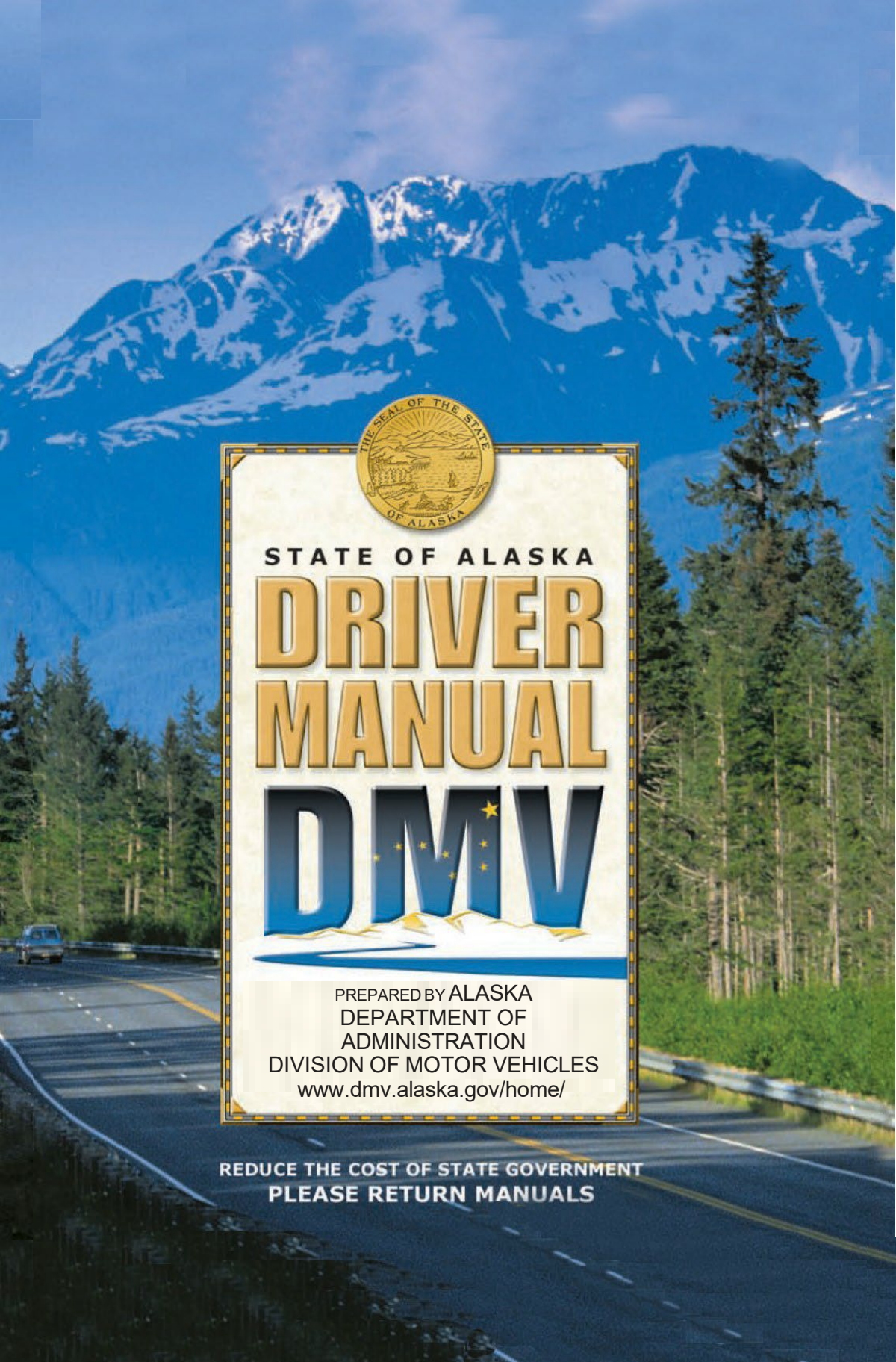


STATE OF ALASKA

DRIVER MANUAL

DMV

PREPARED BY ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
www.dmv.alaska.gov/home/

REDUCE THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT
PLEASE RETURN MANUALS

STATE OF ALASKA

DRIVER MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to provide the reader with a general familiarity with the principles of safe and lawful operation of a motor vehicle.
The contents of this manual are NOT intended to serve as a precise statement of all the Statutes and Regulations of the State of Alaska pertaining to the operation of a motor vehicle and should not be understood by the reader as such.

REV.10/2025

INDEX

Accidents (see Crash)
Address Change 9
Addresses for Motor Vehicle Offices 80
Administrative Hearing 17
Administrative Revocation 16
Alcohol and Driving 14-19
Animals, Struck by Vehicle 60
Bicycles 43-45
Backing 26, 63
Braking Distance 28
Change of Address 9
Change of Name 9
Changing Lanes 57
Child Restraints, Safety Belts 20-23
Classes of Driver Licenses and Permits 2
Certified Driving Record 9
Control of Vehicle at Intersections 34-35
Control of Vehicle 25
Crash reporting & what to do at the scene 11
Distracted Driving 24
Driver License Requirements 5
Driving Examination 6-7
Driving Records 9
Drugs and Driving 14-19
Duplicate License 9
Emergencies 58, 66
Emergency Vehicles 64-65
Equipment Required for Safety 68
Equipment Requirement 68-69
Examinations (Written, Vision, Driving) 5-7
Financial Responsibility 10
Four-Second Rule 28
Following other Vehicles 27-28
Highways and Roads 56-58
Identification Requirements 2-3
Ignition Interlock Device 19
Implied Consent Law 14
Inspection of Vehicle Prior to Driving Test 7, 68
Instruction Permit 2
Intersections 33-35
Lighting Equipment 54-55
Littering from Vehicle 79
Mandatory Insurance 10
Markings on Pavement 54-57
Merging onto highway 58
Motorcycles, sharing the road with 43-47
Name Change 9
Night Driving 54
Obstruction to Drivers View 26
Office Locations 80
Organ and Tissue Donation 9
Parental Consent 3
Parking 62-63
Passing 36-37, 57
Pavement Markings 54-57
Pedestrian 43-44
Point System 11
Provisional License 5-6
Railroad Crossing 58-59
Revocations 13
Right of Way (Yield) 31-35
Roads and Highways 56-58
Round Abouts 34
Safety Belts, Child Restraints 20-23
Safety Equipment Required 68-69
Safety Tips 69
School Bus 48, 70-71
Seat Belts 20-21
Signaling 30
Signs 38-53
Skids 61
Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem 49
Speed and Speed Laws 25-29, 56
Stops Required 36
Suspensions 13
Telephone Numbers 80
Texting 24
Towing 30
Traffic Lights 50-53
Turn Signals 30
Turns 31-32
Vehicle Inspection Prior to Driving Test 7, 68
Vision Test 6
Weather Conditions 59
Withdrawal of Parental Consent 3
Written Examination 6-7

TO ALL WHO NOW DRIVE and those who will drive: a safe driver must constantly demonstrate a courteous attitude and exercise sound judgment. To qualify for an operator's license you must acquire knowledge, develop skills, and possess the necessary physical and mental qualifications. As a beginning driver the privilege to drive represents a steppingstone in your life. It can be a pleasant experience and lead to economic wellbeing and enjoyment. It can also be a fatal experience and result in pain and grief. Your future, as a driver, might very well be decided by how well you study and absorb the information contained in this manual and how conscientiously you practice the principles. You are invited to join the drivers who are already sharing Alaska's streets and highways.

AS AN EXPERIENCED DRIVER a review of this guide will enable you to improve your driving and your understanding of the increasingly complex traffic patterns and control measures.

AN UNINFORMED, unskilled driver is a traffic hazard. Won't you join the thousands of Alaskans who exemplify that crash and violation free driving is the result of the application of safe driving principles and courtesy? Make driving a safe and enjoyable experience for yourself and other drivers who share the road with you.

Produced By:
Division of Motor Vehicles

THIS MANUAL MAY NOT BE USED DURING THE TEST

ONLINE SERVICES



Go to https://dmv.alaska.gov/home/

to access all the Alaska DMV Online Services:

Take a practice knowledge test
Take an online knowledge test (fees may apply)
Make an appointment to take a knowledge test at DMV office, get a permit or license issued
Schedule a driving test
See the mailing status for an issued license or permit
Duplicate a license or permit
Renew a license or permit
Get a certified driving record

WHO MUST HAVE AN ALASKA DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Every person who operates a motor vehicle on Alaska streets, highways, or other public property must have a valid Alaska driver's license or permit. The few exceptions are listed below.

WHO IS EXEMPT?

1. A non-resident who is at least 16 years of age and has in their possession a valid driver's license issued by another state or country. However, an Alaska driver's license must be obtained by the end of a 90-day period after entry into the state.
2. A member of the armed forces of the United States, and their spouse who is over the age of 18, who has a valid driver's license issued by another state, and who maintains permanent residence in that state. A member's dependents are not exempt.
3. A person when driving farm equipment that is only temporarily driven or moved on a highway.
4. An employee of the United States Government while operating a United States Government vehicle on official business.
5. A commercial driver who is domiciled in another state.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Alaska has seven classes of driver's licenses and two types of permits. Classes A, B, and C are licenses used for operating commercial motor vehicles. A separate manual is published for persons interested in obtaining a commercial driver's license. Class D is the license used for operating passenger vehicles. Motorcycles and motor scooters with engine displacements of less than 50cc can also be operated with a class D license. To take the test for your Class D license online, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com.

Class M1 are licenses used to operate motorcycles and motor scooters with engine displacements of 50cc or more. Individuals who are 14 or 15 years of age may obtain a M2 license for motor scooters with an engine displacement of less than 50 cc. A Class M3 license allows the operation of three-wheeled motorcycles (trike), three wheeled motor-driven cycles, and three-wheeled motorized bicycles with an engine displacement of 50 cc or more. The Division of Motor Vehicles publishes a separate manual for persons interested in obtaining a motorcycle license.

Instruction permits, which allow for drivers to practice driving are the IP, IM, and IE classes.

- IP- Non-commercial motor vehicles
- IM- 2- or 3-wheel motorcycles and motor driven cycles with engine displacement 50cc's or more
- IE- Non-commercial motor vehicles valid only during operation under the supervision of a licensed driver training school instructor

IDENTIFICATION

When you apply for an original driver's license or permit, you must furnish:

- Your Social Security Number. While you don't need to present your card, the social security number must match what is in the Social Security Database used by the division.
- Proof of residence address, such as a bank statement, utility bill, or pay stub.
- Documentary proof of your date of birth, U.S. Citizenship, or proof of authorized stay.

The proof of date of birth may consist of one of the following:

1. Certified United States birth certificate. The certificate must have a raised seal and be issued by an authorized government agency such as the Bureau of Vital Statistics or State Board of Health. Hospital issued certificates and baptismal certificates are not acceptable.
2. Court order which must contain the individual's full name, date of birth, and court seal. Some examples include an adoption document, a name change document, or gender change document. It does not include an abstract of criminal or civil conviction.
3. Military identification card for active duty, retiree, or reservist. (Service member only. Dependent military ID'S are not acceptable as a primary document.)
4. Passport - U.S., expired passports are not valid.
5. Passport Card-US
6. Report of Birth Abroad by a Citizen of the United States, issued by a U.S. consular officer.
7. Passport – foreign with the following Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) documents are acceptable. The document must be an original. Expired documents are unacceptable:
   a. Resident Alien Card or Permanent Resident Card (I-551)
   b. Temporary Resident Card (I-688)
   c. Valid foreign passport with appropriate immigration documents
   d. Employment Authorization Card or Employment Authorization Document (I-688A, I-688B, or I-766)
   e. Certificate of Citizenship or Naturalization

Proof of authorized stay in the United States is required to renew an Alaska license, permit or identification card.

If the name on the document for proof of date of birth does not match the name on the document for proof of identification, certified copies of legal documents of name change must be provided to link all names previously used.

PARENTAL CONSENT

Alaska statutes require parental signature for all minors under the age of 18 who are applying for a driver's license or instruction permit. The law provides that any negligence or willful misconduct of a minor under the age of 18 when driving a motor vehicle may be attributed to the person who signed the parental consent for the minor. By giving their consent and signing the parental consent for the minor, the signer may become liable for damages in a motor vehicle crash.

A parent or guardian must complete and sign the parental consent portion on the back of the Application for Alaska Driver License, Permit or Identification Card (Form D1) prior to issuance of a permit or license for an applicant under the age of 18. A legal guardian is defined as one who is appointed by the courts and presents court documents so stating. [AS 13.06.050 (20)] "Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person in accordance with testamentary or court appointment but excludes a person who is merely a guardian "ad litem". A separate consent is required for each specific type of permit or license that is issued. If the parent is not present, a properly completed and notarized Parent/Guardian Consent for a Minor (Form433) is required. The parent or guardian may withdraw consent; however, only the person who signed the parental consent form can withdraw consent. That person may submit to the DMV a notarized written request or witnessed by a DMV employee. The DMV will then cancel the

minor's license or permit. To take the test for your Class D license online, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com .

NON-COMMERCIAL INSTRUCTION PERMIT

An instruction permit is required for everyone learning to drive on a street or highway. If you are 14 years of age or older, you may obtain the permit which is valid for two years. While you are learning to drive, you must be accompanied by a licensed driver. The licensed driver must be at least 21 years of age and have at least one year of driving experience for the same type or class of vehicle you are driving.

For passenger vehicles, the licensed driver must occupy the seat beside you. For motorcycles or motor scooters, you must be within visual sight and under the immediate supervision of the licensed driver.

A special instruction permit as, defined by AS 28.15.051, may be issued to those persons enrolled in an approved high school, community college, commercial driver training course, or approved medical program.

If you are 16 or 17, you must have a valid instruction permit for 6 months before the DMV can issue you a provisional Class D license.

Each type of non-commercial instruction permit issued is valid for 2 years and can only be renewed one time. To obtain an original instruction permit, you must satisfy the identification requirements, pass the vision and written tests, and if you are under 18 years of age, have parental consent. The fee for an original instruction permit is $15.00. To take the online written test for your instruction permit, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com.

If you have previously held a license for that class of license you may obtain another permit after five years of expiration.

DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Driving is a privilege, not a right. Following is information concerning a driver's license.

1. A license may be issued to an applicant who is at least 16 years of age.
2. The license must be always in the licensee's possession while driving.
3. A license must be signed by the licensee to be valid.
4. Separate tests are required for the operation of a motorcycle, motor scooter, or moped.
5. If you are under 21 years of age your driver's license will expire 90 days after your 21st birthday. An alcohol awareness test must be passed prior to renewing. To take the online written test for your instruction permit and alcohol awareness training, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com.
6. As a result of physical conditions, some drivers are restricted to driving with corrective lenses, special equipment, or otherwise.
7. A license will not be issued to an applicant whose privilege to drive is suspended, canceled, or revoked in Alaska or in another state.
8. An applicant holding an out-of-state license may be required to surrender that license before an Alaska license will be issued.
9. Dependents of military personnel (other than the spouse) who plan to drive in this state must obtain an Alaskan license.
10. Conviction of driving while license is cancelled, suspended, revoked, or in violation of a limited license will result in a jail sentence of not less than 10 days.
11. Social Security Numbers are mandatory for all permits and licenses.
12. Applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age must have a valid instruction permit for at least 6 months before they can be issued a license.

PROVISIONAL LICENSES

Provisional licenses will give a new driver the opportunity to gain experience while lessening distractions, which may lead to illegal maneuvers and possible crashes. By closely monitoring the young person's driving record and illegal use of alcohol or drugs, more responsible drivers will gain their full license privileges before 18 years of age. Some drivers will have provisional restrictions until their 18th birthday due to their driving behavior. All parents should consider other restrictions, which may help their young driver have a safer beginning experience as an independent driver. Cell phone and stereo use while driving should be discussed as well as eating and drinking while driving. Any activity, even conversation, can take the focus off the driving, causing distractions, which can lead to violations and crashes.

If you are under 18 years of age and obtaining your first driver license you: must have a valid permit for 6 months prior to obtaining your provisional license; your parent, legal guardian, or employer must certify that you have had at least 40 hours of driving experience, including at least 10 hours of driving in progressively challenging circumstances, such as driving in inclement weather and nighttime driving; and

You must NOT have been convicted of a violation of a traffic law within the six months before you apply for your provisional driver license.

Once you obtain your provisional license you may not graduate to a driver license for at least six months and cannot have been convicted of violating a traffic law or been convicted of violating AS 04.16.050(c), repeat minor consuming alcohol, during the six months before applying for a driver license.

During the provisional license stage which is a minimum of six months and can remain in effect up to the age of 18, you:

- MAY NOT carry passengers unless one of the passengers is a parent, legal guardian, or a person at least 21 years of age
- MAY carry, without a parent in the vehicle, passengers if they are siblings.
- MAY NOT operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am unless accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a person at least 21 years of age who is licensed to drive the class of vehicle being used.
- MAY operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 1:00am and 5:00am to or from your place of employment or within the scope of your employment and driving is along the most direct route.

