of your view when the pressure in the system goes above 60 psi. The manual reset type must be placed in the "out of view" position manually. It will not stay in place until the pressure in the system is above 60 psi.

On large buses it is common for the low pressure warning devices to signal at 80-85 psi.

• Stop Light Switch

Drivers behind you must be warned when you put your brakes on. The air brake system does this with an electric switch that works by air pressure. The switch turns on the brake lights when you put on the air brakes.

• Front Brake Limiting Valve

Some older vehicles (made before 1975) have a front brake limiting valve and a control in the cab. The control is usually marked "normal" and "slippery." When you put the control in the "slippery" position, the limiting valve cuts the "normal" air pressure to the front brakes by half. Limiting valves were used to reduce the chance of the front wheels skidding on slippery surfaces. However, they actually reduce the stopping power of the vehicle. Front wheel braking is good under all conditions. Tests have shown front wheel skids from braking are not likely even on ice. Make sure the control **is in the "normal" position to have normal stopping power.**

Many vehicles have automatic front wheel limiting valves. They reduce the air to the front brakes except when the brakes are put on very hard (60 psi

or more application pressure). These valves cannot be controlled by the driver.

- **Spring Brakes**

All trucks, truck tractors, and buses must be equipped with emergency brakes and parking brakes. They must be held on by mechanical force (because air pressure can eventually leak away). Spring brakes are usually used to meet these needs. When driving, powerful springs are held back by air pressure. If the air pressure is removed, the springs put on the brakes. A parking brake control in the cab allows the driver to let the air out of the spring brakes. This lets the springs put the brakes on. A leak in the air brake system which causes all the air to be lost will also cause the springs to put on the brakes.

Tractor and straight truck spring brakes will come fully on when air pressure drops to a range of 20 to 45 psi (typically 20 to 30 psi). Do not wait for the brakes to come on automatically. When the low air pressure warning light and buzzer first come on, bring the vehicle to a safe stop right away, while you can still control the brakes.

The braking power of spring brakes depends on the brakes being in adjustment. If the brakes are not adjusted properly, neither the regular brakes nor the emergency/parking brakes will work right.

- **Parking Brake Controls**

In newer vehicles with air brakes, you put on the parking brakes using a **diamond-shaped, yellow, push-pull control knob.** You pull the knob out to put the parking brakes (spring brakes) on, and push it in to release them. On older vehicles, the parking brakes may be controlled by a lever. Use the parking brakes whenever you park.

Caution. Never push the brake pedal down when the spring brakes are on. If you do, the brakes could be damaged by the combined forces of the springs and the air pressure. Many brake systems are designed so this will not happen. But not all systems are set up that way, and those that are may not always work. It is much better to develop the habit of not pushing the brake pedal down when the spring brakes are on.

Modulating Control Valves. In some vehicles a control handle on the dash board may be used to apply the spring brakes gradually. This is called a modulating valve. It is spring loaded so you have a feel for the braking action. The more you move the control lever, the harder the spring brakes come on. They work this way so you can control the spring brakes if the service brakes fail. When parking a vehicle with a modulating control valve, move the lever as far as it will go and hold it in place with the locking device.

Dual Parking Control Valves. When main air pressure is lost, the spring brakes come on. Some vehicles, such as buses, have a separate air tank which can be used to release the spring brakes. This is so you can move the vehicle in an emergency. One of the valves is a push-pull type and is used to put on the spring brakes for parking. The other valve is spring loaded in the “out” position. When you push the control in, air from the separate air tank releases the spring brakes so you can move. When you release the button, the spring brakes come on again. There is only enough air in the separate tank to do this a few times.

Therefore, plan carefully when moving. Otherwise, you may be stopped in a dangerous location when the separate air supply runs out.

5.2 DUAL AIR BRAKE

Most newer heavy-duty vehicles use dual air brake systems for safety. A dual air brake system has two separate air brake systems which use a single set of brake controls. Each system has its own air tanks, hoses, lines, etc. One system typically operates the regular brakes on the rear axle or axles. The other system operates the regular brakes on the front axle (and possibly one rear axle). Both systems supply air to the trailer (if there is one). The first system is called the “primary” system. The other is called the “secondary” system.

Before driving a vehicle with a dual air system, allow time for the air compressor to build up a minimum of 100 psi pressure in both the primary and secondary systems. Watch the primary and secondary air pressure gauges (or needles, if the system has two needles in one gauge). Pay attention to the low air pressure warning light and buzzer. The warning light and buzzer should shut off when air pressure in both systems rises to a value set by the manufacturer. This value must be greater than 60 psi.

The warning light and buzzer should come on before the air pressure drops below 60 psi in either system. If this happens while driving, you should stop right away and safely park the vehicle. If one air system is very low on pressure, either the front or the rear brakes will not be operating fully. This means it will take you longer to stop. Bring the vehicle to a safe stop and have the air brakes system fixed.

5.3 INSPECTING AIR BRAKE SYSTEMS

You should use the basic seven-step inspection procedure described in Section 2 to inspect your vehicle. There are more things to inspect on a vehicle with air brakes than one without them. We discuss these things below, in

the order that they fit into the seven-step method.

- **During Step 2 Engine Compartment Checks**

Check Air Compressor Drive Belt (if compressor is belt driven). If the air compressor is belt-driven, check the condition and tightness of the belt. The belt should be in good condition.

- **During Step 5 Walkaround Inspecting**

Check Manual Slack Adjusters on S-cam Brakes. Park on level ground and chock the wheels to prevent the vehicle from moving. Turn off the parking brakes so you can move the slack adjusters. Use gloves and pull hard on each slack adjuster that you can get to. If a slack adjuster moves more than about one inch where the push rod attaches to it, it probably needs adjustment. Adjust it or have it adjusted. Vehicles with too much brake slack can be very hard to stop. Out-of-adjustment brakes are the most common problem found in roadside inspections. Be safe. Check the slack adjusters.

Automatic Adjusters should not have to be manually adjusted except when performing maintenance on the brakes and during installation of the slack adjusters. The manual adjustment of automatic slack adjusters is dangerous because it gives the vehicle operator a false sense of security about the effectiveness of the braking system. In a vehicle equipped with automatic adjusters, when the pushrod stroke exceeds the legal brake adjustment limit, it is an indication that a mechanical problem exists in the adjuster itself, a problem with the related foundation brake components, or that the adjuster was improperly installed.

The manual adjustment of an automatic adjuster to bring a brake pushrod stroke within legal limits is generally masking a mechanical problem and is not fixing it. Further, routine adjustment of most automatic adjusters will likely result in premature wear of the adjuster itself. It is recommended that when brakes equipped with automatic adjusters are found to be out of adjustment, the driver take the vehicle to a repair facility as soon as possible to have the problem corrected.

The manual adjustment of an automatic adjuster should only be used as a temporary measure to correct the adjustment in an emergency situation as it is likely the brake will soon be back out of adjustment since this procedure usually does not fix the underlying adjustment problem.

(Note: Automatic slack adjusters are made by different manufacturers and do not all operate the same. Therefore, the specific manufacturer's Service Manual should be consulted prior to troubleshooting a brake adjustment problem.)

Check Brake Drums (or Discs), Linings, and Hoses. Brake drums (or discs)

must not have cracks longer than one half the width of the friction area. Linings (friction material) must not be loose or soaked with oil or grease. They must not be dangerously thin. Mechanical parts must be in place, not broken or missing. Check the air hoses connected to the brake chambers to make sure they aren't cut or worn due to rubbing.

- **During Step 7 Final Air Brake Check**

Do the following checks instead of the hydraulic brake check shown in Section Two "Step 7: Check Brake System."

Test Air Leakage Rate. With a fully-charged air system (typically 125 psi), turn off the engine, release the service brake, and time the air pressure drop. The loss rate should be less than two psi in one minute for single vehicles and less than three psi in one minute for combination vehicles. Then apply 90 psi or more with the brake pedal. After the initial pressure drop, if the air pressure falls more than three psi in one minute for single vehicles more than four psi for combination vehicles, the air loss rate is too much. Check for air leaks and fix before driving the vehicle. Otherwise, you could lose your brakes while driving.

Test Low Pressure Warning Signal. Shut the engine off when you have enough air pressure so that the low pressure warning signal is not on. Turn the electrical power on and step on and off the brake pedal to reduce air tank pressure. The low air pressure warning signal must come on before the pressure drops to less than 60 psi in the air tank (or tank with the lowest air pressure, in dual air systems).

If the warning signal doesn't work, you could lose air pressure and you would not know it. This could cause sudden emergency braking in a single circuit air system. In dual systems the stopping distance will be increased. Only limited braking can be done before the spring brakes come on.

Check That the Spring Brakes Come on Automatically. Chock the wheels, release the parking brakes when you have enough air pressure to do it, and shut the engine off. Step on and off the brake pedal to reduce the air tank pressure. The "parking brake" knob should pop out when the air pressure falls to the manufacturer's specification (usually in a range between 20-40 psi). This causes the spring brakes to come on.