After six months of conviction free driving and no convictions for illegal use of alcohol or drugs, you may have the provisional restriction removed. To remove a provisional restriction a new parental consent must be provided, and a new driver license issued for a fee of $15.00. A driver 18 years of age or older may obtain a license without provisional restrictions without parental consent for a fee of $15.00.

Note: The passenger and hour restrictions do not apply if you have an “off system” license restricted to areas not connected to the land highway system or is not connected to a highway where average daily traffic volume is 499 or greater.

After 18 years of age, or once you go to DMV and remove the restrictions, the restrictions no longer apply.

EXAMINATIONS

The examinations conducted by the Division of Motor Vehicles are designed to aid in the determination of the applicant’s mental and physical competence; also, to determine whether the applicant has acquired the knowledge and technical skills to safely operate a motor vehicle.

VISION: A test is required of each driver to determine visual acuity before any license or permit is issued. This includes original, renewal, and duplicate licenses. A tele binocular device is used to check vision. If you normally wear corrective lenses, bring them with you when you apply for any type of license. In lieu of the vision test, you may submit a certified statement from a licensed physician or optometrist stating that your vision meets or exceeds the department’s standards. The standards are as follows:

1. To qualify you must have, in each eye or with both eyes together, at least 20/40 vision.
2. If you need corrective lenses to qualify, you must wear them while driving.
3. If you fail to qualify because you are unable to see well, you will be denied a license or permit until you are able to qualify.

WRITTEN: The written test is required for applicants not currently licensed in Alaska or whose driving privileges have been expired for over one year, or whose driving privileges have been revoked. An alcohol awareness written test must be taken after your 21st birthday prior to an original or renewal driver license. The written test covers only information found in this manual, including traffic laws, safe driving practices, and highway sign recognition. If failed, the test may be retaken the following day. If you can understand the English language, but are unable to read or have difficulty reading, you may bring someone who may read the questions to you, but you must independently answer the questions. To take the online written test for your instruction permit, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com.

DRIVING: The driving test is required for applicants who have never been licensed, or who have not had a valid license for the past 5 years, or whose driving privileges have been revoked. Usually, a person who has a valid license from another state is not required to take the driving test. Driving tests are available at most Division of Motor Vehicle offices or through state approved third party testers. You may be required to make an appointment, and you must pay a nonrefundable driving test fee prior to taking the driving test.

The fee for a driving test through the Division of Motor Vehicles is $15.00. Fees through third party testers vary.

You must furnish a currently registered vehicle with proof of insurance for the test. The vehicle will be checked for required equipment, which must be in good working condition and properly adjusted. The driving test may be refused or delayed until mechanical defects are corrected. Please review the equipment section of this manual.

No one is allowed to accompany you and the examiner during the driving test. The driving test consists of normal driving tasks. You will not be asked to do anything against the law. You will be graded on your ability to perform several tasks such as:

1. Starting and stopping
2. Parking parallel/3 point turn
3. Quick stop
4. Backing
5. Use of turn signals
6. Left and right turns
7. Proper lane change
8. Speed control
9. Following a vehicle
10. Traffic signs and signals
11. Intersection observance
12. General control of the vehicle

The examiner will answer questions on proper driving techniques prior to or following the driving test. Do not converse unnecessarily with the examiner during the test. The examiner will be giving you instructions and scoring your driving skill throughout the test.

Upon completion of the driving test, the examiner will advise you how to correct any errors. If you fail the test, the examiner will advise you about what maneuvers you should practice improving your driving skill and tell you when you may return for another test.

Normally, you must wait two business days to retake the test. A “business day” is Monday-Friday not a State or Federal Holiday.

You will automatically fail for any of the following:

1. Violation of a traffic law
2. Dangerous driving action
3. Lack of cooperation or refusal to perform
4. Contributing to a crash
5. Inability to perform required driving task
6. Driving ability does not meet required standards

Take your written test online:
ak.knowtodrive.com

ALASKA KnowTo Drive knowledge test system allows you to:

✓ Take your test anywhere and at any time, from the convenience of your home on your own device.

✓ Choose from multiple languages and enable audio playback.

✓ Get immediate pass/fail results and directions for next steps once the test is completed.

✓ Avoid multiple trips to the DMV. After you finish, and apply for your certificate immediately.

Schedule your road test online:
https://dmv.alaska.gov/credential-services/road-test/

DMV ROAD TEST Online system allows you to:

✓ Select a Test Type. (i.e., Standard License, Motorcycle, Commercial Driver License)

✓ Select a DMV Location. (i.e., Anchorage, Bethel, Delta Junction, etc.)

✓ Schedule your appointment on the calendar (test can be scheduled 24 hours prior to the test and up to 60 days in advance for some locations.)

✓ Complete your applicant information.

Provide your phone number and email address and we will send you a reminder of your appointment.

✓ Pay with a credit card and print your receipt.

✓ Receive a confirmation email with road test instructions and location directions.

✓ Receive a reminder email 3 days before your appointment.

✓ Reschedule your test up to 24 hours before the test.

✓ Cancel your test (sorry – no refunds for cancelled tests.)

DMV will not refund the driver's test fee if you cancel your appointment within 72 hours of the test, fail to appear, fail the test due to an unsafe vehicle, carry improper registration, or lack proof of insurance.
You may also schedule or change a scheduled road test by calling 907-269-5551.

THIRD PARTY TESTERS: Road tests may be given by a third-party tester at driving schools and at DMV Business Partner offices. Visit DMV's website https://dmv.alaska.gov/home/ and find a list of them all. Third Party testers typically offer vehicles for your use during the test and provide more flexible testing hours compared to the DMV.

OTHER INFORMATION

PHOTOGRAPH: Your picture will be taken after all requirements for a license or permit have been successfully completed. When obtaining a photograph for your driver's license, all hats and head coverings, sunglasses, hair, and theatrical makeup must be removed. Head coverings for religious or medical reasons may remain but must be moved above the forehead to allow a full facial picture to be taken.

FEES: The following fees are charged upon initial issue of a license or permit:

License Type	Standard	Federally Compliant
Non-Commercial Driver License	$20	$40
Commercial Driver License	$100	$120
Motorcycle License	$20	$40
Instruction Permit	$15	$35

DUPLICATE LICENSE: If a license or permit is lost, stolen, destroyed, or is illegible, a duplicate may be obtained. Proper identification must be presented before a duplicate will be issued.

ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGE: Individuals who have a license or permit and who have changed their name or address must notify the Division of Motor Vehicles, in writing, within 30 days of the change. You must provide court ordered documentation to change a name or restore a previous name. A certified marriage certificate issued by vital statistics is also valid for a name change.

CERTIFIED DRIVING RECORDS: If your driving privileges have been suspended, canceled, or revoked by another state, you must obtain written proof from that state showing the suspension or revocation has terminated before an Alaska license can be issued.

DRIVING RECORDS: For a fee of $10.00 a driving record may be provided to the driver, or a person designated by the driver. Generally, when a driver applies for insurance, the application will contain a statement authorizing the insurance company to receive a copy of the driving record of all individuals covered by the policy.

ORGAN /TISSUE DONATION: Donating organs and tissues after a person dies allows several other people to live. There are many thousands of Americans on the organ transplant waiting list; without donations, many people will die.

The State of Alaska has a strong organ and tissue donation program and encourages all Alaskans to consider this option. If you wish to sign up as an organ and tissue donor, you may indicate this on your application at the time your license is issued or renewed. For more information, contact Life Alaska Donor Services at 1-800-719-LIFE or visit www.lifealaska.org.

Voter registration

If you are a US Citizen within 90 days of turning 18 or older, you may choose to register to vote. You can also use the following website to register to vote www.voterregistration.alaska.gov. To use the Online Voter Registration System, you must have a valid Alaska driver's license or state ID card and the information you enter when registering must match the information on your Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) record. If you do not have a valid Alaska driver's license or state ID, or your information cannot be validated, you may select to register using a paper registration form.

You may use this system to Register to vote or Update your Voter Registration.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWS

Alaska has both Financial Responsibility and Mandatory Insurance laws. The purpose of these laws is to protect the motoring public from uninsured drivers on Alaska's streets and highways. These laws allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to remove financially irresponsible drivers from the roads.

Vehicle owners or drivers who are at fault in a collision are required by the Financial Responsibility law to pay for any damage or injury caused to another person. If there is a reasonable possibility that you may be found liable in a civil court, your privilege to drive will be suspended for up to three years. You can end your suspension, at any time during the three-year period, by making a financial settlement with the other parties involved in the crash.

The Mandatory Insurance Law requires either the vehicle owner or driver to carry liability insurance. The minimum amount of liability insurance coverage is $50,000/$100,000 for bodily injury or death and $25,000 for property damage. You must carry proof of liability insurance in your vehicle. Failure to provide proof of liability insurance to a law enforcement officer may result in a traffic citation or the vehicle may be impounded.

If you are involved in a crash, which results in bodily injury or death to a person, or property damage in excess of $501, you must provide - within 15 days - proof of insurance to the Division of Motor Vehicles. Proof of insurance is required from all the drivers involved in the crash regardless of who caused the crash. This means you must provide the proof of insurance even if you did not cause the crash. The requirement to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles is in addition to any report given to the police or your insurance company. Normally the officer investigating the crash will give a certificate of insurance form to the drivers. The certificate of insurance forms are also available at any DMV office or on the state web page. http://www.dot.state.ak.us/12209V4/jsp/12209main.jsp

If you were uninsured or fail to provide the proof within 15 days, your driver's license will be suspended for 90 days for a first occurrence and 1 year for a second occurrence.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EVERY CRASH

1. Stop at once. If you are blocking traffic, move your vehicle out of the way if possible.
2. To prevent other crashes, warn other traffic. At night place flares or other signals on the road. Be careful not to walk out in front of other vehicles.
3. Help anyone who may be hurt. Do not remove an injured person unless necessary. Arrange for an ambulance if needed. Stop serious bleeding and keep the victim warm.
4. Exchange information with anyone else involved in the crash. Obtain the name, address, driver's license number, license plate number, telephone number, and name of insurance company of the other driver. Obtain the identity of as many witnesses as you can.
5. If there is an injury, or total property damage is $2000 or more, and the crash occurred within a municipality, immediately contact the local police department by dialing 911. If the crash occurred outside of a municipality, immediately contact the Alaska State Troopers.
6. Cooperate with the investigating officer.
7. Report the crash to the Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles, within 10 days. Electronic notification can be done via the DMV's website https://dmv.alaska.gov. Or A 12-209 Crash Report may be mailed to 4001 Ingra Street Suite 101 ATTN Driver Services, Anchorage AK, 99503 You may obtain this form at any DMV office or on our web site.
   This report is not required if the crash was investigated by a police officer. The crash report can also be completed online through My Alaska.
   https://www.dot.state.ak.us/12209/ak12209main.jsp
8. Upon striking an unattended vehicle or private property such as a fence, stop and attempt to locate the owner. If unable to do so leave a written note containing your name, address, and telephone number.
9. A Certificate of Insurance is required on all crashes with property damage of $501.00 or more and must be submitted to DMV within 15 days, even if you submitted proof of insurance during the law enforcement investigation.

A WORD ABOUT "POINTS"

Alaska has a law aimed squarely at crash prevention through identification, control, and rehabilitation of recognized problem drivers. The law works this way:

1. Convictions for moving traffic violations are assigned numeric point values ranging from 2 points to 10 points.
2. Violations with the highest likelihood of contributing to crashes are assigned the higher point values.
3. Accumulating 12 points in 12 months or 18 points in 24 months requires the mandatory suspension or revocation of the driving privilege, regardless of the hardships involved.
4. No limited "work purpose" license is available should a suspension or revocation of the driving privilege be required.
5. Traffic law violators are sent a warning letter upon reaching the halfway mark towards a point suspension. Violators are advised to take steps to correct their poor- driving behavior.
6. Credits may be earned for violation-free driving and/or completion of a defensive driver course (DDC). A DDC may be taken once every 12 months for a point reduction.
7. A provisional license holder who accumulates 6 or more points in a 12-month period or 9 or more points in a 24-month period must complete a driver improvement course approved by the Division.
8. Repeated traffic law violations may require a personal interview with a Motor Vehicle Hearing Officer. To keep their privilege to drive, drivers appearing for the interview may be required to comply with certain recommendations designed to improve their driving abilities.

POINTS

DRIVER'S LICENSE POINT ASSIGNMENT

If you are convicted of, or forfeit bail for, a moving traffic violation occurring in this, or any other State, points will be entered on your Alaska driving record. Assigned points are based on the following schedule:

Type of Violation Point	Value
• Operating a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked or in violation of limited license	10
• Driving while intoxicated / under the influence	10
• Reckless driving	10
• Refusal to provide a breath sample	10
• Fleeing or attempting to elude a Police Officer	10
• Speed contest..... Racing	10
• Negligent Homicide with a Motor Vehicle	10
• Manslaughter with a Motor Vehicle	10
• Assault with a Motor Vehicle	10
• Leaving the scene of a crash	9
• Negligent driving	6
• Failure to yield to authorized emergency vehicle	6
• Failure to stop for school bus while bus is loading or unloading	6
• Failure to obey official traffic control devices in school zone, playground, crosswalk, or park	6
• Driving without insurance	6
• Careless driving types of behavior	4
• Following too close	4
• Failure to stop or yield	4
• Minor operating after consuming	6
• Illegal passing in a Traffic Safety Corridor	4
• All other moving violations	2
• Violation of oversize or overweight permits pertaining to restriction on hours of operation	3

SPEEDING:

• In school zone or playground crosswalk	6
• 3 to 9 mph over limit	2
• 10 to 19 mph over limit	4
• 20 mph or more over limit	6

Violation of oversize or overweight permits pertaining to restriction of speed

• 3 to 9 mph over limit	2
• 10 to 19 mph over limit	4
• 20 mph or more over limit	6

SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS

A suspended or revoked license must be turned in to the department. A period of suspension or revocation will continue beyond the ending date unless you properly reinstate your driving privileges, and you file proof of financial responsibility for the future. Anytime your privilege to drive is suspended, revoked, or limited, you will be required to carry financial responsibility for the future after the license action is over. Proof of financial responsibility for the future is usually provided to the Division of Motor Vehicles by submitting an "SR22" insurance filing form. This type of insurance filing requires the insurance company to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles if your liability insurance coverage lapses or is cancelled.

SUSPENSION

The privilege of operating a motor vehicle is temporarily taken away. At the end of the suspension, and upon meeting any reinstatement requirements, you must apply for a duplicate license at one of our field offices. Driving privileges must be suspended for:

1. Operating or owning an uninsured vehicle involved in a crash.

2. Repeated violations of the motor vehicle law (accumulation of points).

3. Driving in violation of license restrictions.

REVOCATION

The privilege of operating a motor vehicle is taken away and the license is revoked. At the end of revocation, when reinstatement requirements are met, a new license may be obtained.

Driving privileges must be revoked for the following court convictions:

1. Driving while under the influence, or refusal to take a chemical test.
2. Driving while license is cancelled, suspended, or revoked.
3. Reckless driving.
4. Failure to stop and render aid at the scene when involved in a personal injury crash.
5. Perjury (giving untrue information relating to motor vehicles to the department).
6. Unlawful flight by motor vehicle to avoid arrest.
7. Felony in connection with a motor vehicle causing injury or death such as Manslaughter, Negligent Homicide, or Assault with a vehicle.

The Division of Motor Vehicles must revoke driving privileges, administratively, for the following offenses:

1. Refusal to submit to a chemical test following an arrest for driving under the influence.
2. Breath test result of .08 or higher (or .04 or higher if operating a commercial motor vehicle) following an arrest for driving under the influence.
3. Habitual violations of motor vehicle laws.
4. (2-point suspensions in a 24-month period.)
5. Minors (under 21) operating a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol.
6. Minors (under 21) refusal to submit to chemical testing.
7. Minors (under 21) using a false driver's license to obtain alcohol.
8. The Division of Motor Vehicles has the authority to take independent action against your driving privileges regardless of the outcome of any related court proceeding. A reinstatement fee is required following any suspension, revocation, or limitation.

IMPLIED CONSENT

When you operate or drive a motor vehicle in the State of Alaska, you are consenting to a chemical test of your breath for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration of your blood or breath. This is known as implied consent.

THE IMPLIED CONSENT LAW ALLOWS:

Law enforcement officers to require a sample of your breath for alcohol testing after a lawful arrest for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

Law enforcement officers to require a sample of your blood or urine for alcohol or controlled substance testing if you are involved in a crash that causes death or serious physical injury to another person.

Depending on your number of prior DUI offenses, refusal to submit to chemical testing after lawful arrest can be a criminal misdemeanor or felony. Refusal to submit to chemical testing will result in two criminal charges – DUI and Refusal – which the court can treat separately. During a revocation period, there is no limited “work purpose” driving privileges for a person who refuses to submit to chemical testing.

Another aspect of the implied consent law allows a law enforcement officer to administer a preliminary breath test at the scene of an incident. If you have been in a crash or committed a moving violation and the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that your ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired by alcohol, the officer can require you to provide a sample of your breath on a portable (preliminary) breath testing instrument. Refusal to submit to preliminary breath testing is an infraction.

ALCOHOL • DRUGS • DRIVING



Impaired drivers continue to kill someone every 51 minutes, nearly 28 people a day, and almost 10,000 citizens a year. In the past decade, four times as many Americans died in drunk driving crashes as were killed in the Vietnam War. About 97% of Americans see drinking and driving as a threat to themselves and their families. Highway fatalities are one of the reasons Alaska has created tough laws against driving under the influence. Before you choose to drive after drinking, we want you to understand the possible consequences.

For the cost of a first time DUI, you could go 11,370 miles in a taxi. That's almost halfway around the world.

BEFORE YOU DRINK AND DRIVE CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES AND ALTERNATIVES…

CONSEQUENCES

- 3 Days in Jail: $270
- Court Fines: $1,500
- Sentencing: $250 +
- Vehicle Impound Fee: $300 +
- Loss of Car: $$$ (30 days)
- Attorney (yours):
  - Change of Plea: $5,000 +
  - Court Proceedings: $3,500 - $5,000 + DMV Hearing: $850
- Attorney (court appointed)
  - Change of plea: $200 Court Proceedings: $500
- SR22 Insurance: $2,000/year -$ 10,000 (5 years)
- License Fee: $20
- License Reinstatement Fee: $200/250/500
- Education Compliance: $150 +



ALTERNATIVES

Designated Driver: Free

Taxi: $2 per mile

Public Transit: $2

Average cost of your first DUI – $22,740

Average cost of an alternative ride $15

Plus:

- Written Test: Free
- Embarrassment: $$$$
- Taxi/Bus/Friends: $$$$
- Loss of Driving Privileges: $ (90 Days)
- Loss of Property (yours/another's): $$$
- Loss of Job/Future Jobs: $$$$
- 10 points on your driving record
- DUI's stay on your record forever
- LOSS OF LIFE: $$$$Priceless$$$$
- Must install an ignition interlock device if required: $1,300

ADMINISTRATIVE REVOCATIONS

FRAUDULENT USE OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE

Alaska law allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to revoke the driving privilege of a person who uses a false or fraudulent driver's license to obtain alcohol. The revocation periods are 60 days for a first offense and 1 year for subsequent offenses.

UNDER 21 VIOLATIONS-MINOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL OR REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO CHEMICAL TESTING

It is illegal in Alaska for a person under the age of 21 to consume alcohol. If you are under 21 and you operate a motor vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft after consuming alcohol in any amount, you can be arrested or cited for the offense of minor operating after consuming alcohol. If you refuse to take a chemical test of your breath, or your breath test result shows any quantity of alcohol, your driver's license, privilege to drive, or your privilege to obtain a license will be revoked by the Division of Motor Vehicles. This revocation will occur even if the criminal citation is dismissed, or you are found not guilty in court.

The Administrative revocation periods are:

- 30 days for a first offense
- 60 days if you have been previously revoked for this offense.
- 90 days if you have two previous revocations for this offense.
- 1 year if you have three or more previous revocations for this offense.

COURT PENALTIES

A minor operating a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol or minor refusal to submit to chemical testing is an infraction. Upon conviction, the court must order community service and/or a fine up to $1,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVOCATIONS FOR:

- **BREATH ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION RESULTS OF .08 OR MORE**
- **REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO CHEMICAL TESTING**

If you operate a motor vehicle with a breath or blood alcohol concentration of .08 or more, by law you are presumed to be driving under the influence (DUI). If, after being arrested for DUI, you refuse to take a chemical test of your breath, or your breath test result is .08 or more, your driver's license, privilege to drive or your privilege to obtain a license will be revoked by the Division of Motor Vehicles. This revocation will occur even if the criminal charge of DUI or Refusal is dismissed, or you are found not guilty in court.

The Administrative revocation periods are:

- 90 days for a first offense; 1 year if you have been previously convicted of DUI or Refusal; 3 years if you have two prior convictions of DUI or Refusal, or 5 years if you have three or more prior convictions of DUI or Refusal.
- Prior convictions of DWI/DUI or Refusal occurring in Alaska or another state within the last 15 years can be used to determine the revocation period.

The DMV's civil action and the court action are two different procedures which you must deal with separately. During a revocation/disqualification you may not drive the effected class of vehicle, get another license, or apply to get a driver's license in Alaska or any other state.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING TO CONTEST THE REVOCATION OR DISQUALIFICATION

HOW TO REQUEST AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING:

You must ask for the hearing in writing. You may write your own letter, or you may use the administrative hearing request form which can be found at any DMV or at the website below. https://dmv.alaska.gov/driver-services-adjudication/administrative-hearing-information/

You must apply within seven (7) days of the "Date Issued" on the front side of this notice, unless you qualify for a late hearing due to physical incapacity under AS 01.10.080, AS 28.15.166(b), AS 44.12.010 and/or 2 AAC 93.010(b). Once your hearing request is granted you will get paperwork describing what the laws, procedures, and issues for the hearing are. If you make a timely request for a hearing and you have a valid license to drive, you will get a temporary license. Unless you are revoked by the court, the temporary license lets you drive until the date of the hearing.

COURT REVOCATIONS AND PENALTIES

- **PENALTIES FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)**
- **REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO A CHEMICAL TEST CONVICTIONS**

Minimum Mandatory Penalties for Misdemeanor Convictions

Offense Number	Revocation Period	Jail Sentence	Fine Amount
1st	90 days	3 days	$1,500
2nd	1 year	20 days	$3,000
3rd	3 years	60 days	$4,000
4th	5 years	120 days	$5,000
5th	5 years	240 days	$6,000
6th or more	5 years	360 days	$7,000

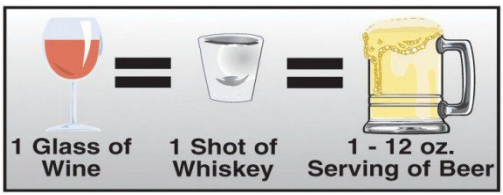
Minimum Mandatory Penalties for Felony Convictions

A person arrested for DUI must be charged with a felony if, within 10 years of the arrest date, the person has been previously convicted two or more times since January 1, 1996.

Offense Number	Revocation Period	Jail Sentence	Fine Amount
3rd	Lifetime	120 days	$10,000
4th	Lifetime	240 days	$10,000
5th or more	Lifetime	360 days	$10,000

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ALCOHOL:

1. A person's judgment is the first ability impaired by drinking alcohol.
2. Alcohol is a depressant, not a stimulant. It slows normal reflexes, interferes with judgment, reduces alertness, and impairs vision.
3. If you drive after drinking, the probability of a crash increases with each drink.
4. Motor vehicle crashes involving young people who have been drinking occur at lower average blood alcohol levels than do those of middle-aged or older drivers.
5. The type of alcohol consumed makes no difference in the effect of alcohol on the physical and mental changes that take place within the body when alcohol is consumed. It's the amount of alcohol which enters the body that counts. The same amount of alcohol is present in 12 ounces of beer as in a single shot (1 1/2 ounce) of 80 proof alcohol or 4 ounces of wine.



6. Alcohol affects a person differently at different times. Physical and emotional condition, other drugs, even the amount of food in the stomach causes alcohol to affect a person differently.
7. After drinking there is nothing you can do but wait. Black coffee, fresh air, food, or a cold shower might wake you up, but they won't sober you up. Alcohol is burned up by the liver and eliminated from the body through the kidneys and lungs. Only time will help.
8. Alcohol is medically termed a drug and a depressant. The combined use of alcohol and other drugs may be more dangerous to health and to highway safety than the effects of either the alcohol or drugs alone.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

As mentioned before, the effects of alcohol on driving depends on many different factors (food you've eaten or medication you've taken, mental state, degree of fatigue, strength of drinks). Therefore, it is difficult to know just how much you can drink before you drive It takes an average of one hour to cancel the effects of one drink. Therefore, it takes about four hours to cancel the intoxicating effects of four drinks. Remember: THE BEST POLICY IS TO NOT DRIVE IF YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING.

To take the online written test for alcohol awareness, please visit https://k2do-ak.iti4dmv.com/at-home/Welcome .

IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE (IID)

When convicted of a DUI or Refusal, use of an ignition interlock device is required on any vehicle you operate. If you have been convicted of only one DUI or Refusal you will need to have the IID installed for a minimum of six (6) months. The chart below shows the periods of IID installation for a person with multiple convictions.

AS 28.35.030 (b) and/or AS 28.35.032 (g):

DUI/Refusal Convictions	Period of IID installed
1st	6 months
2nd	12 months
3rd	18 months
4th	24 months
5th	30 months

You are responsible for IID installation and maintenance costs. It is also your responsibility to show proof of IID installation and financial responsibility (SR-22 insurance) when reinstating your driving privilege.

HOW DRINKING AFFECTS A DRIVER

When you drink, the alcohol quickly reaches the blood stream from the stomach, and quickly begins to affect the functioning of the brain. It slows reactions, interferes with vision, and reduces your sense of responsibility. Judgment, hearing, speech, and balance are impaired in relation to the level of alcohol in the blood. At the same time, alcohol creates a false sense of confidence, and a feeling your driving is not affected. The fact is that every additional drink lowers your effectiveness behind the wheel. It also puts you in a higher risk category. If you drink and drive, you may lose your driving privileges, and worse yet, perhaps your life, or take someone else's life. Think about it. It's not worth it.

ALCOHOL • DRUGS •DRIVING

Alcohol use is a significant factor in fatal motor vehicle crashes in Alaska. Almost 45 percent of all traffic deaths each year involve alcohol. Each year, fellow Alaskans will die on the highway as a direct result of drinking and driving. It is known that other drugs, and especially the combination of alcohol and drugs, contribute to a significant number of motor vehicle crashes each year. For this reason, Alaska has strengthened its DUI (Driving Under the Influence) law.

0.02%
— Judgement
— Inhibitions

0.06%
— Reaction
— Coordination



0.08%
— Serious deterioration in driving performance

0.10%
— Vision
— Speech
— Balance

0.16%
— Walking
— Standing

0.40%
— Unconscious
— Possible coma and on verge of death

To take the online written test for alcohol awareness, please visit ak.knowtodrive.com.

DRUGS

There are other drugs or substances that also interfere with a person's ability to drive safely. Here are a few things you should remember:

1. When taking prescription medicine, ask your doctor about any possible side effects that relate to driving.
2. Drugs, including some allergy remedies and cold pills which you can buy without prescription may contain compounds that can affect your driving.
3. Amphetamines are used in stimulants and diet pills. Over dosage of these, and other drugs like tranquilizers or sedatives, can make driving dangerous.
4. Never drive after using illegal drugs. These are especially dangerous because there is usually no way to be certain of their strength or purity.
5. Alaska law also forbids driving under the influence of "any controlled substance," which includes narcotic and non-narcotic drugs, not just "illegal" drugs. The penalties for driving under the influence of a controlled substance are the same as outlined previously for driving under the influence of alcohol.
6. Drugs have been shown to impair driving ability. Certain prescribed drugs can cause drowsiness and decreased alertness. The combination of other drugs and alcohol increases the effects of each individual drug. It has been estimated that at least 25 percent of the prescription drugs used today can interact with alcohol. Therefore, it is important for you to be cautious about drinking alcoholic beverages if you're taking medication. Such combinations can be fatal, especially if you're driving.

SEATBELT USE



When worn, safety belts do make your trip safer— they do help save lives!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SAFETY BELTS?

1. I will have a better chance of survival in a burning or submerged car if I am wearing my safety belt. . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
2. I don't need a safety belt when I'm traveling at low speeds or going on a short trip . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
3. When I have my lap belt fastened, I don't need to fasten my shoulder . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
4. The number one killer of children under five in America is automobile crashes . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
5. I might be saved if I'm thrown clear of the car an crash . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
6. A child riding in a car is safest in its mother's arms . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
7. A 30 mph head-on collision unleashes crash dynamic forces approximately 20 times the force of gravity (20 G's) . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
8. My safety belts are always loose, so they must not operate properly . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False
9. My best defense against a drunk driver is my safety belt . . . . . ❑ True ❑ False

Answers below

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SAFETY BELTS

1. Collisions involving fire or submersion make up less than 1/2 of 1% of all traffic collisions.
2. Your chances of survival in a burning or submerged vehicle are far greater if you are wearing your safety belt because you are most likely to remain conscious and, therefore, more able to escape the vehicle.
3. More than 80% of all collisions occur at speeds less than 40 miles per hour, and three out of four collisions causing death to occur within 25 miles of home.
4. Although your lap belt helps, it will not prevent serious injury from striking your head and chest on the steering wheel, dashboard, and windshield. A lap and shoulder belt offer you the best possible protection in the event of a crash.
5. Motor vehicle crashes are a significant killer and crippler of children under the age of five.
6. The chances of being killed are almost 25 times greater if you're thrown from the car.

1. True, 2. False, 3. False, 4. True, 5. False, 6. False 7. True 8. False 9. True

7. Holding your child in your arms will not protect your child. A 15-pound infant will suddenly weigh 450 pounds because of the forces unleashed in just a 30-mph collision.
8. An unrestricted adult can crush a child held in the arms during a collision.
9. Loose belts do not indicate that the belts are inoperative. Belts manufactured after 1974 utilize an inertia reel that makes the belt system "car sensitive," meaning that they lock when the car slows down too quickly. These belt systems were designed for passenger comfort.
10. Safety belts offer you the best possible protection in a car crash and, therefore, are your best defense against the drunk driver.
11. A 30-mph head-on collision unleashes forces approximately 20 times the force of gravity (20 G's). Under these conditions, objects (including passengers) can be thrown forward with a force equal to 30 times their own weight.
12. Small children need special protection. In a collision, a lap belt may put too much pressure on a small child's hips and abdomen. Car safety seats are designed to distribute crash forces over a large area of the body.
13. Only an approved dynamically crash tested safety designed child car seat can provide adequate crash protection. All such seats conform to Federal Standard 213-80.
14. A child restrained in a car safety seat is better behaved and less likely to distract the driver and create a hazard within the car.

SAFETY BELT USE IS REQUIRED BY LAW

Alaska law AS 28.05.095 requires everyone in a motor vehicle to use a safety belt. Drivers must wear a safety belt. Passengers 18 and older will be issued a citation for failure to wear a seat belt. The driver is also responsible for all passengers under the age of 16 years. The law requires federally approved child restraint devices for passengers under four years old. Passengers aged from 4 up to 16 must wear a seat belt or a child restraint device; whichever is age appropriate.

A driver may not transport a child under the age of 16 in a motor vehicle unless the driver has provided the required safety device and properly secured each child as described in this section (please see exceptions below). A child:

(1) less than one year of age or a child one year of age or older who weighs less than 20 pounds shall be properly secured in a rear-facing child safety seat that meets or exceeds standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(2) one or more years of age but less than five years of age who weighs 20 pounds or more shall be properly secured in a child restraint device that meets or exceeds the standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(3) over four years of age but less than eight years of age who is less than 57 inches in height and weighs 20 or more pounds but less than 65 pounds shall be properly secured in a booster seat that is secured by a seat belt system or by another child passenger restraint system that meets or exceeds the standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(4) over four years of age who exceeds the height or weight requirements in (3) of this subsection shall be properly secured in a seat belt.

(5) eight years of age but less than 16 years of age who does not exceed the height and weight requirements in (3) of this subsection shall be properly secured in a child safety device approved for a child that size by the United States Department of Transportation or in a safety belt, whichever is appropriate for the particular child as determined solely by the driver.

There are exceptions to the seat belt law:

1. Vehicles built prior to 1965 which did not have safety belts as original equipment and are not classified as a custom collector vehicle.
2. Vehicle operators acting in the course of employment delivering mail or newspapers from inside the vehicle to roadside boxes.
3. Passengers in a school bus unless the bus is required to be equipped with safety belts.
4. Passengers in an emergency vehicle.
5. People or a class of people exempt by the Commissioner of Public Safety, as defined by regulations.

A driver may be fined up to $50 and may receive two demerit points on their operator's license for failure to restrain passengers under age 16. Adult violations are subject to a $15 fine.

A provision of the law allows the court to waive the $15 fine for persons convicted under this law if that person donates $15 to the EMS organization. Convicted drivers pay the fine to an EMS organization listed in the current version of the Alaska Emergency Medical Services Directory. Drivers send a copy of the citation along with the receipt from the EMS organization to the court.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY



Alaska Law requires ALL passengers, regardless of age, to use a seat belt or appropriate restraint device (car seat or booster seat). The driver is responsible for ensuring that all passengers under the age of 16 are properly restrained in the vehicle.

A driver may not transport a child under the age of 16 in a motor vehicle unless the driver has provided the required safety device and properly secured each child (Alaska Statute AS 28.05.095).

When car seats, booster seats, and seat belts are used correctly, the risk of injury, hospitalization and death for children is greatly reduced.

Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) are trained educators in occupant protection in motor vehicles. By understanding the correct use of vehicle occupant protection systems, car seats and booster seats, CPSTs educate caregivers and provide resources on the safe transportation of children in motor vehicles. CPSTs in Alaska and nationwide can be located by visiting https://cert.safekids.org and clicking the "FIND A TECH" button. Alaska Child Passenger Safety program contacts and community events are available at carseatsak.org.