Check Rate of Air Pressure Buildup. When the engine is at operating rpm, the pressure should build from 85 to 100 psi within 45 seconds in dual air systems. (If the vehicle has larger than minimum air tanks, the buildup time can be longer and still be safe. Check the manufacturer's specifications.) In single air systems (pre-1975), typical requirements are pressure buildup from 50 to 90 psi within three minutes with the engine at an idle speed of 600-900 rpm.

If air pressure does not build up fast enough, your pressure may drop too low during driving, requiring an emergency stop. Don't drive until you get the problem fixed.

Check Air Compressor Governor Cut-in and Cut-out Pressures. Pumping by the air compressor should start at about 100 psi and stop at about 125 psi. (Check manufacturer's specifications). Run the engine at a fast idle. The air governor should cut-out the air compressor at about the manufacturer's specified pressure. The air pressure shown by your gauge(s) will stop rising. With the engine idling, step on and off the brake to reduce the air tank pressure. The compressor should cut-in at about the manufacturer's specified cut-in pressure. The pressure should begin to rise.

If the air governor does not work as described above, it may need to be fixed. A governor that does not work properly may not keep enough air pressure for safe driving.

Test Parking Brake. Stop the vehicle, put the parking brake on, and gently pull against it in a low gear to test that the parking brake will hold.

Test Service Brakes. Wait for normal air pressure, release the parking brake, move the vehicle forward slowly (about five mph), and apply the brakes firmly using the brake pedal. Note any vehicle "pulling" to one side, unusual feel, or delayed stopping action.

This test may show you problems which you otherwise wouldn't know about until you needed the brakes on the road.

5.4 USING AIR BRAKES

• Normal Stops

Push the brake pedal down. Control the pressure so the vehicle comes to a smooth, safe stop. If you have a manual transmission, don't push the clutch in until the engine rpm is down close to idle. When stopped, select a starting gear.

• Emergency Stops

If somebody suddenly pulls out in front of you, your natural response is to hit the brakes. This is a good response if there's enough distance to stop and you use the brakes correctly.

You should brake in a way that will keep your vehicle in a straight line and allow you to turn if it becomes necessary. You can use the "controlled braking" method or the "stab braking" method.

Controlled Braking. With this method, you apply the brakes as hard as you can **without** locking the wheels. Keep steering wheel movements very small while doing this. If you need to make a larger steering adjustment, or if the wheels lock, release the brakes. Reapply the brakes as soon as you can.

Stab Braking.

- Apply your brakes all the way.
- Release brakes when wheels lock up.
- As soon as the wheels start rolling, apply the brakes fully again. (It can take up to one second for the wheels to start rolling after you release the brakes. If you re-apply the brakes before the wheels start rolling, the vehicle won't straighten out.)

Note: If you drive a vehicle with anti-lock brakes, you should read and follow the directions found in the owner's manual for stopping quickly.

• Stopping Distance

We talked about stopping distance in Section 2 under "Speed and Stopping Distance." With air brakes there is an added delay: the time required for the brakes to work after the brake pedal is pushed. With hydraulic brakes (used on cars and light/medium trucks), the brakes work instantly. However, with air brakes, it takes a little time (one half second or more) for the air to flow through the lines to the brakes. Thus, the total stopping distance for vehicles with air brake systems is made up of four different factors.

	Perception Distance
+	Reaction Distance
+	Brake Lag Distance
+	Effective Braking Distance
=	Total Stopping Distance

The air brake lag distance at 55 mph on dry pavement adds about 32 feet. So at 55 mph for an average driver under good traction and brake conditions, the total stopping distance is over 300 feet. This is longer than a football field.

• Brake Fading or Failure

Brakes are designed so brake shoes or pads rub against the brake drum or disks to slow the vehicle. Braking creates heat, but brakes are designed to take a lot of heat. However, brakes can fade or fail from excessive heat caused by using them too much and not relying on the engine braking effect.

Excessive use of the service brakes results in overheating and leads to

brake fade. Brake fade results from excessive heat causing chemical changes in the brake lining which reduce friction and also causes expansion of the brake drums. As the overheated drums expand, the brake shoes and linings have to move farther to contact the drums, and the force of this contact is also reduced. Continued overuse may increase brake fade until the vehicle cannot be slowed down or stopped at all.

Brake fade is also affected by adjustment. To safely control a vehicle, every brake must do its share of the work. Brakes out of adjustment will stop doing their share before those that are in adjustment. The other brakes can then overheat and fade and there will not be sufficient braking available to control the vehicle(s). Brakes can get out of adjustment quickly, especially when they are hot. Therefore, brake adjustment must be checked frequently.

- **Proper Braking Technique**

Remember: The use of brakes on a long and/or steep downgrade is only a supplement to the braking effect of the engine. Once the vehicle is in the proper low gear, the following is the proper braking technique:

- Apply the brakes just hard enough to feel a definite slowdown.
- When your speed has been reduced to approximately five mph below your “safe” speed, release the brakes. [This brake application should last for about three seconds.]
- When your speed has increased to your “safe” speed, repeat steps 1 and 2.

For example, if your “safe” speed is 40 mph, you would not apply the brakes until your speed reaches 40 mph. You now apply the brakes hard enough to gradually reduce your speed to 35 mph and then release the brakes. Repeat this as often as necessary until you have reached the end of the downgrade.

- **Low Air Pressure**

If the low air pressure warning comes on, stop and safely park your **vehicle as soon as possible.** There might be an air leak in the system. Controlled braking is possible only while enough air remains in the air tanks. The spring brakes will come on when the air pressure drops into the range of 20 to 45 psi. A heavily loaded vehicle will take a long distance to stop because the spring brakes do not work on all axles. Lightly loaded vehicles or vehicles on slippery roads may skid out of control when the spring brakes come on. It is much safer to stop while there is enough air in the tanks to use the foot brakes.

- **Parking Brakes**

Any time you park, use the parking brakes, except as noted below. Pull the parking brake control knob out to apply the parking brakes, push it in to release them. The control will be a yellow, diamondshaped knob labeled “parking brakes” on newer vehicles. On older vehicles, it may be a round blue knob or some other shape (including a lever that swings from side to side or up and down).

Don’t use the parking brakes if the brakes are very hot (from just having come down a steep grade), or if the brakes are very wet in freezing temperatures. If they are used while they are very hot, they can be damaged by the heat. If they are used in freezing temperatures when the brakes are very wet, they can freeze so the vehicle cannot move. Use wheel chocks to hold the vehicle. Let hot brakes cool before using the parking brakes. If the brakes are wet, use the brakes lightly while driving in a low gear to heat and dry them.

If your vehicle does not have automatic air tank drains, drain your air tanks at the end of each working day to remove moisture and oil. Otherwise, the brakes could fail.

Never leave your vehicle unattended without applying the parking brakes or chocking the wheels. Your vehicle might roll away and cause injury and damage.

LIMITATIONS (note Exceptions)

1. **Speed Limits. —**(See Chapter 8.)

2. **Height.** No vehicle, including the load it is hauling, may be more than 14 feet from ground to the top of the load. The driver is responsible for determining that his load will safely pass under any bridge or overpass on his route.

3. **Width**. Vehicles including loads transported may not exceed 102 inches in width. (See exceptions.)

4. **Maximum Lengths:**

a. Single motor vehicle other than a truck-tractor is 45 feet (see exceptions).

b. A semi-trailer may not exceed 59 feet when operated in a truck-tractor and semi-trailer combination.

c. A semi-trailer or trailer may not exceed a length of 28 1/2 feet each when operated in a truck-tractor, semi-trailer, and trailer combination.

d. No combination of vehicles, other than a truck-tractor-trailer combination may exceed 65 feet. (See exceptions).

5. **Vehicle Combinations**. No passenger vehicle or other motor vehicle with an unloaded weight of less than 2,500 pounds may be coupled with more than one other vehicle or towing device. If the unloaded weight is 2,500 pounds or more, then no more than three vehicles or towing devices may be operated in a combination.

6. **Load Limits**. The greatest weight allowed for any vehicle or combination of vehicles including the load is 80,000 pounds. (Load limits are based upon the size of the vehicle, the number and distance between axles, and also on the tire size.) (See exceptions.) Under certain conditions, vehicles may legally exceed 80,000 pounds by obtaining an oversize/overweight permit through the Texas Department of Transportation Permit Office.

7. **Unloading and Additional Registration**. If the gross weight of your vehicle is found to exceed the maximum gross weight allowed by law plus a tolerance of 5%, you may be required to unload to the limit provided by law plus the tolerance, or if the axle weight is found to exceed the maximum allowed, the driver may be required to rearrange the cargo or unload the vehicle to the limits provided. (Trucks carrying livestock, timber or pulpwood, or agricultural products in their natural state from the place of production to the place of market or first processing shall not be required to unload any portion of the load.) Trucks registered for less than the load they are hauling must secure

additional registration up to the legal limit from the nearest County Tax Assessor-Collector or the nearest practical point if hauling livestock or perishables.