Alaska Law requires:

• Children less than 1 year of age or children older than 1 year but less than 20 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing car seat.

• Children 1 to 4 years weighing over 20 pounds to be properly secured in an appropriate child restraint.

• Children over 4 and less than 8 years of age who are under 4'9" and less than 65 pounds to be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat.

Best Practice Recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

• All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible until they reach the highest weight or height the car seat manufacturer allows.

REMEMBER: Once your children are secured and safe… don't YOU forget YOUR safety belt!

• All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car seat should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
• All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car seat should use a booster seat until the vehicle lap and shoulder seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
• When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts for optimal protection.
• All children younger than 13 years old should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

One of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. Car seats and booster seats protect infants and children in a crash. It's important to choose the right car seat and use it correctly.



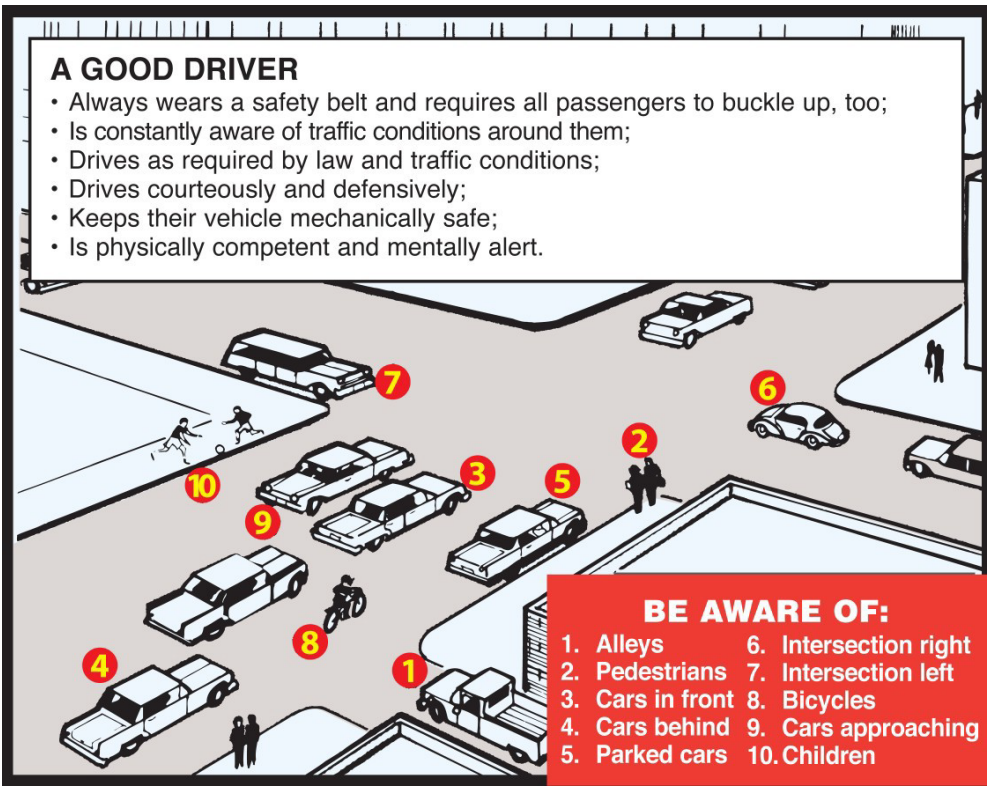
DISTRACTED DRIVING

Here are **10 tips** for managing some of the most common distractions:

1. **Turn it off.** Turn your phone off or switch it to silent mode before you get in the car.
2. **Spread the word.** Set up a special message to tell callers that you are driving, and you'll get back to them as soon as possible, or sign up for a service that offers this.
3. **Pull over.** If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area first.
4. **Use your passengers.** Ask a passenger to make the call for you.
5. **X the Text.** Don't ever text and drive, surf the web or read your email while driving. It is dangerous and against the law in Alaska.
6. **Know the law.** Familiarize yourself with state and local laws before you get in the car. All bases in Alaska do not allow phone usage while driving.
   Some states and localities prohibit the use of handheld cell phones. GHSA offers a handy chart of state laws on its website:
   www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html .
7. **Prepare.** Review maps and directions before you start the drive. If you need help when you are on the road, ask a passenger to help or pull over to a safe location to review the map/directions again.
8. **Secure your pets.** Pets can be a big distraction in the car. Always secure your pets properly before you start to drive.
9. **Keep the kids safe.** Pull over to a safe location to address situations with your children in the car.
10. **Focus on the task at hand.** Refrain from smoking, eating, drinking, reading and any, watching videos and other activity that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

[1]Traffic Safety Facts. An Examination of Driver Distraction as Recorded in NHTSA Databases, September 2008.

CONTROL OF VEHICLE



More fatal crashes occurred during daylight hours with normal surface, clear weather conditions, and the vehicle in good mechanical condition than under any other condition. The driver is the greatest singular cause of traffic crashes.

You are issued a driver's license based on the premise that you will obey the laws and always keep your vehicle under control.

When you are able to direct and regulate the course and speed of your vehicle and you have the ability to slow or stop when you wish to do so you are exercising control of your motor vehicle.

You must control yourself before you can control a vehicle. Driving with insufficient sleep, emotions, or distractions are examples of factors that will impair your ability to safely control a vehicle.

DRIVERS TO EXERCISE DUE CARE

Remember: Every driver of a vehicle must exercise care to avoid crashes with pedestrians (people walking or riding a bicycle), an animal or another vehicle. You must be able to stop if necessary and shall slow down when circumstances require. Some circumstances to watch for are as follows:

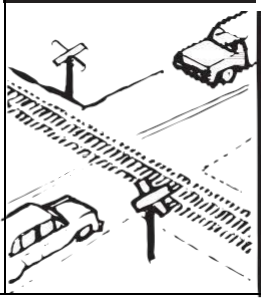
1. Person walking or biking on or along the roadway.



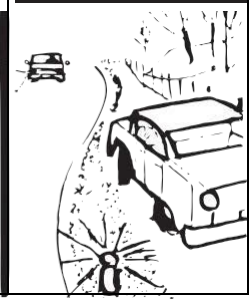
2. Animals, walking being led, ridden or driven on or along the highway.



3. A railroad crossing, intersection, bridge, sharp turn, curve, or steep downgrade.

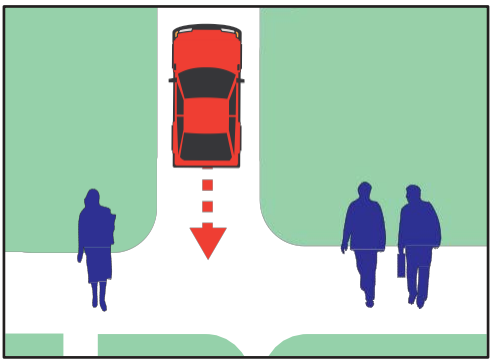


4. Red reflectors, red flags, or flares. (Burns a bright red.)



5. Orange flags and signs indicate “high hazard area” (maintenance and construction.)

BACKING



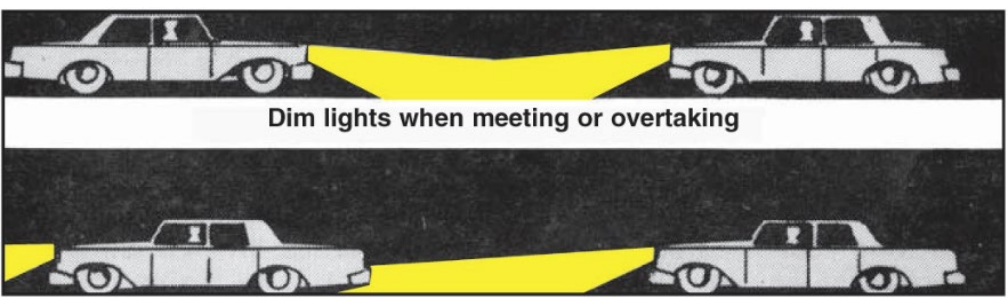
Don’t depend on mirrors. Instead, with your left hand at the top of the steering wheel, turn your body and head to the right and look out the rear window. Move the wheel in the direction you want the REAR of your vehicle to go. Back slowly and keep your eyes moving to all sides of your car. Always yield to vehicles or people on the street or sidewalk and be prepared to stop. It is suggested your speed not exceed 5 mph when backing.

OBSTRUCTION TO DRIVER’S VIEW

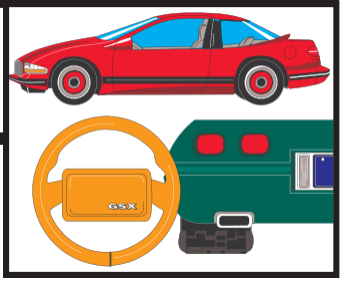
A person may not drive with more people in the front seat than the seat was designed for or with objects that interfere with the driver’s control of the vehicle or view.

TV, LAPTOPS, TEXTING, ETC.

Alaska has a law aimed at reducing driver distraction. It is illegal to drive with a visual screen device operating. Texting while driving is prohibited by the law. For a full list of prohibited uses, please see AS 28.35.161.



CARELESS TODAY... CAR-LESS TOMORROW



The rear end crash is a common problem. Rear end crashes can be prevented when drivers observe a few simple precautions when following other vehicles.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS ABOUT FOLLOWING

A driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for speed, traffic, and conditions of the roadway. You also have a duty to yield to following vehicles. AS 28.35.140 requires drivers on a two-lane roadway outside of an urban area to safely pull over when there are five or more vehicles immediately behind.

HOW TO AVOID REAR END COLLISIONS

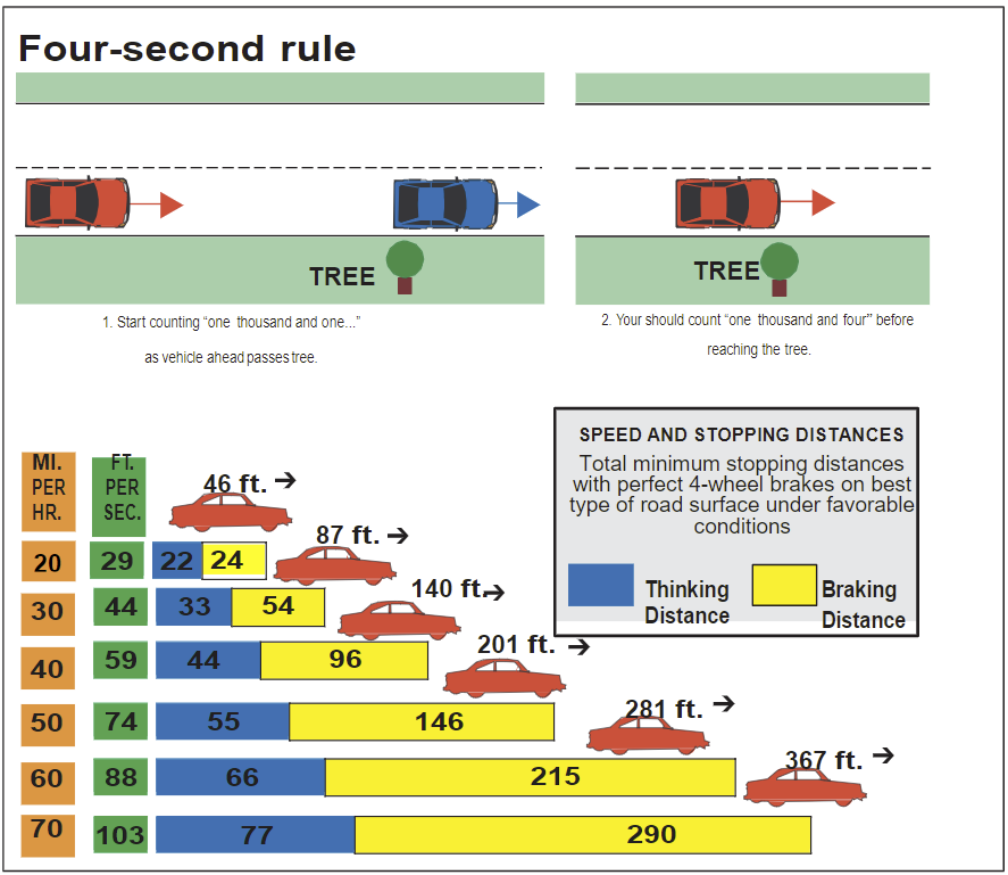
1. **FOUR-SECOND RULE:** The easiest way to calculate a safe following distance is by the four-second interval method. Watch the back of the vehicle ahead of you pass some definite point. Then count — "one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three, one thousand and four." That's four seconds. If you pass the same point before you are finished counting, you are following too closely. When towing a trailer or the road surface is wet or slippery, increase the four seconds to six or more. You also can use the "Four Second Rule" at night to make sure you are not "overdriving your headlights."
2. **Watch for brake lights.** Shift your foot to the brake pedal promptly so you are ready to stop if necessary.
3. **Watch for shrinking distance** between your car and the one ahead. This warns of impending crash with the vehicle ahead.
4. **Watch for stopped and standing vehicles ahead.** Some drivers find it difficult to determine whether a distant car is in motion or stopped. Learn to relate vehicles to fixed objects.
5. **Look for problems** that might develop for the driver ahead of you. This makes it easy to react in time.

NOTE: While this chart recommends the use of the 4 second rule, 13 AAC 02.090 requires at a minimum the 2 second rule.

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING STRUCK

Just as important as avoiding a crash with the vehicle ahead is to avoid being hit by the vehicle behind. To lessen the likelihood of a rear-end crash, a driver who is stopped or in the act of stopping can do a great deal.

1. **Be sure brake lights are clean and working properly.** Flash brake lights when preparing to stop.
2. **Know what is going on behind you.** Have an outside rear vision mirror and keep rear window clean and clear of frost and snow.
3. **Signal well in advance** for lane changes, stops, or turns. The person behind you can't read your mind.
4. **Slow down gradually** over a long distance to give the drivers behind more time and space in which to react.
5. **Keep pace with the traffic** within limitations of weather conditions and speed limits.



NOTE: While this chart recommends the use of the 4 second rule, 13 AAC 02.090 requires at a minimum the 2 second rule.

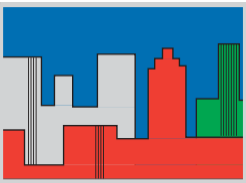
SPEED, IMPACT AND BRAKING DISTANCE

It is a well-known fact that the faster you drive the greater the impact or striking power of your vehicle. A fact not generally understood is how much greater the striking power of a vehicle is when you double the speed from 20 to 40 miles per hour. It is commonly believed that the striking power of a vehicle would likewise be doubled. This is not true. The impact is 4 times greater at 40 mph than at 20 mph. The braking distance is also 4 times longer. Triple the speed from 20 to 60 mph and the impact and braking distance are 9 times greater. Increase the speed to 80 mph and the impact and braking distance are 16 times greater than at 20 miles per hour.

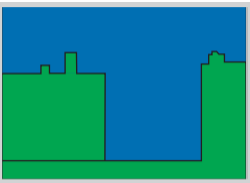
Respect the potential destructive power of your vehicle when you increase your speed. Speed that is appropriately adjusted for traffic, road, and weather conditions, and carefully managed by a considerate driver, need not be dangerous. However, in the hands of a careless or uninformed driver, it can be deadly.

SPEED LAWS

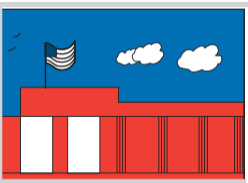
The following speed limits are established by law as the maximum to be driven under favorable conditions on highways which are not otherwise posted. *(See speed limitation below).*



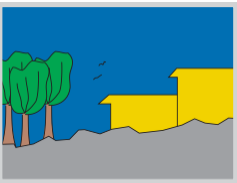
Business district, 20 mph.*



Alley, 15 mph. *



School zone, 20 mph.*



Residential district, 25 mph.*

Any other roadway 55*

***Local authorities or the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities may alter speed limits (13 AAC 02.280). Speed limits on selected highways may be posted at 65.**

SPEED LIMITATION LAW

When driving conditions are less than ideal a person operating a motor vehicle on the highway shall drive at a careful and prudent speed no greater than what is reasonable and proper having due regard for the following conditions:

A. **Traffic**—When traffic is heavy, congested, or moving slowly.
B. **Surface**—When the road surface is rough, icy, wet, or otherwise provides poor traction.
C. **Width**—When the width of the roadway reduces your margin of safety.
D. **Weather**—When weather conditions affect sight, distance, and traction. (Rain, snow, fog, dust, or smoke.)

A person may not drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than will permit them to stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

Motor driven cycle speed is limited by intensity of headlamp.

Lamps reveal person or vehicle at 100 feet	20 mph or less
Lamps reveal person or vehicle at 200 feet	21 to 29 mph
Lamps reveal person or vehicle at 300 feet	30 mph or more

Slow speed — A driver may not drive at such slow speed as to hold back or block the normal and reasonable flow of traffic.

Reckless driving — A willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. Conviction will result in a license revocation.

On multi-lane highways — If you drive slower than other traffic, use the right, outside lane, except when passing. Give emergency vehicles on the shoulder additional safety by 'Moving Over' it's the law AS 28.35.185.

Traffic Safety Corridors — To promote traffic safety, certain portions of the highway may be designated as traffic safety corridors. Fines for traffic offenses occurring in the corridor are doubled.

SIGNALING

A hand and arm or directional signal of intention to turn or move a vehicle right or left must be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning. As a safety precaution, the signal may be given from a greater distance when warranted by traffic conditions or the higher speeds of your vehicle.

Never stop or suddenly decrease the speed of your vehicle without signaling your intentions for the benefit of the other drivers. Be sure turn signals are clean and free from dust, dirt, ice, or snow.

Protect yourself—help others



SIGNAL YOUR INTENTIONS

Left Turn **Right Turn** **Stop or Slow**

Use hand signals when the sun is shining brightly or when a line of cars following you could obscure your turn signal light. Be sure that all turn signal lights are clean and free from dust, dirt, ice, or snow.

Alaska law requires you to cancel your directional signal light after you use it. Your unintended signal still means you are turning to the other drivers. You might tempt another driver to turn or drive across in front of you.

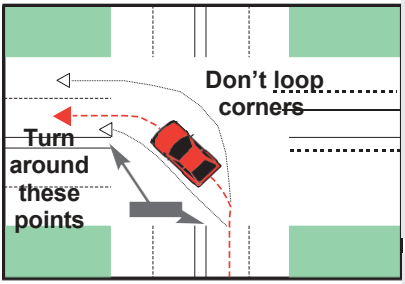
Failure to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate. Your signal alerts other drivers to your actions.

Bicyclists are also required to use hand signals to signal a turn.

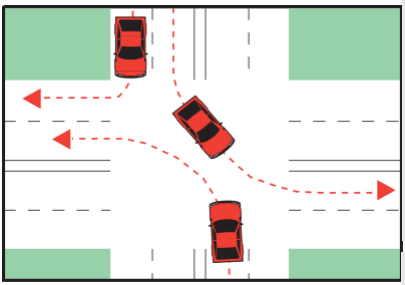
TOWING

When towing triples per 13 AAC 04.205 (e) No person may operate a motor vehicle on the roadway towing more than one vehicle unless the towing vehicle weighs more than 15,000 pounds, has three or more axles, and is equipped with an air brake system for both the towing and towed vehicles.

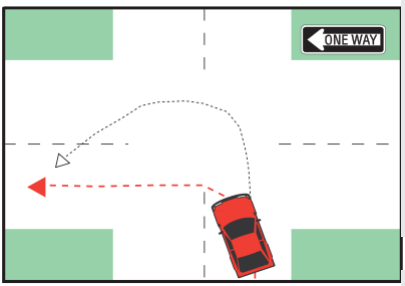
LEFT TURN



1. Get into proper lane well ahead of turn.
2. Signal intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
3. Yield to all oncoming vehicles.
4. Yield to pedestrians.
5. Turn into proper lane.
6. Don't loop or cut corners.

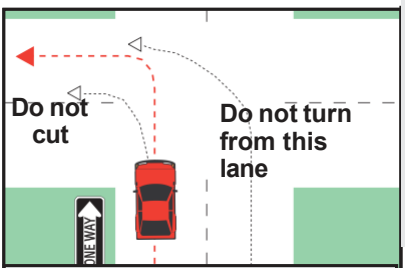


1. Wait for traffic signal cue to turn.
2. Wait for oncoming vehicles before entering the intersection. Don't proceed past the center of intersection.
3. Keep front wheels straight while waiting.
4. Look out of left window for pedestrians and check turn path.



TWO WAY STREET TO ONE WAY STREET

1. Make proper "two way" approach.
2. Signal intention to turn at least 100 feet in advance.
3. Yield to all road users.
4. Do not turn before reaching the crosswalk.
5. Look out of left window for pedestrians and check turn path.
6. Turn sharply into first lane.



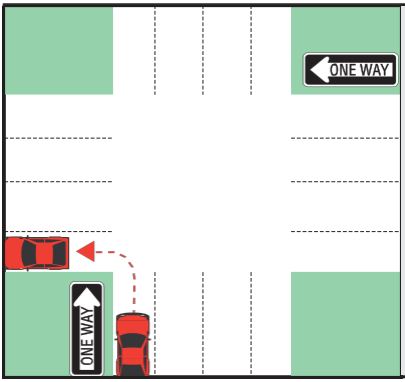
ONE WAY STREET TO TWO WAY STREET

1. Make approach in the traffic lane furthermost to the left on one way street.
2. Signal your intention to turn for at least 100 feet in advance.
3. Don't start turn at the crosswalk.
4. Drive into the intersection and then turn into the lane shown.



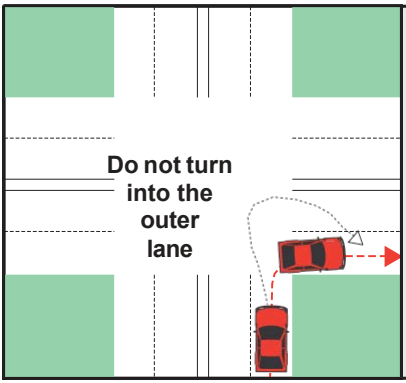
Be alert for "one way" street signs on traffic light posts and stop signs.

LEFT TURN - RIGHT TURN



LEFT turn One way street to One Way Street

1. Make approach in the traffic lane furthermost to the left of the street.
2. Signal intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
3. Look out of left window for pedestrians and check turn path.
4. Turn sharply into the first lane on the left side of the one-way street.



Right turn Two-way Street to two-way street

1. Signal intention to turn for at least 100 feet.
2. Get into proper lane well ahead of turn.
3. Look out of right side of windshield for pedestrians and check turn path.
4. Be alert for vehicles ahead that are turning right and may stop for pedestrians.

Signaling for turns can prevent rear end collisions. Drivers waiting on side streets appreciate your turn signal.

THREE POINT TURN

Unless prohibited, you may use the “three-point turn” to turn around on a narrow street.

1. Signal your intention to turn right. Pull over to the far right and stop.
2. Signal your intention to turn left. Check for traffic.
3. If traffic is clear, turn left crossing the street until your vehicle is pointing at the curb or left shoulder of the road.
4. Check again for traffic. Turn your wheels to the right as far as they will go. Back up to the opposite side of the street.
5. Stop, check again for traffic. Drive forward to complete your turn around maneuver.

Be careful when making this turn. Watch for and yield to approaching traffic including bicyclists and pedestrians approaching from both directions. For extra safety, you can always sound your horn before backing.

INTERSECTIONS

Two basic laws govern the approach to and movement through uncontrolled intersections.

CONTROL OF VEHICLE

For approaching intersections

Drivers shall have their vehicle under control. Drivers shall reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper rate when approaching and traversing an intersection.

Uncontrolled intersections

When you are driving on a street or highway which is not protected with **stop signs, yield signs or traffic lights,** you are driving on an unprotected route and the intersections are **uncontrolled.** At such times you are required to slow down and have your vehicle under control at a cross street or a crossroad, which includes unmarked crosswalks for non-motorized users.

Approaching from the right does not excuse you from slowing down and having your vehicle under control.

RIGHT OF WAY LAW

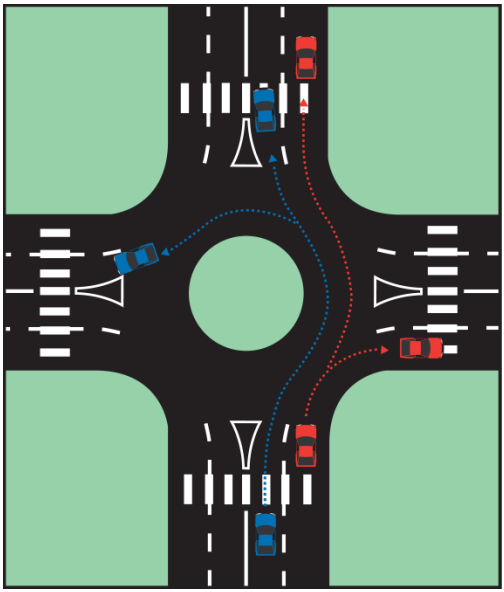
For going through an uncontrolled intersection

When two vehicles approach an uncontrolled intersection in such position and time that there is danger of collision, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right.

If you are the driver approaching from the right do not assume that you have the right of way. **You have the right of way only when the other driver gives it to you, and only if another vehicle is not already within the `intersection. A non-motorized user has the right of way through uncontrolled intersections to motorized vehicles.**

INTERSECTIONS

ROUNDABOUTS



Roundabouts, sometimes called traffic circles, are circular intersections designed to promote safe and efficient traffic flow without necessarily stopping the flow of traffic. In roundabout vehicles travel counterclockwise around a center island where approaching traffic must yield to traffic in the circle.

How to drive in a roundabout:

Entering the roundabout

- Slow down as you approach the circle. Most roundabouts are designed for speeds of about 15-20mph.
- Always enter to the right of the center island. Enter when there is a gap in traffic.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists in the roundabout and those crossing at the marked crosswalk as you exit the roundabout.
- Once inside, do not stop. Follow directions on signs or pavement markings about which lane to use.
- If there is more than one lane going in the same direction, make sure you know where you want to go and are in the proper lane before entering.
- Yield to any traffic already in the circle. If another vehicle arrives at the same time, yield to the vehicle if it is on your right.

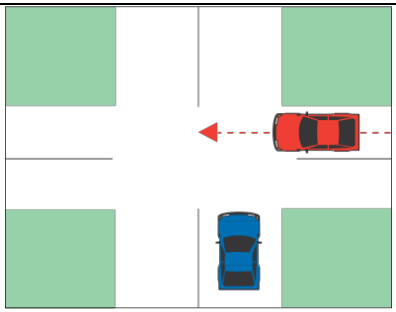
Exiting the roundabout

- Yield to all pedestrians and bicyclists in the roundabout and those crossing at the marked crosswalk as you exit the roundabout.
- You may exit at any street or continue around if you miss your exit.

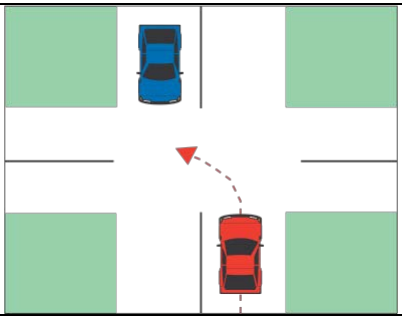
For more on roundabouts visit:
http://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/roundabouts.shtml

INTERSECTIONS

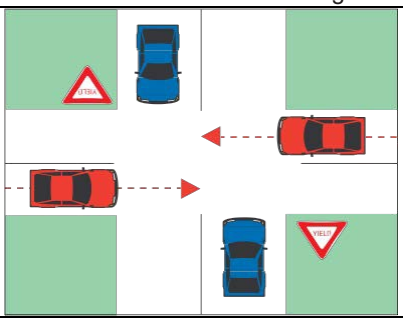
YOU MUST YIELD IN THESE SITUATIONS



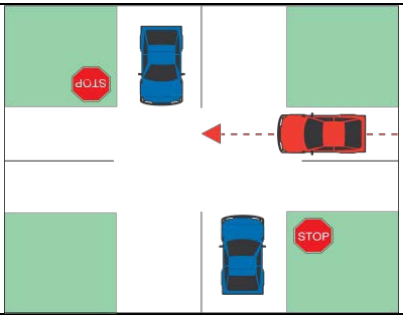
Vehicles approaching at same time. Yield to vehicle on the right.



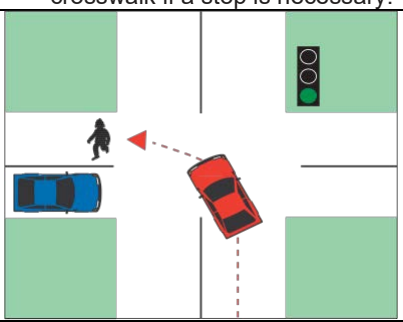
Yield to all traffic that is so close as to be a hazard, and to vehicle already in intersection.



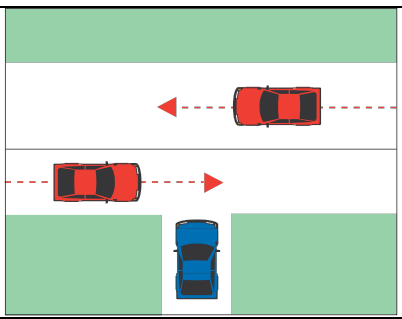
Yield to all traffic including non-motorized users traveling on the protected route. Stop in advance of the unmarked crosswalk if a stop is necessary.



Stop and yield to all traffic on the protected route.

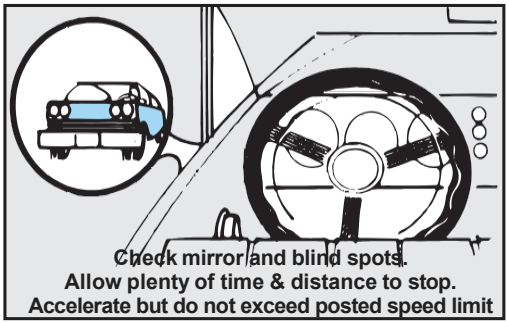


At a signaled intersection, when light turns green, yield to pedestrians and vehicles caught in intersection.



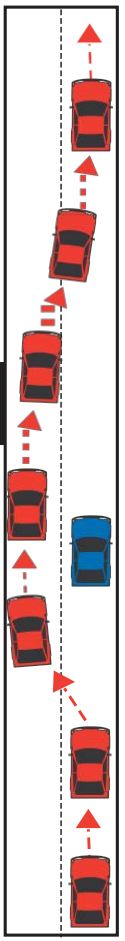
Stop and yield when entering a street or road from alley, driveway, or building.

STOPS REQUIRED



1. **Stop sign** — stop behind the crosswalk, at painted stop line or behind the intersecting roadway shoulder line. Yield to pedestrians, bicyclists if present, and traffic before entering.
2. **Red flashing light** — stop, then proceed when the way is clear, and it is safe to do so.
3. **Railroad crossing gate or flag person** — stop until crossing gates are raised or until flag person discontinues signal.
4. **Red light** — stop when traffic signal facing you is red.
5. **Yield right of way sign** — yield and stop if necessary for traffic approaching an intersection or for a pedestrian.
6. **Entering highway** — stop and yield to traffic when entering highway from driveway, building, or alley.
7. **School bus** — stop when red flashing lights are in operation and stop arm is extended. Drivers meeting and following bus must stop.
8. **Uncontrolled intersection** — stop when signals are not working.

PASSING SAFELY



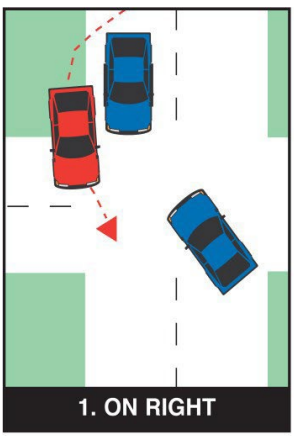
It is equally important to know when not to pass as well as when to pass. Collisions resulting from improper passing are often fatal since the impact force is great in this type of collision.

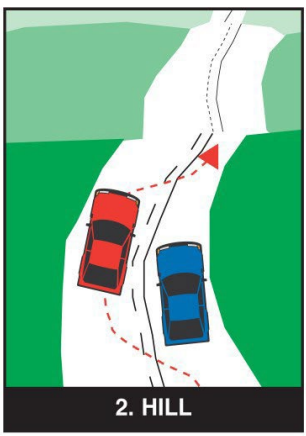
The decision as to whether to pass another vehicle is determined by the judgment and attitude of the driver. Be patient. Passing is not a game. Learn the following passing rules well and practice them each time you con- sider passing another vehicle.

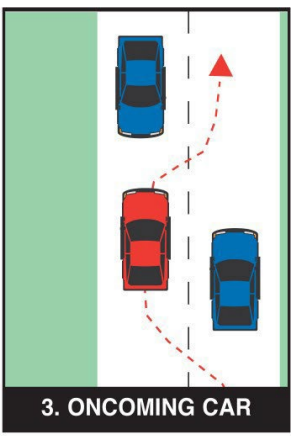
1. Stay well back from vehicle ahead for better sight distance. Check rear vision mirror. Signal left turn to left lane.
2. Check well ahead for no passing zone and oncoming vehicles. Do not swing out across center line for a look.
3. Sound your horn to warn the driver ahead of your intention to pass.
4. Pass on left at a safe distance and do not return to right lane until safely clear of overtaken vehicle.
5. Signal right turn to return to right lane. Be sure to cancel signal light.