8. **Extensions Over Front and Rear**. No vehicle may carry a load extending more than three feet beyond the front nor more than four feet beyond the rear, unless a special permit is obtained. When any load extends more than four feet beyond the bed or body of the vehicle's rear, there must be attached on the rear extremities of such extension, red flags at least twelve inches square during daylight hours and at night a burning red light visible for 500 feet or two red reflectors visible from 100 to 600 feet. (See exceptions.) (Motor vehicles or combinations thereof used exclusively for the transportation of poles or pipes may exceed the length or extension limits over front and rear of a vehicle, except that such vehicles may not exceed 65 feet in length and may be operated only between sunrise and sunset.)

Exception to the rear extension requirement. A load may extend more than four feet beyond the rear of a trailer if the load consists of a motor vehicle that:

a. is designed and intended to be carried at the rear of the trailer;

b. is used or intended to be used to load or unload a commodity on or off the trailer;

c. does not extend more than seven feet beyond the rear of the trailer; and

d. complies with each applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation.

9. **Towing**. When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar, chain, rope, cable, or other connection must be strong enough to pull the weight drawn and not be longer than fifteen feet from one vehicle to the other. (This 15-foot limit does not apply to pole trailers.) When a chain, rope, or cable is used as a connection, a white flag not less than twelve inches square must be attached to it.

10. **Metal Tires**. Vehicles, trailers, etc., weighing 5,000 pounds or more, with metal tires, may not be operated on a highway without a special permit.

11. **Transporting Loose Materials**. No person shall load or transport any loose material on or over the public highways, such as dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, or other material except agricultural products in their natural state, that is capable of blowing or spilling from a vehicle unless:

a. The bed carrying the load must be completely enclosed on both sides and on the front and on the rear by a tailgate, board or panel, and all

must be so constructed as to prevent the escape of any part of the load by blowing or spilling.

b. The top of the load must be covered with a canvas, tarpaulin, or other covering firmly secured to the front and the back to prevent the escape of any part of the load because of blowing or spilling. This requirement does not apply to any load-carrying compartment that completely encloses the load or to the transporting of any load of loose materials that are not blowing or spilling over the top of the load-carrying compartment.

EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD VEHICLE SIZE REQUIREMENTS

1. Water well drilling machinery, vehicles owned or operated by public, private, or volunteer fire departments, highway building or maintenance machinery, farm tractors, and implements of husbandry or vehicles hauling same are exempt from width limitations on all highways except the Interstate system when operated during daylight hours.

2. A single-motor vehicle used only to transport seed cotton modules, cotton, or equipment used in transporting or processing of cotton may operate up to 120 inches in width provided the vehicle is registered with a "Cotton Vehicle" license plate. Vehicles carrying cylindrically shaped bales of hay may not exceed 144 inches in width.

3. Motor buses longer than 35 feet must have air brakes and three or more axles or four tires on the rear axle.

4. The length requirements for vehicles and combinations of vehicles do not apply if they are operated only within city limits.

5. Load limits may vary according to the size of the vehicle, the number of axles and distance between the axles, and the size of tires that the vehicle is equipped with.

6. The State Highway Commission may lower load limits on farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads. Signs showing limits allowed are posted to give notice of such action.

7. A vehicle or combination of vehicles, other than a truck tractor or truck tractor combination, of not more than 90 feet long may be used from sunrise to sunset to haul poles, piling, or unrefined timber from the forest to a mill not more than 125 miles away. A red flag 12 inches square or a strobe light must be displayed at the rear of the load in a manner visible to drivers behind the vehicle.

8. For a fee of $120 per year, a combination of vehicles, other than truck tractor combinations, of not more than 75 feet long may be used to haul poles for electric power line maintenance from sunrise to sunset at a speed not to exceed 50 mph. The vehicles must have two red lamps visible for 500 feet, two red reflectors visible for 100 to 600 feet and two red lamps, one on each side to indicate the maximum overhang.

9. A single-motor vehicle used only to transport seed cotton modules, cotton, cotton burrs or equipment used in transporting or processing of cotton, including a burr spreader may not exceed 48 feet in length, 120 inches in width or 14 feet 6 inches in height.

10. Fire department vehicles are exempt from length, width, and weight regulations.

11. A combination of vehicles used to transport a combine that is used for farm custom harvesting may have an overall length of not more than 75 feet.

OPERATING RULES

1. **Coasting.** It is unlawful for a commercial motor vehicle to coast down any grade even with the clutch disengaged while the transmission is left in gear. If it is necessary to shift to a lower gear, do so before starting down the hill.

2. **Following**. On a roadway outside a business or residential area when one truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle is following another truck or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle, it must keep far enough back to allow another vehicle to overtake and enter the space between them safely. (This does not prevent a truck from overtaking and passing another vehicle.) This does include a caravan or motorcade traveling on a roadway outside a business or residential area.

3. **Railroad Grade Crossing.**

a. Outside a business district or residence district all buses carrying passengers for hire must stop at all railroad grade crossings unless a traffic control signal or police officer directs traffic to proceed.

b. All school buses must stop at all railroad grade crossings and not proceed until safe to do so.

c. All super-heavy equipment such as crawler type tractors, steam shovels, derricks, rollers, etc., must stop for all railroad grade crossings.

d. Trucks carrying explosives or flammable liquids must stop at railroad grade crossings. These provisions do not apply to streetcar crossings,

abandoned tracks, industrial switching tracks, or where a traffic signal or officer directs traffic to proceed.

4. **Vehicles Transporting Hazardous Materials.** The Department has adopted the U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations. Copies of these regulations may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

SAFETY PRACTICES

1. Right Turns with Large Equipment. Tractor-trailers and long wheelbase trucks and buses, when turning right, must have curb clearance for the rear wheels. Since they cannot stay in the proper lane while turning, they should turn by one of these methods:

a. Approach the corner in the proper lane, about four feet from the curb (close enough to keep a car from passing on the right). As soon as the front wheels pass the corner, turn wide to the right, swinging over the center of the side street if necessary, in order for the right rear wheel to clear the curb.

b. If the street into which you are turning is narrow, it may be necessary to approach as above, then swing left enough to place the right rear wheel in position to miss the curb (but not far enough away to invite passing on the right), then turn sharply right into the narrow street or driveway.

You cannot watch too carefully when you are on your own side of the road. This is even truer while turning in a large vehicle, when you must be on the wrong side of the road part of the time.

2. **Safe Backing Practices**. A large or long vehicle is much more difficult to back safely than a smaller one. These practices are recommended.

a. When you must back, get out and walk around your truck and make certain there is nothing behind. Then back immediately and watch carefully.

b. Use both rearview mirrors. You can't see the right side while hanging out the left door.

c. If necessary to back some distance, stop part way, then get out and check your progress.

d. Try to have someone standing in a safe place to guide you by signaling.

e. Park where you will not have to back to get away from the parking place.

f. Never back around an intersection corner to turn around.

g. If you have to back in or out of a driveway, where possible, back into the driveway from the street so that you can drive out forward and see where you are going.

h. When backing over a sidewalk into a street, stop at the sidewalk to make especially certain that there is no child playing behind or close by. Stop again at the curb to make a last check on traffic before backing into the street.

i. Don't depend entirely upon your rear vision mirror.

3. **Safe Passing of Two-Wheeled Vehicles**. Motorcycles and bicycles are lighter and more subject to wind effects than four-wheeled vehicles are. Due to this, special care must be taken when passing.

a. Aerodynamic effects around a large vehicle can cause a two-wheeled vehicle to be suddenly pulled toward the larger vehicle by two or three feet, depending on the relative speed between the two vehicles. You should always allow at least six feet to the left of the two-wheeled vehicle when you are passing.

b. When passing a two-wheeled vehicle, do not attempt to share the lane with that vehicle. Move into the next or oncoming lane to pass. If there is oncoming traffic, then slow and follow the two-wheeled vehicle until oncoming traffic clears.

TRUCK DRIVERS SHARING THE ROAD WITH AUTOMOBILES

Professional truck drivers can't just be good truck drivers. You have to be better than anyone else on the road. Truck drivers have the responsibility not only to safely deliver the nation's freight on time, but are industry's front-line defense against a bad image. Truck drivers should share the highways with automobiles and adhere to the following guidelines.

TAILGATING

Tailgating is the most common complaint car drivers have against truck drivers. It may not always be justified, but it is a frequent one. The professional:

Keeps a gap between his or her truck and the car ahead in heavy traffic because the truck needs more space to stop. (Remember, your truck looms frighteningly large in the mirror.)

Maintains a four-second following distance on the open road.

Increases the distance of the gap to 6-8 seconds in bad weather (more reaction time to compensate for poor traction and actions of less experienced car drivers).

Remains alert to the car driver who cuts into the open space in front of the truck.

Knows that tailgating or forming convoys promotes unsafe passes by groups of cars stacked up behind. If they do attempt to pass and don't make it, you and others could be involved in a serious accident.

SPEEDING

Speeding by trucks is a common cause of accidents and another major complaint by motorists. Driving too fast for conditions - regardless of the posted speed - is dangerous. Remember, obeying the speed limit:

Saves lives, injuries, and property damage.

Increases fuel economy by as much as a mile per gallon at 55 mph rather than 65.

Saves wear and tear on tires, brakes, and engines.

Allows sufficient time and space to stop after a hazard is sighted. Remember, your stopping distance increases at a much faster rate than your speed. If you double your speed, your stopping distance will be four times greater.

PASSING

The following are basic reminders truck drivers should follow when passing and dealing with slower traffic:

Signals alone aren't enough. Before making a move, the professional truck driver makes sure that a lane change or passing maneuver can be made safely and without interfering with others.

Don't alarm a car driver by overtaking too closely before moving into the

passing lane. Leave some extra space before you pull back in.

Remember that a truck pushes a wall of air ahead of it. To avoid buffeting cars, keep as much space as possible between the vehicles you pass.

Slow traffic and congestion are facts of life to the professional truck driver. Keep cool and lay off the horn and flashing of the headlights.

SCHOOL BUSES, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, AND OTHERS

The professional truck driver should be especially watchful for drivers of school buses, recreational vehicles, and drivers of rental trucks. These groups of drivers' level of experience can vary a great deal. Therefore, truck drivers should:

Give school buses as much room as possible. Watch for frequent stops to load and unload children. Remember, the driver can be distracted by the children on the bus.

Realize drivers of RV's and smaller vehicles pulling trailers can be a problem because they may not have the professional skills or knowledge of the professional truck driver. These vehicles are especially susceptible to turbulence from big trucks, so reduce your speed and give them plenty of room.

Pass these vehicles with care and as far to the left as safely possible.

HOT AND COLD

Summer driving has its own perils. Truck drivers should especially be on the lookout for:

Lost, fatigued motorists on vacation who may suddenly stop, or swerve across several lanes of traffic to an exit. Overloaded cars with poor visibility and/or drivers distracted by kids and pets.

Highway construction projects where roads suddenly turn into narrow lanes with confusing signs. (Heavy equipment and pedestrians are often nearby.)

Winter ice and snow mean gearing down on grades to avoid wheel-spinning and brake lock-up which can lead to jackknifing. If you find a traffic jam-up and multiple vehicle accidents, stay back and wait for them to clear before trying to get your rig through.

ATTITUDE

A good attitude is a professional truck driver's badge of honor. Sharing the roads with automobiles must be a safety concern for the professional driver.

REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

1. All vehicles must be registered in the county of residence.

2. The following vehicles are not required to be registered or inspected or to display a license plate when operated temporarily upon the highways:

a. Farm tractors.

b. Farm trailers, farm semi-trailers, and certain fertilizer and cottonseed trailers weighing not more than 4,000 pounds gross.

c. Implements of husbandry.

d. Power sweepers.

e. Certain golf carts.

3. The following vehicles when operated temporarily upon the highways are not required to be registered or inspected if the owner annually secures a distinguishing $5.00 license plate and complies with other special conditions in the law:

a. Machinery for drilling water wells and construction machinery.

b. Farm trailers, farm semi-trailers, cotton trailers, cottonseed trailers, and certain fertilizer trailers weighing over 4,000 pounds and not over 34,000 pounds gross.

4. Nonresident truck owners may be issued 30-day temporary registration permits for certain movements of farm products and machinery during harvesting season.

5. Under certain conditions, temporary registration permits and reduced registration rates for special vehicles may be obtained. (See your County Tax Assessor-Collector or the Motor Vehicle Division of the Texas Department of Transportation for information.)

6. Buyers temporary cardboard tags are recognized for 20 days; dealers metal registration plates may be used on any dealer-owned motor vehicle, except for commercial purposes—vehicle inspection is required.

Manufacturer's metal registration plate may be used for testing purposes only—vehicle inspection is required. Dealers temporary cardboard tag may be used for demonstrating a vehicle for sale with motor vehicle inspection certificate attached, or for transporting or servicing vehicles without motor vehicle inspection certificate.

7. Farm registered vehicles, in addition to use for farm and ranch purposes, may be used as a means of passenger transportation for members of the family to attend church or school, to visit doctors for medical treatment or supplies, or for other necessities of the home or family - but not for gainful employment.

8. The period for which out-of-state registration plates are recognized in Texas after establishing residency or entering into gainful employment is 30 days.

9. For registration applications and detailed information, consult your County Tax Assessor-Collector or the Motor Vehicle Division of the Texas Department of Transportation. Additional information may also be obtained from Department of Public Safety publications pertaining to commercial vehicles.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The Texas Department of Public Safety has adopted by reference the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 40, 380, 382, 385, 386, 387, 390-393 and 395-397. The Department has also adopted the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations, Parts 171-173, 177, and 178. For detailed information concerning these regulations and exceptions adopted by the Department of Public Safety, see Title 37 of the Texas Admininstrative Code Rules 4.1, 4.11 and 4.12 on file with the Texas Secretary of State or online at:
http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.viewtac.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL)

If required to obtain a Commercial Driver License (CDL), refer to the Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook for information.

APPENDIX A
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

-A-

acceleration lane - lane that permits drivers entering an expressway to accelerate to the speed of expressway traffic.
active restraint device - any restraint device that you have to engage to make it effective.
advisory speed limit - speed limit set for special conditions such as sharp curves.
aggressive driving - the behavior of driving in a combative, forceful, or competitive manner. Usually caused by frustration of other drivers.
alert light - instrument panel lights that indicate a system is functioning and turn off after a short period of time
angle parking - parking the vehicle diagonally to the curb.

-B-

backup lights - white lights at the rear of the vehicle that tell other drivers you are backing up.
banked curve - curve higher on the outside than it is on the inside that helps overcome a vehicle's tendency to move to the outside of the curve.
basic speed law - law stating that you may not drive faster than is safe and prudent for existing conditions, regardless of posted speed limits.
bicycle - means every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.
blind-zone area - area that rearview mirrors cannot show.
blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) - amount of alcohol in the blood expressed as a percentage of ethyl alcohol related to the volume of fluids in the bloodstream.
blowout - sudden loss of tire air pressure while driving.
bodily-injury insurance - covers the driver who is at fault against claims.
brake fade - loss of braking effectiveness caused by the brakes overheating after long, continuous, hard braking.
braking distance - distance your vehicle travels from the time you apply the brake until your vehicle stops.

-C-

carbon monoxide - colorless, odorless, tasteless gas contained in the exhaust fumes of gasoline engines.
catalytic converter - part of a vehicle's emission system that converts harmful gases into less harmful gases and water.

center of gravity - point around which the vehicle's weight is evenly distributed.
central vision - the field of vision around your focal vision in which you can see clearly while looking straight ahead that aids in determining vehicle position to the roadway.
clutch pedal - pedal in a manual transmission vehicle that enables a driver to shift gears.
collision - contact between two or more objects, as when two vehicles collide into each other.
collision insurance - provides coverage to pay the costs of repair or replacement of your vehicle from a collision.
color-blindness - inability to distinguish colors.
communication - informing other drivers of your intentions to turn, slow, stop, etc. using mechanical or hand/arm signals, headlights, horn, etc.
comprehensive insurance - provides coverage for replacement or repair of your vehicle from damage other than from a collision.
controlled-access highway - highway that vehicles can enter and exit only at interchanges.
controlled braking - reducing speed by firmly stepping on and squeezing brake pedal and maintaining steering control of the vehicle.
controlled intersection - intersection at which signals or signs determine the right of way.
controlled railroad crossing - railroad crossing controlled by flashing red lights and/or crossing gates.
cover the brake - take your foot off the accelerator hold it over the brake pedal to reduce response time for brake application and maintain speed of vehicle.
crossbuck - large white X-shaped sign located prior to a railroad crossing.

-D-

deceleration lane - expressway lane used to slow your vehicle without blocking vehicles behind you.
defensive driving - protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected driving situations by using a space management system.
delayed green light - indicates that one side of intersection has a green light while the light for oncoming traffic remains red.
depressant - drug that slows the response of the central nervous system.
depth perception - ability to judge distance between yourself and other objects.
designated driver - person who decides ahead of time not to drink alcoholic beverages and is appointed to drive others who do drink.
distractions - anything that distracts the driver's attention from the driving task.
downshifting - shifting from a higher to a lower gear to slow vehicle and is not recommended for front-drive standard shift vehicles due to damaging the constant velocity joints connected to the transaxle.
driving task - all social, physical, legal, and mental skills required to drive.

driving under the influence (DUI) - a Class C misdemeanor for which a minor can be charged in Texas if driving with any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor's system. An offense for which a driver can be charged in some states if the driver's blood-alcohol concentration is above 0.05.
driving while intoxicated (DWI) - an offense for which a driver can be charged in all states if the driver's blood-alcohol concentration is above a certain level.