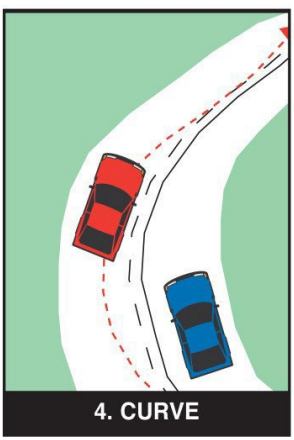
DO NOT PASS

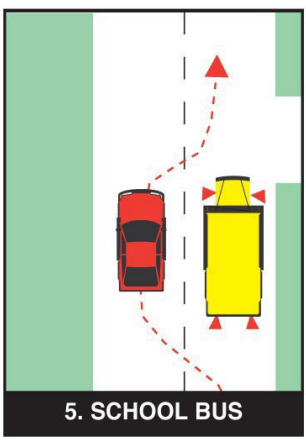
1. On the right shoulder of the highway.13 AAC 02.055
2. On approaching a hill or curve where there is not sufficient clear view ahead.
3. Unless the pass can be completed without interfering with the safety of oncoming vehicles and before solid yellow line appears in your traffic lane.
   - When being passed it is unlawful to increase your speed.
4. If the solid yellow line is in your lane.
5. A school bus when its red flashing lights are operating, and the stop arm is extended on an undivided two-way roadway, or within the same divided travel way as the school bus is traveling.
6. When approaching within 100 feet of or when traversing an intersection or railroad crossing, or when approaching within 100 feet of a posted narrow bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.
   - Center lanes are reserved for decelerating in advance of turning left. You may not use a center lane for passing.
   - The end of a “no passing zone” does not mean it is safe to pass. It means there is increased visibility ahead.

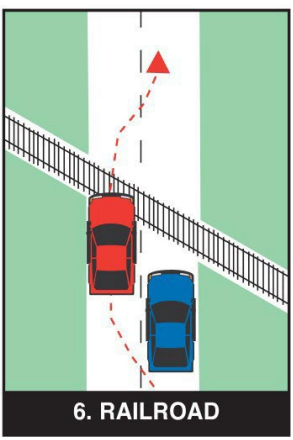




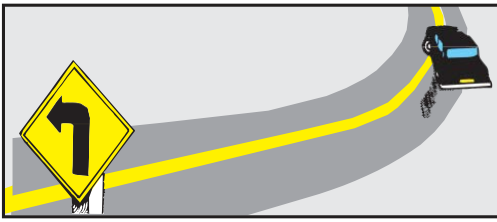








SIGNS



"Traffic signs speak a special kind of language to the driver"

Many fatal crashes occur when a driver does not heed a clearly visible traffic sign. Traffic signs are driving aids — obey them.

HOW SIGNS CAN HELP YOU BE A BETTER DRIVER

1. They warn of conditions ahead that require caution or extra alertness for safe operation of the vehicle.
2. They guide drivers to their destination by identifying the route.
3. They inform drivers of regulations.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME A BETTER "SIGN" DRIVER

1. Study the sign section of this manual and associate the meaning of each sign with the behavior that is expected of you as a driver.
2. Look for signs when you drive. Look far ahead. Move your eyes. It is easy for a "stare" driver to miss traffic signs.
3. Obey all signs. The result of good sign observance is doing the right thing at the right time.



REGULATORY SIGN • black or red on white

1. Regulatory signs indicate an instruction for the driver that must be understood and obeyed. State statute, regulation, or local ordinance backs them. Violation of the instructions can result in issuance of a traffic citation to the violator.
2. Obey the law indicated.



STOP SIGN • white on red

1. Make a complete stop before entering intersection or at stop line. Stop behind crosswalk. Look both right and left for traffic and pedestrians.
2. Yield right-of-way.



YIELD SIGN • red and white

1. Slow down as required when approaching this sign.
2. Look both left and right, and yield to traffic and pedestrians.
3. Stop required when necessary to avoid pedestrian or traffic on protected street.



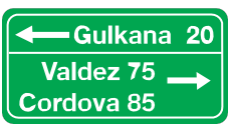
DO NOT ENTER SIGN • red and white

1. Do not proceed beyond this sign which faces traffic entering a roadway or ramp in the wrong direction.
2. A white on red WRONG WAY sign may be placed further down the prohibited direction.



WARNING SIGN • black on yellow

1. Warning signs alert drivers to actual or potentially dangerous conditions ahead.
2. Extra caution should be observed at all warning signs.
3. Most warning signs imply a driver should decrease the speed of the vehicle.
4. Read and adjust your driving to the situation.



GUIDE SIGN • white on green

1. Destination, route guidance, and place names are provided to you on guide signs.
2. Pay special attention to mileage information.



CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE SIGN

black on orange

1. Work in the road and temporary conditions requiring special alertness are indicated by these signs.
2. Adjust your speed and prepare for special conditions.



SCHOOL SIGN • black on yellow

1. Five-sided signs warn of school areas and school crosswalks requiring reduced speed.
2. Prepare to stop for pedestrians.



SERVICE SIGN • white on blue

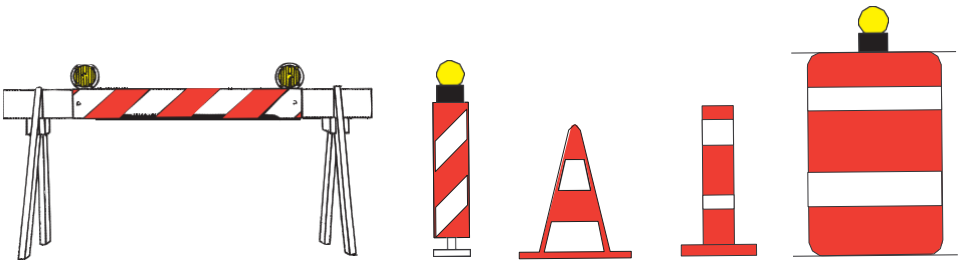
1. Services for your convenience such as Gas, Phone, Food, Lodging, Rest Areas, Campgrounds and Litter Barrels may be marked with white on blue signs.

 Do not exceed posted speed.	 A red circle with a diagonal slash indicates prohibited movement.		 Do not walk or bike on any part of the right-of-way.
 Do not turn right on red signal.	 Trucks must use right lane.	 Use center lane only for left turns.	 Keep right of this sign.
 Do not park to right of this sign.	 Do not stop, stand, or park as directed by this sign.	 Make a left turn when in a lane below or facing this sign.	 Travel only as indicated on the posted street.
 Do not drive any vehicle exceeding weight limit beyond this sign.	 Merge left. Road narrows ahead	 Reduce speed to 20 as marked for school crosswalks	 One-way operation on bridge may require stop ahead.
 Keep to the right of divided highway	 Two-way road. Keep right of approaching traffic.	 Reduce speed for slippery roadway after rains, frost, etc.	 Prepare to stop at traffic signal ahead.

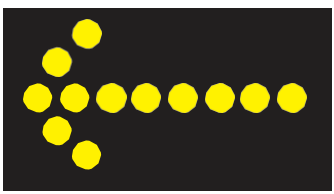
 Be alert for traffic merging from the right.	 Steep downgrade ahead requires trucks to slow and shift to lower gear.	 Over height vehicles take another route around restricted clearance	 Be alert for deer crossing unexpectedly.
 Slow to posted speed on ramp.	 Take curve to the right at advisory speed.	 Adjust speed to advisory speed on winding road ahead.	 Make sharp turn to right in front of this sign
 Bike route extends to right. Watch for bicyclists.	 Rest area open to the right.	 Slow to 20 for school children.	 Road closed to all traffic. Detour.
 Prepare to stop for flagger ahead.	 Adjust driving for construction area 500 feet ahead.	 Be alert for crew working on or adjacent to roadway.	 All traffic detour to right in front of this sign.
 Space reserved for persons with disability plates or placard	 Roundabout	 Roundabout	 Be alert for caribou crossing unexpectedly.

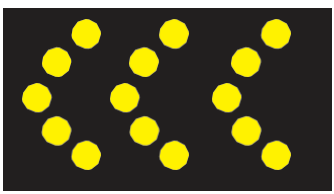
SIGNS WITHIN WORK AREAS

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



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



TRAFFIC STOP







TRAFFIC PROCEED

SHARING THE ROADWAY

You must learn to safely share the road with large vehicles, motorcycles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Drivers of passenger vehicles share the roadway with many other users, such as people walking and biking, highway workers on foot in work zones, and persons using a mobility device, such as wheelchair. These users of the roadway are most vulnerable because they are unprotected against motor vehicles in collisions. If a crash occurs, the survival rate of a vulnerable road user decreases enormously as the car's collision speed increases. According to an overview of recent studies from (Rosén et al., 2011): at a collision speed of 12 mph nearly all pedestrians survive a crash with a passenger car; about 90% survive at a collision speed of 25, mph, at a collision speed of 50 mph the number of survivors is less than 50%, and at a collision speed of 62mph only 10% of the pedestrians survive. Therefore, it is important to look for all types of roadway users at all times.

As a driver, study the following safety tips and put them into practice when you drive:

- Look out for pedestrians and people riding bicycles everywhere, at all times.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as dusk, dawn, nighttime or bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Establish eye contact and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop, too.
- Obey stop signs when separated pathways are crossing an entrance to a roadway
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up and look for pedestrians.

Your responsibility as a PEDESTRIAN

- Cross only at crosswalks.
- Obey all traffic laws and signals.
- Never cross a street on a “stale” green traffic light that has about run out of time or when a steady or flashing “Don’t Walk” or upraised hand appears.
- Look for turning vehicles before crossing the street.
- Walk on the left side of the highway facing oncoming traffic.
- Do not solicit a ride from anyone on or along a highway.
- Wear light-colored clothing when walking on or alongside the roadway at night.
- Do not drink an intoxicant or be intoxicated on or along a highway.

BICYCLES

MOTORIST: With the increasing use of bicycles, there is a greater need to exercise care while driving when bicyclists are present to ensure their safety. Bicyclists have the right to share the road and travel in the same direction as motor vehicles. They are often hard to see in traffic and have no protection from a traffic crash. Check your “blind spots” before you make a turn, parallel park, open a door or leave a curb. Do not depend on only your mirrors- turn your head to look for bicyclists that may be next to them or approaching. As a driver, you must be alert and courteous to all bicyclists.

The rules of the road and right-of-way apply to and protect these and other highway users. You must yield the right-of-way to them just as you would to another vehicle.

Remember a bicycle is a vehicle. Bicyclists share a complex traffic environment with other larger forms of transportation. Youngsters under age nine lack the physical and mental development to interact safely in that environment so be careful when driving near children riding bikes.

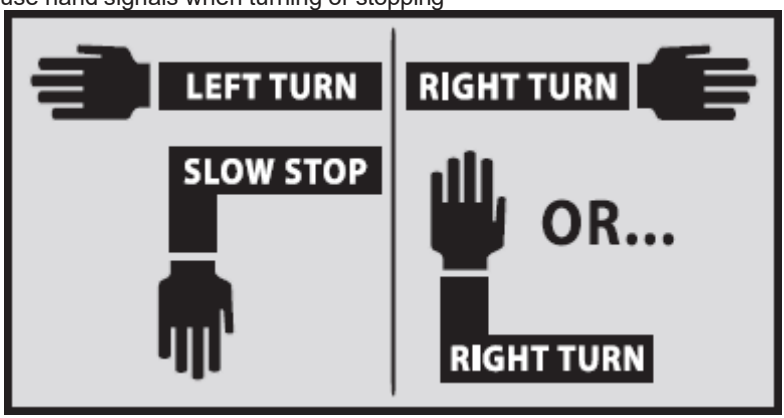
BICYCLISTS: Bicyclists are required to obey traffic signs, signals, and all other traffic laws. Always be alert for other traffic.

Alaska Law AS 28.15.231 (b) states that no points are assessed for traffic violations when using a bicycle. Bicycles must follow the rules of the road per 13 AAC 02.385.

Safety Tips

We can make bicycling safer for all by observing the following safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet
- Obey all traffic controls
- Ride your bicycle near the right-hand edge of the road
- Never carry another person on your bicycle
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping



- Signal turns, lane changes and stops using the hand signals shown. A bicyclist can signal a right turn when they extend the right arm straight out to the right.
- Left turn - left arm fully extended to left; Stop - left arm extended and bent down at elbow; Right turn - right arm fully extended to right or left arm extended and bent up at elbow
- Look out for cars at cross street, driveways, and parking places
- Be careful when checking traffic and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder
- Give pedestrians the right-of-way
- Keep your bicycle in good condition
- Always ride carefully
- Stay out of the blind spots of vehicles! Turning cars, trucks and buses cannot see a bicycle in their blind spot. Do not pass when vehicles are turning, especially on the side to which they are making the turn.
- Thank motorists who have been considerate with a wave or a nod. It brightens everyone's day and creates goodwill towards cyclists and motorists alike!
- Make eye contact drivers before crossing in front of them, EVEN if you have the right of way.

If you're going to wear headphones while biking be sure to always keep one earbud out. There are numerous safety concerns regarding headphones while biking including your own safety! You need to be able to hear shouting pedestrians, other bikers, barking dogs and/or approaching traffic horns, car doors opening, etc. The more aware a biker can be the safer they will be.

MOTORCYCLES

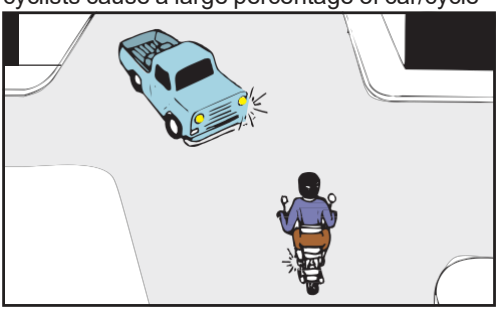
Many drivers are having trouble adjusting to the increasing number of motorcycles appearing on our nation's streets and highways. Motorcycles number less than 4% of the motor vehicle population in the U.S., yet they are involved in 11% of all motor vehicle deaths. In most motor-cycle crashes, drivers of other vehicles are at fault.

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on public roadways as other drivers. However, special conditions and situations often cause greater problems for motorcyclists. Drivers should be aware of these problems, so they can help share the road safely with motorcyclists.

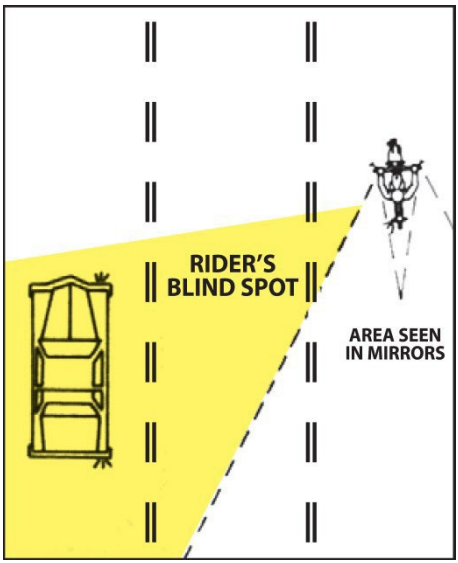
Motorcycles are not easily identified in traffic. Even when drivers see them, many say it's difficult to judge how far away motorcyclists are or how fast they are traveling. Being alert to this perceptual problem and consciously looking for motorcyclists will help avoid collisions.

Here are a few of the situations that require special attention by motorcyclists and you.

- Drivers turning left in front of oncoming motorcyclists cause a large percentage of car/cycle crashes. Drivers often fail to pick the cyclist out of the traffic scene, or inaccurately judge the speed of the oncoming motorcycle. LOOK ONCE, THEN AGAIN. MAKE SURE YOU SEE THE MOTORCYCLE AND KNOW ITS SPEED BEFORE YOU MAKE A LEFT TURN.



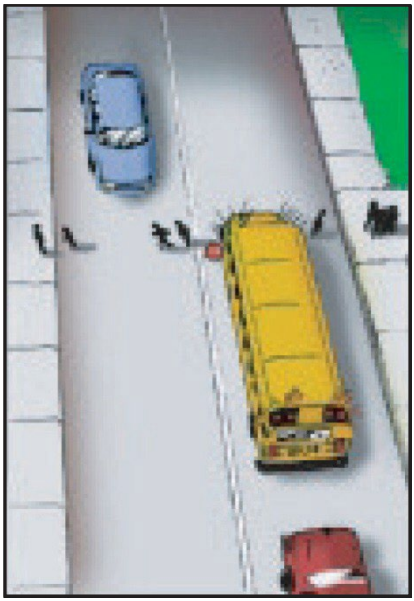
- Turn signals do not turn off automatically on most motorcycles. Before you make a turn in front of a motorcyclist, BE SURE THE RIDER IS TURNING and not continuing straight into your path with a forgotten turn signal still blinking.
- The same four second following distance should be given to motorcyclists as given other vehicles. Following too closely may cause the rider's attention to be distracted from the road and traffic ahead.
- Motorcycles need a full lane width like other vehicles. A skilled motorcyclist WILL CONSTANTLY CHANGE positions within a lane to increase their ability to see and be seen, and to avoid objects on the road. Never move into the same lane with a motorcycle, even if the lane is wide and the cyclist is riding to one side. It is not only illegal, it is extremely hazardous.
- Bad weather and slippery surfaces cause greater problems for motorcycles than for cars. Allow more following distance for motorcyclists when the road surface is wet and slippery. These conditions create stability problems, and skilled motorcyclists will slow down. Also be alert to the problem of glare that rain and wet surfaces create, especially at night.