-E-

emotion - strong feeling such as anger, fear, and joy.
energy of motion - kinetic energy or the energy an object has because it is moving.
entrance ramp - ramp leading onto an expressway.
euphoria - false sense of well-being developed as a result of alcohol or drug consumption.
evasive action steering - emergency steering technique used to quickly steer around an object in your path. Without removing hands from the steering wheel, turn the wheel so that the forearms touch each other, then turn the wheel in the opposite direction until the forearms touch again. Return the wheel to center position. This is the maximum steer input for lane change and activated ABS. Less input may be used to perform maneuvers for emergency lane adjustment to the left or right.
exit ramp - ramp leading off an expressway.

-F-

field of vision - all the area a person can see while looking straight ahead.
field sobriety test - series of on-the-spot, road-side tests that help an officer detect impairment of a driver suspected of DUI or DWI.
financial responsibility law - law that requires you to prove that you can pay for collision damages you cause that result in death, injury, or property damage.
flashing signal - traffic signal that alerts drivers to dangerous conditions or tells them to stop.
focus vision (fovial) - is that part of the vision field which allows the driver to read signs and make distinctions between vehicles and objects often measured as visual acuity.
following interval - time recommended to follow another vehicle in the intended path of travel. Select an object near the road surface. When the vehicle ahead passes that object, start counting "one thousand-one," "one thousand-two," etc., until the front of your car reaches that point. For speeds under 30 mph, the minimum time with good road conditions is 2 seconds. For speeds above 30 mph, maintain 4 seconds (more for adverse conditions) of following time. Developing a 4 second following interval is the best practice for a novice driver.
force of impact - force with which one moving object hits another object; varies according to speed, weight, and distance between impact and stop and is based on forces of inertia and momentum.

freeway - a divided arterial highway with full control of access and with no crossing at grade.
fresh green light - is a light that has just turned from red to green.
friction - force that creates heat and helps each tire to maintain traction on the road, unless too much heat is generated which may cause traction loss due to melting of tire rubber on the roadway.

-G-

gap - time or distance interval between vehicles on roadway.
gear selector - device in an automatic transmission vehicle used to select gears.
glare recovery time - time your eyes need to regain clear vision after being affected by glare.
glare resistance - ability to continue seeing when looking at bright lights.
graduated driver licensing program - requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages with various restrictions as to accompanying drivers, times permitted to drive and allowable passengers.
gravity - force that pulls all things to earth.
ground viewing - making quick glances to the roadway in front of your vehicle, similar to view patterns of mirror and dashboard.
guide sign - sign that gives directions, distance, services, points of interest, and other information.

-H-

hallucinogen - mind-altering drug that tends to distort a person's perceptions of direction, distance, and time.
hazard flasher - device that flashes front turn signal lights and taillights to warn others the vehicle is a hazard.
head restraints - specially designed air bag or padded devices on the backs of front seats that help reduce whiplash injuries in a side or rear impact collision.
highway hypnosis - drowsy or trance-like condition caused by concentration on the roadway ahead and monotony of driving.
hydroplaning - occurs when a tire patch loses roadway contact by rising up on top of water.

-I-

implied-consent law - states that anyone who receives a driver's license automatically consents to be tested for blood-alcohol content and other drugs if stopped for suspicion of drug use while driving.
international symbols - symbols used on traffic signs that give a message without using words.
Intoxilyzer - breath-test instrument machine most commonly used for determining blood-alcohol content.

-J-

joining traffic - turning right or left into lanes of other vehicles.

-L-

lane change - lateral maneuver moving the vehicle from one lane to another using proper space management procedures.
lane change device - use of the turn signal by hooking thumb on wheel and pushing signal halfway just to activate signal so that release of lever will release the signal.
lane signal - signal, usually overhead, that tells whether a lane can or cannot be used at a specific time.
liability insurance - provides compensation for damages which the insured is legally obligated to pay; covers others when you are at fault.
limited use lanes - traffic flow lanes posted and designed to accommodate special vehicles or carpools.
litter prevention - protecting the environment by disposing of litter in a proper container.
loose articles - items in the car that could become flying objects in a collision if hard braking (threshold) is required to avoid a collision.

-M-

median - area of ground separating traffic moving in opposite directions.
merging area - stretch of roadway at the end of an acceleration lane on an expressway where vehicles join the flow of traffic.
minimize a hazard - reduce the possibility of conflict by putting more space between your vehicle and the hazard.
minimum speed limit - speed limit to keep traffic moving safely by not allowing drivers to drive slower than a certain speed.
moped - A motor-driven cycle that cannot attain a speed in one mile of more than 30 miles per hour and the engine of which:
(A) cannot produce more than two-brake horsepower; and
(B) if an internal combustion engine, has a piston displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less and connects to a power drive system that does not require the operator to shift gears. Two-wheeled vehicle that can be driven with either a motor or pedal.
Motorcycle – a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, that is equipped with a rider's saddle and designed to have when propelled not more than three wheels on the ground.
Motor-driven cycle – a motorcycle equipped with a motor that has an engine displacement of 250 cubic centimeters or less. The term does not include an electric bicycle.
muffler - device that reduces the noise from combustion sounds in the engine.

-N-

night blindness - not being able to see well at night.
no-fault insurance - covers an insured's losses and expenses associated with a collision regardless of who is at fault.
no-zones - large mirror blind-zones where truck drivers cannot see other vehicles to the front side or rear.
nystagmus - involuntary jerking of the eyes as a person gazes to the side. Part of the field sobriety tests is called gaze nystagmus.

-O-

occupant protection systems - protection incorporating technological advances in vehicle integrity in the event of a collision and response capability, such as safety belts, airbags, padded dash, padded sun visors, crunch zones, etc.
odometer - device on the instrument panel indicating the total number of miles the vehicle has been driven.
orderly visual search pattern - process of searching critical areas in a regular sequence from the intended path of travel.
overdriving headlights - driving at a speed that makes your stopping distance longer than the distance lighted by your headlights. Low beams are limited to 45 mph and high beams are limited to 65 mph for stopping purposes.
oversteer - when the rear tire patches lose varying degrees of traction and the front tire patches have more traction causing a spinning effect (yaw) around the vehicle's center of gravity. The vehicle has a tendency to spin to the left or right even though the driver is not turning the steering wheel.
overtake - to pass the vehicle ahead.
over-the-counter (OTC) medicine - drug that can be obtained legally without a doctor's prescription.

-P-

parallel parking - parking where the vehicle lines up parallel or going the same direction as the curb. When parallel parking, the vehicle must be at least 6 inches but not more than 18 inches from the curb.
passive restraint device - restraint device, such as an air bag or an automatic seat belt, that works without the passenger or driver initiating the device.
pedestrian signal - signal used at heavy traffic intersections that tells pedestrians whether they should walk or wait.
peer pressure - mental and social influence of others of a similar age on decision-making skills.
perception distance - distance your vehicle travels during perception time.
perception time - length of time it takes for the driver to make a risk-reduction decision.
peripheral vision - area a person can see that is around the central field of vision.
perpendicular parking - parking the vehicle at a right angle (to a curb or parking stripe using visual reference points for entering and leaving.

point of decision - driver of the passing vehicle has entered the passing lane and is in the left rear zone of the vehicle being passed. At this point the driver of the passing vehicle has better visibility and has time to reevaluate and make a decision whether to complete the pass or abort it.
point-of-no-return - point beyond which a driver can no longer stop safely without entering the intersection.
prescription medicine - drug that can be purchased legally only when ordered by a doctor.
preventive maintenance - routine care and attention to your vehicle.
principal driver - person who will drive a certain vehicle most often.
property-damage insurance - protects the driver who is at fault against claims for damages to another person's property, up to specified limits.
protected left turn - left turn made on a left-turn light, green arrow, or delayed green light while oncoming traffic is stopped.
protective gear - items a motorcyclist wears to protect head, eyes, and body.
push-pull steering - When you use push-pull steering, the palms of both hands should be facing you. To turn right, firmly grasp the steering wheel with your left hand at about the 7 o'clock position. Push the wheel until your hand is at about the 11:00 o'clock. Slide your right hand up to about 12:00 and pull the steering wheel down while moving your left hand back down to 7 o'clock. Continue pushing and pulling the wheel as you complete the turn.

-R-

reaction distance - distance vehicle travels from the point the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes that action through braking, steering, or acceleration. Distance your vehicle travels until the driver perceives the need to change speed or position.
reaction time - the time the vehicle travels from the point the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes that action through braking, steering, or acceleration. Length of time it takes the driver to execute a reduced-risk action, after a response is perceived by the driver.
reduced visibility - inability of a driver to see clearly.
reference point - a part of the outside or inside of the vehicle, as viewed from the driver's seat, that relates to some part of the roadway which allows the driver to estimate position on the roadway. The roadway positions (points of reference) of the vehicle assist the driver in determining when to start turning, vehicle limitations, or where the vehicle is actually located.
regulatory sign - sign that controls traffic.
restraint device - any part of a vehicle that holds an occupant in the seat during a collision.
right of way - privilege of having immediate use of a certain part of a roadway.
right-turn-on-red - turning right when the red signal is on, after stopping behind the intersection guides, unless specifically prohibited to turn.
risk (potential or immediate) - in driving, possibility of having a conflict that results in a crash or collision with another vehicle.
roadway marking - markings and lane delineators (reflectors) that gives you

a warning or direction.
roadway users - people who use roadway by walking, driving, or riding.
rocking a vehicle - repeating the sequence of driving forward a little and then back a little to move your vehicle out of deep snow, mud, or sand.
roll of vehicle - vehicle suspension changes to the left or right side that affect the weight distributed to each tire causing a reduction in traction. Abrupt steering movements at higher speeds increase this occurrence and can lead to complete loss of traction. Vehicle suspension changes to the left or right side that affect the size of the tire patches' contact with the roadway that are initiated by the driver action of steering the vehicle. Abrupt steering efforts (hand-over-hand) at higher speeds can cause traction loss due to the suspension's inability to keep the tire patches or traction in optimum traction positions.
rumble strips - sections of rough pavement intended to alert drivers of approaching roadway construction, tollbooth plaza, or other traffic conditions.