- Strong cross winds can move a motorcycle out of its lane of travel. Areas where this can happen are wide open, long stretches of highways and bridges. Large, fast-moving trucks sometimes create wind blasts, which, under certain conditions, can move the motorcyclist out of their path of travel. Being alert to these conditions prepares you for a motorcyclist's possible quick change in speed or direction.
- Some other conditions that create special problems for motorcyclists are:
- Road hazards, such as gravel, debris, pavement seams, rain grooves, small animals and even manhole covers, may cause the motorcyclist to change speed or direction.
- Railroad grade crossings usually cause the motorcyclist to slow down and rise off the seat to help cushion the shock of a rough crossing. The rider also may change direction so the tracks can be crossed head on.
- Metal or grated bridges cause a motorcycle to wobble much more than a car. An experienced cyclist slows down and moves to the center of the lane to allow room for handling the uneven surface. An inexperienced cyclist may become startled and try to quickly change direction. Be prepared for either reaction.

Being aware of these situations and following these suggestions can help you share the road safely with motorcyclists. Please see our motorcycle manual for additional information.

OVERTAKING A SCHOOL BUS WITH RED LIGHTS ACTIVATED



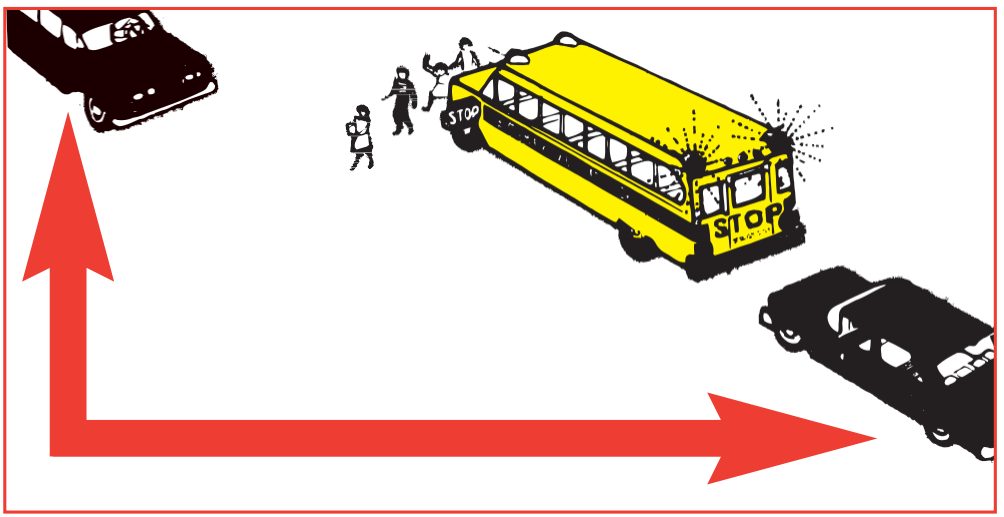
Drivers approaching a school bus from the rear may not pass the school bus when red signal lights are flashing and shall bring their vehicles to a complete stop before reaching the school bus when it is stopped. The vehicles shall remain stopped until the stop sign is retracted, the flashing red lights are discontinued, and the school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the driver to proceed.

MEETING A SCHOOL BUS

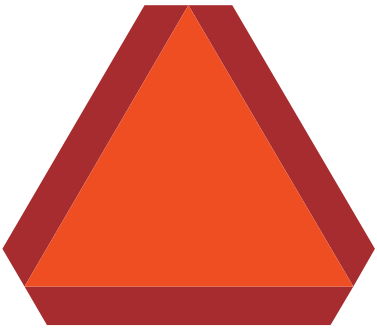
Drivers approaching a school bus on which the yellow/amber warning signal lights are flashing shall reduce the speed of their vehicles and shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop when school bus stops, red lights flash, and stop sign is extended. The vehicles shall remain stopped until stop sign is retracted and the red lights are discontinued after which they may proceed with due caution.

Driver upon a highway with separated roadways providing two or more lanes in each direction need not stop when approaching a school bus which is headed in the opposite direction even though the bus is stopped, and the stop arm is extended and the red flashing lights are activated.

BOTH VEHICLES MUST STOP



SLOW MOVING VEHICLES



Recognize this sign

Some day (or night) it may save your life. Look for it!

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE EMBLEM

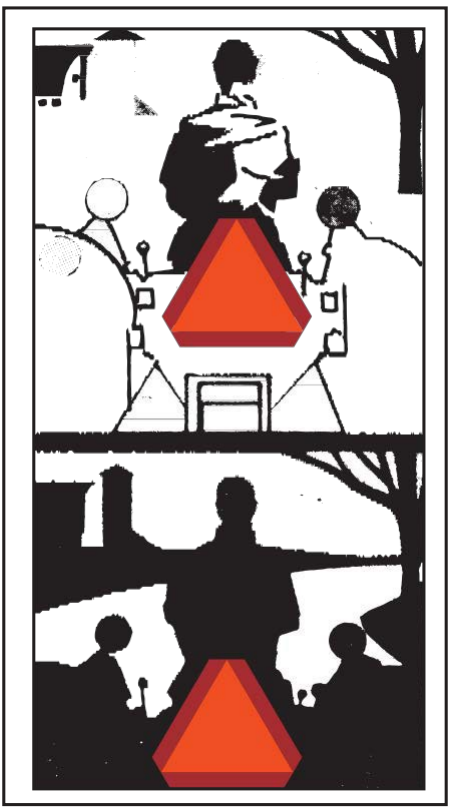
This safety device is required on all slow-moving (25 mph or less) vehicles. Here's how this SMV emblem can protect you ...

By day

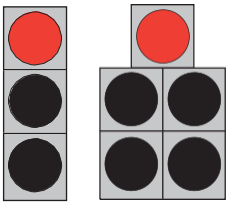
During daylight, the bright fluorescent orange solid triangle in the center of the SMV emblem is highly visible. It gains the attention and recognition of approaching motorists at distances exceeding one-fifth mile. They have ample time to slow down to avoid a crash.

By night

At night, the reflective red border of the SMV emblem glows brilliantly in the path of approaching auto head- lights. The unique, hollow red triangle immediately identifies a slow-moving vehicle.

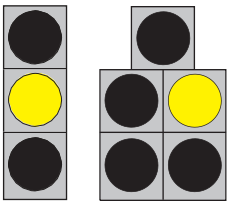


TRAFFIC SIGNALS



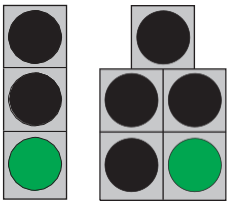
RED BALL

Stop behind the crosswalk, stop line, or if none, before entering the intersection. Right turns are permitted only after a full stop, when the turn can be made safely, and is not restricted by a “No turn on red” sign.



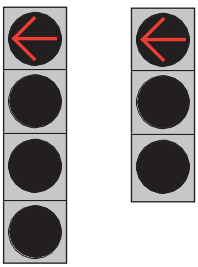
YELLOW BALL

A red light is about to appear. Stop unless you are already within the intersection, or so close to the intersection that you cannot stop safely. If the light changes to yellow as you enter the intersection, you may proceed with extreme caution.



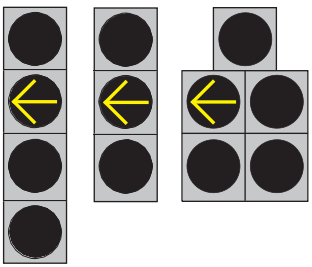
GREEN BALL

Go if the intersection is clear. Make any legal maneuver not specifically prohibited by a traffic control device. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in or who enter the intersection with the right-of-way, such as pedestrians traveling across the roadway with the green light. Yield to vehicles going straight through the intersection in the opposite direction if you are making a left turn.



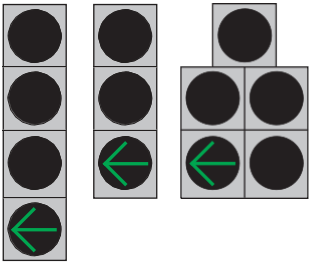
RED ARROW

Do not make the movement indicated by the arrow. Stop behind the crosswalk, stop line, or if none, before entering the intersection. No turns are allowed until the arrow changes to green or flashing yellow.



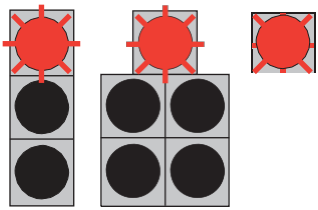
YELLOW ARROW

A red light is about to appear. Stop movement in the indicated direction unless you are already within the intersection or so close to the intersection that you cannot stop safely. In that case, proceed through the intersection making the indicated turn.



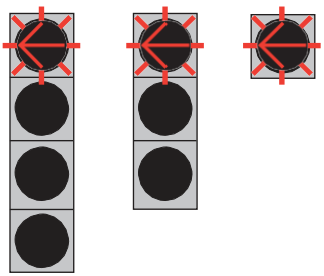
GREEN ARROW

Make the movement indicated by the arrow. This movement has the right-of-way and should not conflict with pedestrians or other vehicles. However, observe caution and yield to those who are still in or enter the intersection with the right- of-way.



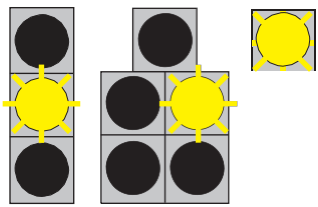
FLASHING RED BALL

Stop behind the crosswalk, stop line, or if none, before entering the intersection. Look in all directions for approaching traffic and pedestrians and proceed only when it is safe to do so. Individual flashing red balls (beacons) may be suspended over the roadway or located above stop signs. They supplement the sign where there may be a need for special emphasis.



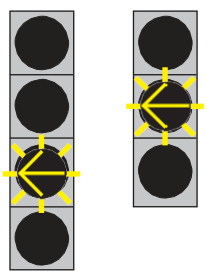
FLASHING RED ARROW

Stop behind the crosswalk, stop line, or if none, before entering the intersection. Look in all directions for approaching traffic and pedestrians and proceed only when it is safe to do so.



FLASHING YELLOW BALL

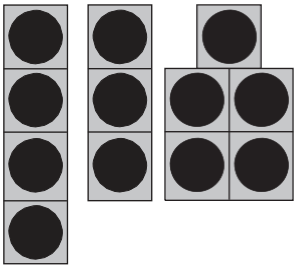
Reduce speed and exercise caution. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection. Flashing yellow balls (beacons) may be suspended over the roadway or installed with signs where there is a need for special emphasis.



FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

Exercise caution while making the movement indicated by the arrow. Yield to oncoming traffic, pedestrians, and vehicles in the intersection.
For more information, visit
https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/fya/index.shtml

UNLIT SIGNAL HEAD



If a signal does not have any of its bulbs functioning and there is no other signal head in operation for your direction and there is no one directing traffic, the intersection is uncontrolled. You must stop. Yield to traffic approaching the intersection on your right. Exercise extreme caution and proceed only when it is safe to do so. Report this condition to the nearest police department as soon as possible. (See Stops Required section of manual)

YOU MUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF A POLICE OFFICER, FIREPERSON, OR AUTHORIZED FLAG PERSON REGARDLESS OFSIGNS OR SIGNALS

STEADY ORANGE UPRAISED HAND



Pedestrians shall not leave the sidewalk or enter the roadway in the direction of the signal. Pedestrians already crossing when the signal comes on shall proceed across the roadway. The DON'T WALK signal means the same as the UPRAISED HAND.

FLASHING ORANGE UPRAISED HAND



The FLASHING UPRAISED HAND indicates that pedestrians may not enter the roadway, however those already in roadway may proceed to the other side. Pedestrians should stay within marked crosswalks and observe due courtesy to others. –The Flashing DON'T WALK signal means the same as the Flashing UPRAISED HAND.

FLASHING ORANGE UPRAISED HAND WITH COUNTDOWN TIMER



The FLASHING UPRAISED HAND WITH COUNTDOWN TIMER indicates that pedestrians are permitted to leave the curb if they can complete the crossing before the timer reaches zero.
The COUNTDOWN TIMER indicates to pedestrians the seconds remaining to complete crossing the roadway. Upon reaching zero the FLASHING UPRAISED HAND changes to the STEADY UPRAISED HAND and the COUNTDOWN TIMER goes dark.

STEADY ORANGE DON'T WALK



Pedestrians shall not leave the sidewalk or enter the roadway in the direction of the signal. Pedestrians already crossing when the signal comes on shall quickly proceed across the roadway. The hand outline means the same as the DON'T WALK signal.

FLASHING ORANGE DON'T WALK

Pedestrians may not enter the roadway but should stay within marked crosswalks and observe due courtesy to others. However, those already in roadway may proceed to the other side.



STEADY CLEAR WALK

Pedestrians may enter the roadway when it may be done with safety in the direction of the signal but should stay within marked crosswalks and observe due courtesy to others. The walking pedestrian symbol means the same as the WALK signal.



STEADY WHITE WALKING PERSON

Pedestrians may enter the roadway when it may be done with safety in the direction of the signal but should stay within marked crosswalks and observe due courtesy to others. The WALK signal means the same as the WALKING Person.

LANE CONTROL SIGNALS

Distinctive signals with X's or down arrows are used above reversible lanes. Such lanes may be marked with double yellow dashed lines on each side. Use such lane only as permitted by the signal. Do not enter the lane if signals are not illuminated.



Steady Red X

Don't use the lane. Opposing traffic is permitted to use the lane.



Steady Yellow X

Clear the lane in a safe manner. A Red X signal is about to appear.



Steady Green Arrow

Travel in lane is permitted.

TWO-WAY LEFT TURN ARROWS

Use caution entering the Two-Way Left Turn only lane. Opposing traffic also may use the lane for left turns. Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians while making the turn.



ONE-WAY LEFT TURN ARROW

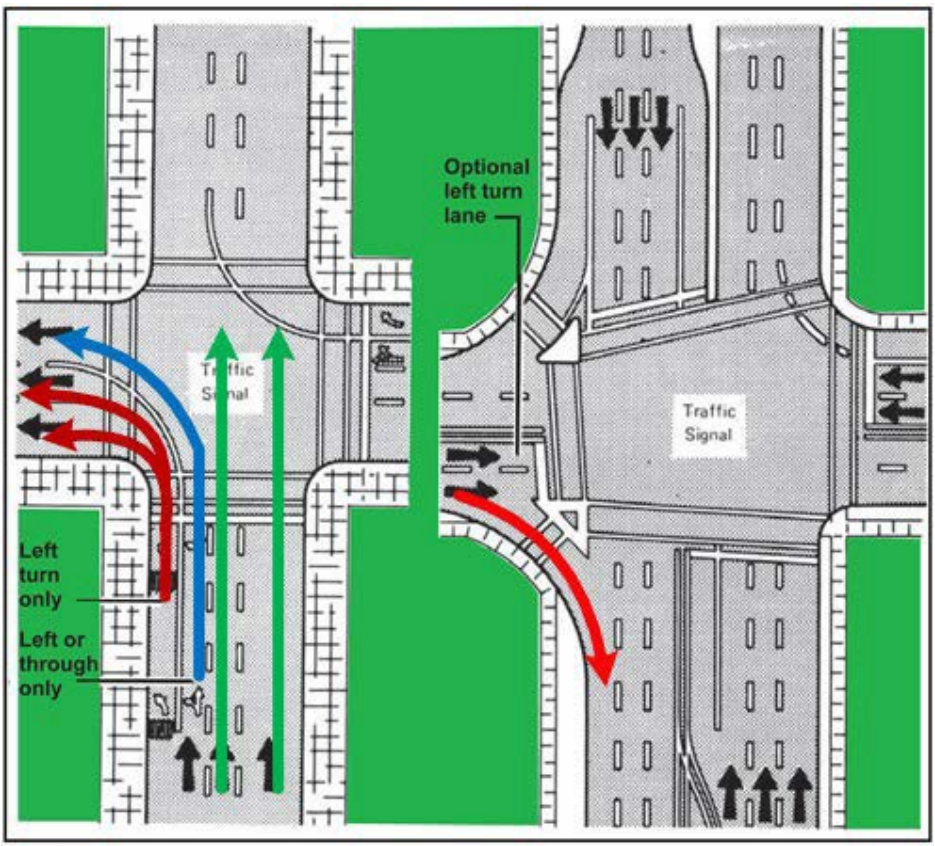
Use caution entering the Left Turn Only Lane. Opposing traffic is not permitted to use the lane for left turns. Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians while making the turn.

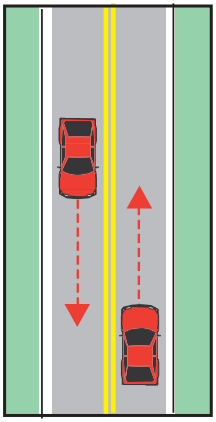


MARKING

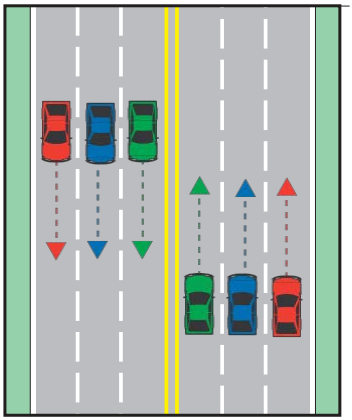
1. Pavement markings are used like roadway signs to warn, regulate, and inform traffic.
   a. Yellow markings, such as center lines, separate traffic flow going in opposite directions.
   b. White markings, such as lane lines, separate traffic going in the same direction.
   c. Dashed lines are permissive.
   d. Solid white lines are restrictive, and solid yellow lines are prohibitive. It is illegal to drive on the shoulder of roadways.