-S-

safety chains - backup link used in case a trailer hitch fails.
school zone - portion of a street or highway near a school that is subject to special speed limits.
searching - keep the eyes moving from 12-15 seconds path of travel, side to side, the rearview and side view mirrors, vehicle reference to lane position, and the instrument panel, toward the target area.
selective seeing - searching only those clues and events that restrict your line of sight or can change your intended path of travel.
shared left-turn lane - lane on a busy street that helps drivers make safer mid-block left turns into business areas from a center lane.
skid - a mark on the road surface from a tire that is sliding due to a loss of traction from braking or abrupt steering. When tire patches lose part or all of their traction on the roadway surface due to abrupt suspension balance changes or roadway surface conditions.
slow-moving vehicle - vehicle unable to travel at highway speed.
space (central) - space area around the vehicle that is not visible to the seated driver.
space management areas - designated or numbered positions around the car that identify relationships to the environment or objects.
space cushion - open area around a vehicle that consists of adequate following interval between it and the vehicles ahead and behind that allow the driver to stop, plus swerve paths to left and right.
speed smear - occurs when objects in your peripheral vision become blurred and distorted as your speed increases.
staggered stop - stopping when the white line disappears visually under the hood line. This allows extra space for left-turning vehicles.
stale green light – a traffic light that has been green for a long time.
standard reference point - point that allows for vehicle placement on roadway that is typical for most drivers.

stimulant - drug that speeds up the central nervous system.
stopping position - stopping behind a vehicle in a position that allows the driver enough space to steer around the vehicle to avoid a stalled, turning, or backing vehicle.

-T-

tailgate - to follow another vehicle too closely.
target - an object that appears in the center and the end of the visible intended path of travel.
threshold braking - maximum controlled braking efforts that provide for maximum deceleration without loss of tire traction.
total stopping distance - distance your vehicle travels while you make a stop.
traction - friction or gripping power between the tire patches and the roadway surface.
traffic circle - intersection that forms when several roadways meet at a circle.
traffic control devices - any signal, sign, or pavement marking used to control the movement of traffic.
traffic signal - any signal used to control the movement of traffic.
tunnel vision - being able to see in a narrow field of vision of 140° or less, with little effective peripheral vision.
turn - vehicle maneuver to change direction to the left or right.
turnabout - turning maneuvers for turning into or out of an alley or driveway using reference points for best positioning.

-U-

uncontrolled intersection - intersection that has no signs or signals to regulate traffic including railroad crossings that do not have flashing red lights or crossing gates.
underinsured motorist insurance - covers costs that exceed what the other person's insurance company will pay as a result of a collision caused by another’s fault.
understeer - the driver fails to take sufficient steering action to avoid objects in its path or to negotiate a curve. When the front tire patches lose varying degrees of traction and the rear tire patches have more traction causing a pushing effect on the vehicle due to momentum and inertia forces. The vehicle has a tendency to go straight even if the steering wheel is turned more dramatically.
uninsured motorist insurance - covers costs up to a certain amount if you are struck by another vehicle whose driver has no insurance.
unprotected left turn - left turn made at a signal-controlled intersection without a special left turn light.

-V-

vehicle - means every device, in, upon, or by which any person or property

is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
vehicle balance - vehicle suspension configurations that control the size of the tires as they contact the roadway for ideal vehicle traction and control. Changes to the suspension configuration (and therefore the tire patches affecting traction) are initiated by driver actions of steering, braking, and/or accelerating the vehicle. The vehicle suspension is in the ideal state of balance and tire traction when it is parked on a level surface.
vehicle code - federal and state laws that regulate the highway transportation system.
vehicle control devices - gear selector, accelerator pedal, brake pedal, and steering wheel.
vehicle malfunctions - failures of the vehicle to perform as designed, such as tire, steering, suspension, acceleration, fuel, etc.
vehicle maintenance - scheduled or unscheduled upkeep or repair of a vehicle.
vehicle maneuvers - moving forward, moving backward, turning, lateral maneuvers, and turnabouts.
vehicle movements - the vehicle moving forward, backward, and laterally.
vehicle requirements - vehicle use and ownership, insurance, maintenance, and trip planning.
visibility - ability to see.

-W-

warning sign - sign that alerts you to possible hazards and road conditions.
warning light - an instrument panel light that warns of a system malfunction and usually stays on while the system is malfunctioning.
weather - state of the atmosphere with respect to heat or cold, wetness or dryness, calm or storm, clearness or cloudiness.
wolf pack - group of vehicles traveling together in a bunch on an expressway.

-Y-

yield - to allow another vehicle or roadway user to proceed first.

-Z-

zero-tolerance law - law stating it is illegal for persons under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in the blood.

APPENDIX B
STUDY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CLASS C OPERATORS

1. What is the minimum age at which you can get a Class C driver license without either driver education or being a hardship case? (Chpt. 1)

2. How much is the maximum fine for a first conviction of driving without a license? (Chpt. 1)

3. What type of restrictions may be placed on your license? (Chpt. 1)

4. In what direction should you turn your wheels when parking uphill without a curb? (Chpt. 7)

5. What action should you take if you fail to receive the renewal notice card reminding you that your driver license is about to expire? (Chpt. 1)

6. On a one-way street, what color is the broken lane marker? (Chpt. 5)

7. Describe the “Yield” sign. (Chpt. 5)

8. What does a “Narrow Bridge” sign look like, and how should the driver react when he sees one? (Chpt. 5)

9. What is the shape of a “Keep Right” sign, and how should the driver react when he sees one? (Chpt. 5)

10. Which sign tells you to slow down because you are approaching a double curve? (Chpt. 5)

11. What does a “Do Not Pass” sign mean? (Chpt. 5)

12. Which sign tells you to keep in the right-hand lane when driving slow? (Chpt. 5)

13. What does “Yield Right-of-Way” mean? (Chpt. 4, 5)

14. Describe the equipment required on passenger cars by state law. (Chpt. 2)

15. What is the purpose of an exhaust emission system? (Chpt. 2)

16. Describe the types of equipment which Texas state law specifically forbids on passenger cars driven within the state. (Chpt. 2)

17. How should you react when a traffic officer tells you to do something which is ordinarily considered to be against the law? (Chpt. 5)

18. Once the brakes have been applied, about how many feet does a car which was going 70 mph travel before it comes to a stop? (Chpt. 8)

19. When is it necessary to stop before proceeding when you overtake a school bus loading or unloading children? (Chpt. 4)

20. About how many feet will the average driver going 50 mph travel from the moment he sees danger until he hits the brakes? (Chpt. 8)

21. Within how many feet of a crosswalk may you park, when parking near a corner? (Chpt. 7)

22. What is the state speed limit for automobiles in urban districts? (Chpt. 8)

23. Does a posted speed limit of 55 mph mean that you may drive 55 mph on that highway under all conditions? (Chpt. 8)

24. You should never drive on the left half of the roadway when you are within how many feet from an intersection, bridge, or railroad crossing? (Chpt. 6)

25. What should you do if you discover you are in the wrong lane to make a turn as you enter an intersection? (Chpt. 6)

26. When two cars meet at the intersection of a two-lane road with a four-lane road, which one must yield the right-of-way? (Chpt. 4)

27. If you are driving and hear a siren coming, what should you do? (Chpt. 4)

28. What is the first thing that should be done when a car starts to skid? (Chpt. 9)

29. At what time of the day should your headlights be turned on? (Chpt. 9)

30. Under what conditions may your driver's license be suspended? (Chpt. 1)

31. What is carbon monoxide, and how may it be harmful to drivers? (Chpt. 14)

32. Describe what you should do if you have a blowout while driving. (Chpt. 9)

33. What should you do when driving down a steep grade in a car with standard transmission? (Chpt. 9)

34. What should you do if you damage an unattended vehicle? (Chpt. 11)

35. When are accident reports required? (Chpt. 11)

36. If you are required to show proof of financial responsibility for the future, how many years must such proof be kept up? (Chpt. 3)

37. What type of sign warns you to watch right and left for cross traffic? (Chpt. 5)

38. Describe the emblem which identifies vehicles which travel at speeds of 25 mph or less. (Chpt. 15)

39. In which gear should you drive when going down a steep hill? (Chpt. 9)

40. What qualifications must one have to teach a beginner to drive? (Chpt. 1)

41. If the person is under 18, when does his provisional license expire? (Chpt. 1)

42. When parked parallel, your curb side wheels must be no more than how many inches from the curb? (Chpt. 7)

43. When following another car, what is a good rule to determine the distance at which you should follow behind? (Chpt. 9)

44. To what agency and within what time period must a change of address be reported for driver licensing purposes? (Chpt. 1)

45. What effects does the use of marijuana and amphetamine have on driving? (Chpt. 10)

46. What is the penalty for being convicted of driving while intoxicated? (Chpt. 10)

47. What does a green arrow showing with a red light mean? (Chpt. 5)

48. How should you react to a flashing red light? (Chpt. 5)

49. Which sign tells you to watch out for a train? (Chpt. 5)

50. Describe the sign which warns you to slow down for a winding road. (Chpt. 5)

51. What sign indicates that the road that you are on merges with another? (Chpt. 5)

52. What kind of sign warns you that the highest safe speed for the turn ahead is 25 mph? (Chpt. 5)

53. Describe the sign that tells you to watch for cross traffic ahead. (Chpt. 5)

54. What type of sign warns you that you should slow down for a sharp rise in the roadway? (Chpt. 5)

55. Describe the type of sign which would let you know that you were on a short state highway in a city or urban area. (Chpt. 5)

56. What is the maximum number of inches that you may lawfully allow an object to extend beyond the left fender of your car? (Chpt. 2)

57. Under what conditions must you always stop? (Chpt. 4, 5)

58. What should you do when coming onto a street from a private alley or driveway? (Chpt. 4)

59. If a child runs into the road 45 to 50 feet ahead of your car, what is the highest speed from which you can stop with good brakes without hitting him? (Chpt. 8)

60. How close to a fireplug may a vehicle lawfully park? (Chpt. 7)

61. What does a posted speed limit of 55 mph mean? (Chpt. 5)

62. What is the maximum speed limit for passenger cars on Texas Highway numbered by this state or United States outside an urban district? (Chpt. 8)

63. Under what circumstances should you never attempt to pass a car ahead of you? (Chpt. 6)

64. Under what conditions are overtaking and passing to the right not permitted? (Chpt. 6)

65. When a driver is waiting to make a left turn, what is the procedure he should take when the light turns green? (Chpt. 5, 6)

66. What precautions should a driver take at uncontrolled intersections? (Chpt. 4)

67. What regulations should a bicycle rider observe? (Chpt. 13)

68. Under what conditions should headlights be used? (Chpt. 9)

69. You should dim your lights when you are within how many feet of an

approaching car? (Chpt. 9)

70. What type of lighting should cars use when parked on the highway at night? (Chpt. 9)

71. Which lights should you use when you are driving in a fog? (Chpt. 9)

72. When are you required to show proof of financial responsibility? (Chpt. 3)

73. When needed, how may one show proof of financial responsibility? (Chpt. 3)

74. What sign warns you that you must slow down? (Chpt. 5)

75. What circumstances may lead to possible loss of your license? (Chpt. 1)

76. In addition to mufflers, what new equipment is required on all cars manufactured in 1968 and after? (Chpt. 2)

77. Why are seat belts important? (Chpt. 14)

78. What is meant by “defensive driving?” (Chpt. 14)

79. What are the different classes of licenses and age requirements for each? (Chpt. 1)

80. When is a bicyclist not required to ride to the right of the roadway? (Chpt. 13)

81. When are bicyclists allowed to ride two abreast in a traffic lane? (Chpt. 13)

82. What are the three most common motorist caused car-bicycle crashes? (Chpt. 13)

83. What are the penalties for minors (persons under the age of 21) convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol? (Chpt. 10)

84. What are the penalties for minors (persons under the age of 21) convicted of nondriving alcohol-related offenses? (Chpt. 10)

STUDY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CLASS A AND B OPERATORS

85. What is the maximum speed limit for heavy trucks on the highway at night? (Chpt. 8)

86. What should you do when going down a steep grade in a heavy vehicle? (Chpt. 9, 15)

87. What should you do when turning right in a vehicle which is too large to be turned by staying in the proper lane? (Chpt. 15)

88. How can farm tractors meet lighting requirements when operating on the highway at night? (Chpt. 15)

89. What are the vehicle size and weight requirements for Class A, B, and C driver licenses (non-CDL)? (Chpt. 1)

90. What should be the first action of the driver of a disabled truck or bus? (Chpt. 15)

91. Where should flares be placed around a truck when necessary? (Chpt. 15)

92. What is the required lighting of a semi-trailer 80 inches or more in width? (Chpt. 15)

93. What are the height limits between which reflectors must be mounted? (Chpt. 15)

94. What color should clearance lamps, side marker lamps, or reflectors mounted on or near the front of a vehicle be? (Chpt. 15)

95. What is the greatest height allowed by state law for a vehicle including its load? (Chpt. 15)

96. What is the greatest weight allowed by state law for any vehicle including its load? (Chpt. 15)

97. What should be the greatest distance between two vehicles when one vehicle is towing the other? (Chpt. 15)

98. What should you do when hauling equipment that is wider, heavier, or longer than the law permits? (Chpt. 15)

99. When are turn indicator signals required on a vehicle? (Chpt. 15)

100. Outside the city limits, what type of vehicle must stop at all railroad crossings? (Chpt. 15)

101. What types of vehicles are required to have mud flaps? (Chpt. 15)

102. What is the maximum speed limit for a taxicab on a numbered U.S. or state highway during the day? (Chpt. 8)

103. What is the maximum speed limit for motorbuses at night on numbered U.S. and state highways? (Chpt. 8)

104. What are the limits on load extensions over the front and rear of vehicles? (Chpt. 15)

105. What is the safest method to use when backing a large truck? (Chpt. 15)

106. What is the purpose of requiring registration papers on trucks at all times? (Chpt. 15)

107. All school buses, taxis, and other vehicles hauling passengers for hire must carry a chemical-type fire extinguisher of at least what capacity? (Chpt. 15)

108. What are the requirements concerning clearance lights on trucks and buses? (Chpt. 15)

109. Every trailer, semi-trailer, or pole-trailer must have how many reflectors on the rear? (Chpt. 15)

110. Mounted reflectors must be at least how many inches above the ground? (Chpt. 15)

111. Clearance lamps mounted on or near the rear of a vehicle must be what color? (Chpt. 15)

112. Flashing lights are permitted on what types of vehicles? (Chpt. 15)

113. What is the greatest width ordinarily allowed by state law for a vehicle on the highway? (Chpt. 15)

114. What usually determines the number of trailers that may ordinarily be pulled by one vehicle? (Chpt. 15)

115. What is the greatest length ordinarily allowed by state law for any combination of truck and trailer? (Chpt. 15)

116. What is the minimum weight which a trailer or semi-trailer must have before the vehicle is required to have brakes that can be applied by the driver? (Chpt. 15)

117. When towing another vehicle with a chain or cable, the flag which is attached to the chain or cable must be what color? (Chpt. 15)

118. When one truck is following another truck or vehicle it must keep far enough back to allow how many vehicles to safely enter between them? (Chpt. 15)

119. When mud flaps are required on a vehicle, they must come within how many inches of the surface? (Chpt. 15)

120. What are the regulations regarding lugs and flanges on Texas state highways? (Chpt. 15)

APPENDIX C
FULL-TIME DRIVER LICENSE OFFICES

Driver License offices are normally open from 8am until 5pm, Monday through Friday. Some offices offer extended hours in the morning, late afternoon or early evening. A few offices routinely close during the noon hour. The exact schedule can be determined by calling the office nearest you. If your city does not appear on this list of full-time offices, inquire at your local courthouse or city hall about the location and schedule of a part-time office in your area. (or, you may search by city or county at the following website:
http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/admininstration/driver_licensing_control/rolodex/search.asp)

Part-time offices are normally staffed with only one examiner. Depending on the location, examiners are required to be away from the office part of the day while they are conducting driving tests and other Department business. It is suggested that applicants contact a part-time office prior to going in for service in order to determine the examiner's work schedule for that particular day.

Abilene	325/695-0988	4649 South First Street
Alice	361/664-2113	300 South Johnson Street
Alvin	281/585-4525	113 East Sealy
Amarillo	806/468-1400	4200 Canyon Drive
Angleton	979/849-5711 Ext. 1521	501 South Velasco
Aransas Pass	361/758-8680	913 South Commercial
Arlington	817/274-1818	3901 W Arkansas, Suite 111
Athens	903/675-6091	511 Hwy 174 West
Atlanta	903/796-3301	310 North Louise
Austin North	512/424-2076	6121 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin Northwest	512/506-2847	13730 Research Blvd. (US Hwy 183N)
Austin South	512/444-5241	4719 South Congress
Bastrop	512/581-7152	305 Eskew Street
Bay City	979/245-9353	510 Avenue F
Baytown	281/424-1339	5420 Decker Dr
Beaumont	409/924-5400	7200 Eastex Freeway
Beeville	361/358-6272	400 South Hillside
Big Spring	432/267-5671	5725 IH 20 West
Boerne	830/249-6335	1414 East Blanco, Suite 2
Bonham	903/583-5613	1203 East Sam Rayburn
Borger	806/273-2453	3429 Fairlanes Blvd.
Brenham	979/836-2020	Highway 290 West
Brownfield	806/637-3625	802 North Ballard
Brownsville	956/983-1920	2901 Paredes Line
Brownwood	325/646-0180	541 Commerce Square
Bryan	979/776-3110	1003 N Earl Rudder Frwy
Canton	903/567-2346	1601 North Trade Days Blvd

Carthage	903/693-3261	Courthouse, Room 101
Carrollton	972/245-5800	2625 Old Denton Road, Suite 310
Cedar Hill	469/272-9301	116 W Beltline, Suite 2
Center	936/598-6152	Hwy 96 South
Childress	940/937-2560	1700 Ave F NW, Suite A
Clarksville	903/427-2931	500 N Cedar
Clear Lake Area	281/486-8242	111 Tristar, Webster
Cleburne	817/202-2650	600 West Kilpatrick
Cleveland	281/592-5983	304 Campbell Rd., Room #123
Columbus	979/732-3451	3229 Columbus Loop
Conroe	936/442-2810	#2 Hilbig Street
Copperas Cove	254/547-9130	201 South 2nd Street Suite 5
Corpus Christi	361/698-5625	1922 South Padre Island Drive
Corsicana	903/872-5631	3030 S Hwy 287
Crosbyton	806-675-2131	215 South Berkshire
Crockett	936/544-5917	1125 E Loop 304
Crystal City	830/374-2222	County Courthouse
Cuero	361/275-6154	208 East Live Oak
Daingerfield	903-645-2363	500 Broadnax
Dallas Downtown (Renewals only)	214/651-1859	1500 Marilla, 1B, South
Dallas-East	214/553-0033	11411 East Northwest Highway #111
Dallas-SW	214/330-3958	5610 Red Bird Center, #500
Decatur	940/627-5694	2000 South Trinity
Del Rio	830/703-1225	2012 Veterans Blvd.
Denton	940/484-6666	820 North Loop 288
Denver City	806/592-2873	412 West 5th Street
Dumas	806/935-5058	817 South Bliss Ave.
Duncanville	(Currently closed - new location pending)	
Eagle Pass	830/773-5050	32 Foster-Maldonado Blvd
Eastland	254/629-8383	1002 Lago Vista
Edinburg	956/383-3471	1212 S 25th
El Paso Northwestern	915/877-1647	1854 Northwestern
El Paso Gateway E.	915/598-3487	7300 Gateway East
El Paso Hondo Pass	915/751-6455	4505 Hondo Pass
El Paso Scott Simpson	915/849-4100	11612 Scott Simpson
Floresville	830-393-7216	800 10th Street
Fredericksburg	830/997-1932	125 W Main St
Fort Worth South	817/294-1075	6413 Woodway Drive
Gainesville	940/665-3924	206 W California
Galveston	409/740-0031	6812 Broadway
Garland	214/861-2125	350 West IH 30
Gatesville	254/865-2444	606 B Leon Street
Georgetown	512/863-5816	515 Pine Street (7th & Pine)
Gilmer	903/797-2751	Highway 155 North
Gonzales	830/672-3328	1709 Sarah Dewitt Drive
Graham	940-549-1490	142 Elm
Grand Prairie	972/264-6598	550 S Carrier Pkwy, Suite 570

Granbury	817/573-7381	1402 W. Pearl Street
Greenville	903/453-6916	2801 Stuart Street, #408
Groesbeck	254/729-5554	1221 E Yeagua
Harlingen	956/423-4431	1630 North 77 Sunshine Strip
Hempstead	979/826-7649	Hwy 290 East
Henderson	903/657-6095	325 Fair Park
Hereford	806/364-6481	303 East 3rd Street
Hillsboro	254/582-5044	126 S Covington
Houston-Dacoma	713/683-0541	4545 Dacoma
Houston-Winkler	713/943-0631	9206 Winkler
Houston-Grant Road	281/890-5440	10503 Grant Road
Houston-S Gessner	713/219-4100	12220 S Gessner
Houston-Tidwell	713/633-9872	8825 Tidwell
Houston-Townhurst	713/465-8462	1601 Townhurst
Houston-Vantage Pkwy	281/449-2685	15403 Vantage Pkwy Suite 102
Humble	281/446-3391	7710 Will Clayton Parkway
Huntsville	936/295-1578	501 Interstate 45
Hurst	817/299-1300	624 North East Loop 820
Irving	972/253-4171	1003 West 6th Street
Jacksonville	903/586-5631	506 E Pine
Jasper	409/384-5712	U.S. 190 & FM 777
Katy	281/391-4874	6002 George Bush, #7
Kerrville	830/258-5750	311 Sidney Baker Street
Killeen	254/634-1919	302 Priest Drive
Kingsville	361/592-1911	Ed Lopez Building
Lake Worth	817/238-9197	6316 Lake Worth Boulevard
Laredo	956/728-2301	1901 Bob Bullock Loop
Levelland	806/894-7026	1212 Houston Street
Lewisville	972/221-8081	190 North Valley Parkway
Liberty	936/336-7343	2103 Cos
Littlefield	806/385-5679	100 6th Street Rm B-08
Livingston	936/327-6806	1735 North Washington
Longview	903/758-1788	416 Lake Lamond
Lubbock	806/472-2800	1302 Mac Davis Lane
Lufkin	936/699-7331	2809 South John Redditt
Marble Falls	830/798-3222	810 Steve Hawkins, Courthouse Annex
Marshall	903/938-2171	5215 W Loop 390 N
McAllen	956/984-5648	1414 North Bicentennial
McKinney	214/733-5350	400 Power House
Midland	432/498-2366	2405 South Loop 250 West
Mineral Wells	940/325-0227	600 FM 1821 North
Mount Pleasant	903/572-6888	1906 N. Jefferson
Muleshoe	806/272-3860	300 South First St
Nacogdoches	936/560-5826	5407 Northwest Stalling
New Boston	903/628-6822	710 James Bowie
New Braunfels	830/625-8111	3003 IH-35 West
Odessa	432/332-0637	1910 IH 20 West
Orange	409/883-0273	U.S. 87 at 105

Palestine	903/661-5030	1900 Spring
Pampa	806/665-7160	2909 Perryton Parkway
Paris	903/784-3800	2885 North Main
Pasadena	713/473-3232	2731 Red Bluff
Perryton	806/435-4642	101 S.W. 4th St., W.M. Good Building
Pierce	979/541-4590	16192 Hwy 59
Plainview	806/293-2508	1108 South Columbia
Plano	972/867-4221	2109 West Parker Road, Suite 224
Port Arthur	409/982-1131	900 4th Street
Port Lavaca	361/552-5046	201 West Austin
Quitman	903/763-4212	Courthouse Annex, 211 B Bermuda
Rio Grande City	956/716-4844	100 FM 3167 Suite 218
Rockwall	972/771-1691	Rockwall County, Annex Bldg 111 Ridge Road
Rosenberg	281/663-5424	5505 Avenue N
San Angelo	325/223-6903	1600 West Loop 306
San Antonio Babcock	210/737-1911	1258 Babcock Road
San Antonio S. New Braunfels	210/533-9171	6502 South New Braunfels
San Antonio S. General McMullen	210/436-6611	1803 South General McMullen
San Marcos	512/353-2770	1400 IH-35 North
Seguin	830/379-6802	1440 East Kingsbury
Sherman	903/813-3420	1413 Texoma Parkway
Sinton	361/364-1956	301 North Vineyard
Snyder	325/573-5631	909 25th Street, Ste. 103
Stephenville	254/965-7894	U.S. 281 South
Sulphur Springs	903/885-7871	1528 E Shannon Roa
Taylor	512/352-4160	412 Vance
Temple	254/770-6734	6612 S General Bruce Drive
Terrell	972/551-6050	111 Tejas Drive
Texarkana	903/793-1653	1516 Hampton Road
Texas City	409/938-3565	1325 Amburn Road
Tyler	903/939-6014	4700 University Blvd.
Universal City	210/945-1900	1633 Pat Booker Road
Uvalde	830/278-5630	2901 East Main Street
Vernon	940/552-6372	1700 Wilbarger B-6
Victoria	361/578-3450	8802 North Navarro
Waco	254/759-7121	1617 East Crest Drive
Waxahachie	972/937-5370	902 E. Jefferson
Weatherford	817/599-7631	1309 South Bowie Drive
Weslaco	956/968-2722	413 South Oregon
Wichita Falls	940/851-6066	5505 North Central Expressway
Wallisville	409/389-2491	20906 IH-10
Woodville	409/283-7757	1001 West Bluff

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