Read the traffic markings, know what they mean, and obey them. Pavement markings have the same force of law as signs or signals.



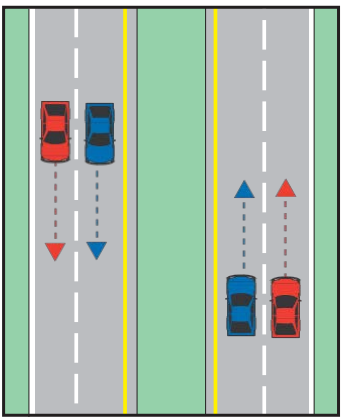


Two-lane, two-way roadway passing prohibited both directions, crossing centerline permitted only as part of left turn maneuver.



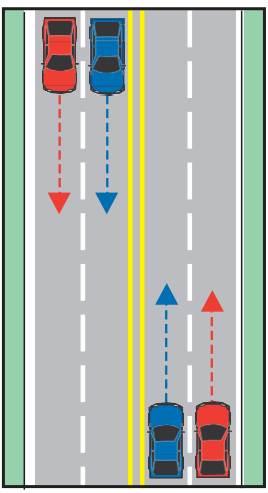
RESTRICTED LANE

Multi-lane, two-way roadways with preferential lanes assigned to buses, carpools, etc. Diamond markings and special signs are required.



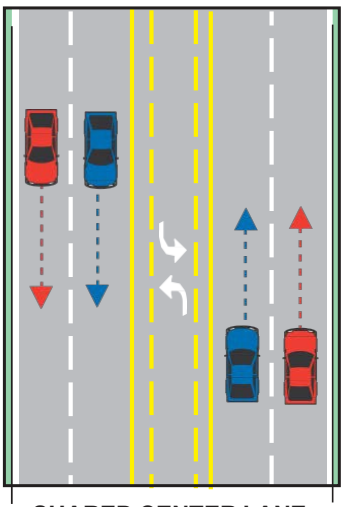
DIVIDED ROADWAYS

Divided roadways, multi-lane with divider. Yellow left edge lines are on all divided or one-way roadways.



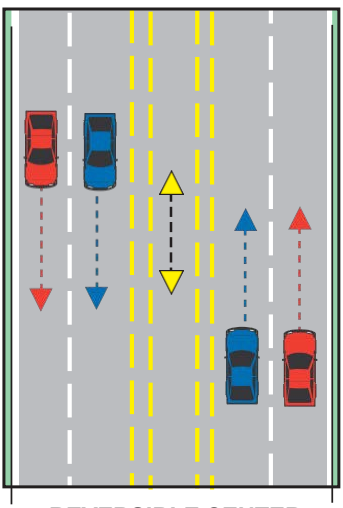
UNDIVIDED ROADWAY

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



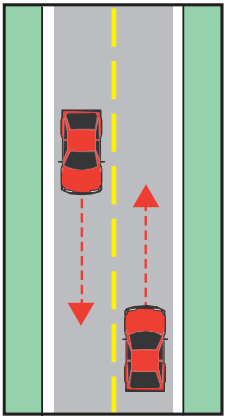
SHARED CENTER LANE

Multi-lane, two-way roadway, with two-way left turn lane reserved exclusively for left turning vehicles in either direction. Special signs and pavement marking arrows are utilized. It is not permissible to use the center left turn lane as a driving, accelerating, or passing lane.



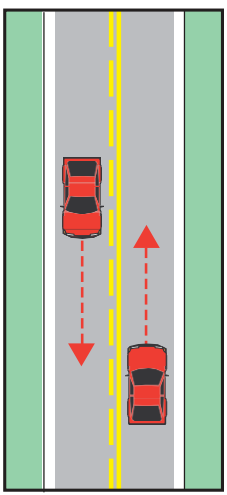
REVERSIBLE CENTER LANE

Multi-lane, two-way roadway, with center lane direction reversible during specified periods. Signs or signals are required.



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

2. Yellow lines separate traffic going in opposite directions.
   a. Dashed yellow line markings indicate where passing is permitted on two-lane, two-way roadways.
   b. Solid yellow center lines indicate where passing is not permitted; although, turning into a driveway across them is allowed.
   c. A single solid yellow line indicates the left edge of a divided roadway.
3. White lines separate traffic going in the same direction on multi-lane or one-way roadways.
   a. Dashed white lines separate lanes of travel where changing lanes is not restricted and where the lane use is not specified.
   b. Solid white lines indicate the edges of lanes specified for certain uses where changing lanes is to be discouraged.
   c. Solid white lines are also used to mark the outside edge of the pavement or to indicate the edge of the shoulder. Drive within a lane and do not move from it until it is safe to do so.



Two-lane, two-way roadway, passing prohibited one direction.

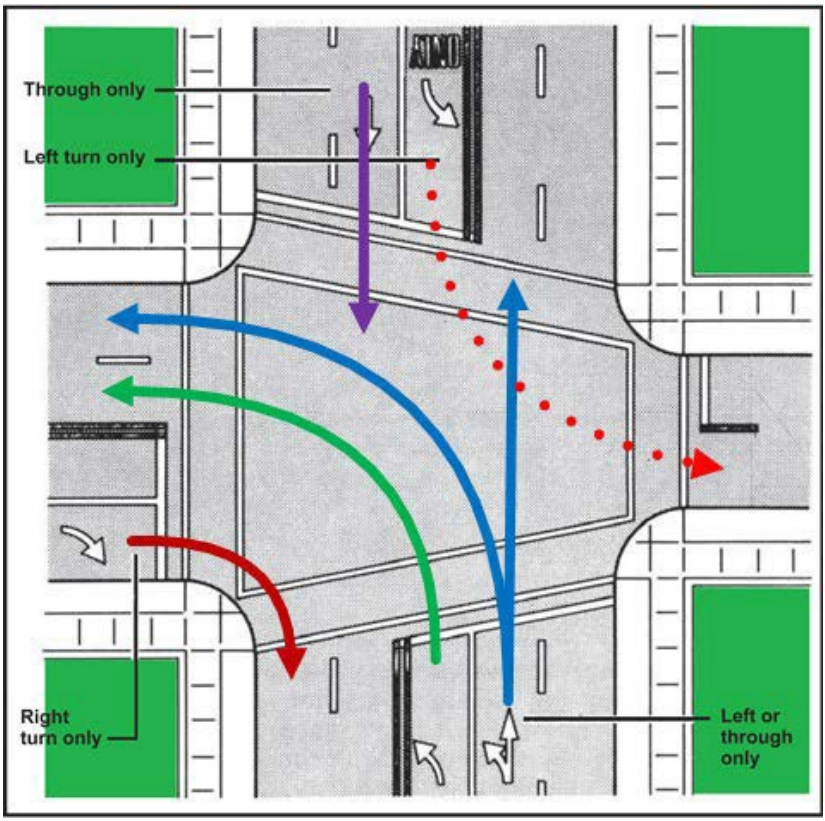
4. Pavement legends convey important information. An arrow indicates that the lane with that marking is reserved exclusively for making the movement indicated by the arrow. You must make the movement indicated by the arrow if it is in your lane.

5. 5. Special legends such as “STOP AHEAD,” “SCHOOL,” and “R X R” indicate special conditions to the driver. Although they are not regulatory, they are used only where the condition such as a “STOP” sign, school buildings, or railroad crossing requires extreme caution on the part of the motorist. Pay special heed to these legends and be prepared to stop.

6. Transverse markings such as stop lines, crosswalks, and parking space markings are white lines intended to guide the driver. Stop lines indicate the farthest point into the intersection an automobile may extend to allow the driver a clear view of approaching traffic. Stop lines are not used with crosswalks where the line farthest from the crossroad indicates the limits of the intersection. Stay outside of the limits of an intersection until you may enter it with safety. Likewise, park within marked parking stalls.

7. Crosswalk lines need not be painted at all intersections, nor do they need be in place to indicate where pedestrians have the right-of-way. Pedestrians have the right-of-way at marked crosswalks or at intersections. Do not drive to make a pedestrian yield to you; the motorist should always yield to the pedestrian. Also, do not pass to the right or left of an automobile which is stopped at a crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross the street in either direction.

8. If you find you are in the wrong lane to turn when entering an intersection, do not turn or impede so you can turn. Continue around the block. Be alert for no “U” turn signs.



RAILROAD CROSSINGS



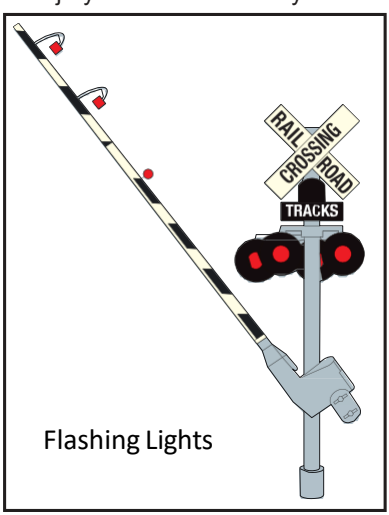
Railroad crossbuck and warning sign. Be prepared to stop for trains.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Never get trapped on a crossing. When traffic is heavy, wait on the approach to a crossing until you are sure you can clear the crossing. Watch out for the second train. When the last car of a train passes the crossing do not start up until you are sure no train is coming on another track, especially from the other direction.

Never drive around gates. If the gates are down, stay in place and do not cross the tracks until the gates are raised. It is against the law to go around crossing gates. Never race a train. Racing a train to the crossing could result in serious injury or death. You may never have another chance if you lose.

Never shift gears on the crossing. If your vehicle has a manual transmission, shift down and do not change gears while crossing the tracks. Watch for vehicles that must stop at crossings. Be prepared to stop when you are following buses or trucks which are required to stop at railroad crossings. Do not pass them when prohibited by law. If legal to pass, make sure there are no unsafe conditions and that you have a clear view of the tracks.



Always stop when a train is close to a crossing. Be prepared to stop if a train is within 1500 feet of the crossing. You must stop even if the crossing is unmarked. Do not take a chance. Trains cannot stop easily, nor within a short distance.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

IF YOU'RE STUCK ON THE TRACKS, GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE!

If your vehicle is physically on the train tracks at a grade crossing and the lights begin to flash, you may only have 20 seconds to escape before the train makes it to your location. Twenty seconds is the minimal amount of time that it takes a train to reach the grade crossing once the warning lights activate.

If this happens to you, remember the word "GO," as in GET OUT of your vehicle!

Once outside, run away from both the tracks and the vehicle. Run in the direction that the train is coming, Once clear immediately dial 911.

If you are stuck on the tracks, and there are NO WARNING LIGHTS, or the warning lights HAVE NOT ACTIVATED YET, GET OUT of your vehicle, and immediately dial 911 and the ENS (Emergency Notification System) number located on the railroad crossing posts or the metal control box near the tracks. Provide the location, crossing number (if posted) and the road or highway that intersects the tracks. Be sure to specify that a vehicle is on the tracks!





Emergency Notification System (ENS)

The typically blue colored Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign is at every highway-rail grade crossing and provides the public with a 24/7/365 telephone number to call to report problems or emergencies at these railroad locations. The sign is either located on the black and white cross buck or near the actual crossing. The toll-free ENS number is answered by railroad dispatchers who are the first line of defense to attempt to stop all train traffic at the crossing during an emergency. Directly below the dispatch number on the ENS sign is a Department of Transportation number that identifies the exact location of the crossing in question. By following the information on the sign, the public can report unsafe conditions such as:

(1) malfunctions of warning signals, crossing gates and other safety devices at the crossings.
(2) disabled cars, trucks or other vehicles blocking the railroad tracks at the crossings.
(3) the presence of trespassers on the tracks or along the right of way at the crossing; and
(4) any other information relating to an unsafe condition at the crossing.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

- Every Grade Crossing has an emergency dispatch Number for contacting the railroad to report problems with the Crossing, tracks, or train travel.
- The ENS number is typically located on a blue sign on the railroad cross buck sign or near the grade crossing.
- The sign also contains a DOT number that identifies the grade crossing's physical location so emergency crews or railroad personnel can respond.

Railroad Emergency Notification numbers:

Alaska Railroad	1-800-478-2334 or 1-907-265-2334
Amtrak	1-800-331-0008
BNSF Railway	1-800-832-5452
CSX	1-800-232-0144
Canadian National	1-800-465-9239
Canadian Pacific	1-800-716-9132
Kansas City Southern	1-800-892-6295
Norfolk Southern	1-800-453-2530
Union Pacific	1-888-877-7267



THIS INFORMATION MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Amtrak is a registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. Information compiled from Amtrak.

NIGHT DRIVING & LIGHTING

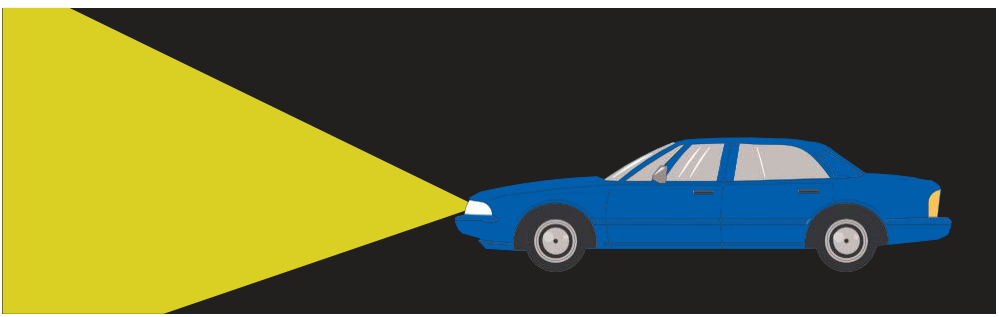
Based on miles driven, the fatal crash rate for night driving is greater than for daytime driving. This is due to the inability of the driver to see as far, as soon, and as much.

GLARE AND GLARE RECOVERY

The glare from the headlights of oncoming vehicles causes the pupil of the eye to contract. After the vehicle has passed it takes an interval of time for the pupil to readjust to the less intense light. This is called glare recovery time. During this recovery period you are virtually driving blind. Glare recovery time is not based on visual acuity and varies from person to person. The problem is generally more acute in older drivers and those with certain medical conditions.

SAFETY TIPS

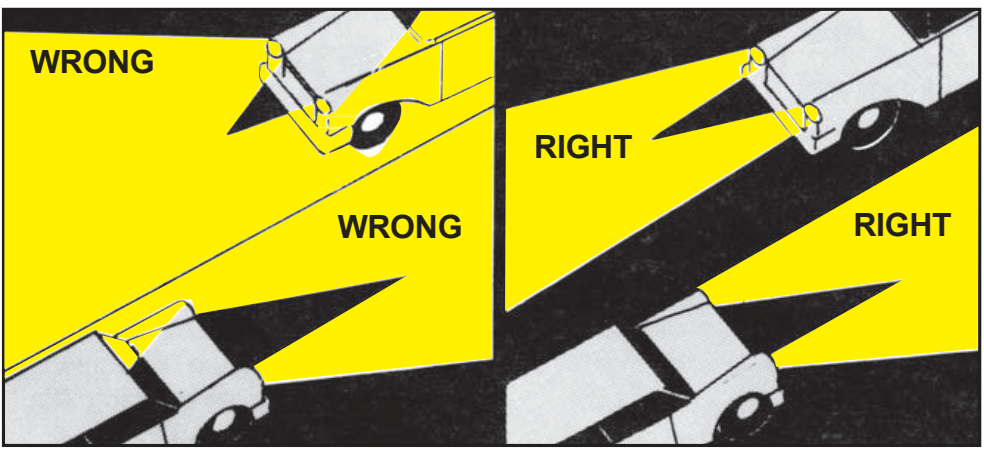
- Be sure headlights are in working order and lenses clean. (Check high and low beam on garage wall.)
- Keep windshield clean.
- Don't look straight into the approaching vehicles headlights.
- Wear sunglasses in bright sunlight to protect night seeing ability. Do not wear sunglasses in the dark.
- Tinted windshields and front windows affect night vision and increase crash risk. Tint must adhere to the standards outlined in13 AAC 04.223.
- Do not use any lights (including headlights) marked or intended for "off-road use only" while traveling on the roadway. Use of off-road lights on the roadway could worsen the effects of glare for other road users.
- Remember that even moderate drinking may reduce one's vision as well as reaction time.
- Both prescription medicines and nonprescription medicines may affect driving, read labels carefully.
- Carry a flashlight and flares.



USE OF LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

LIGHTING LAW

1. Headlights must be turned on from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
2. Headlights must be turned on in daytime when visibility is reduced to 1000 feet or less by fog, rain, snow, smoke, or dust.
3. Change headlights to low beam (dim) 500 feet or more from oncoming vehicle.
4. Change headlights to low beam (dim) 300 feet or more from vehicle going in the same direction.
5. Parking lights denote a parked vehicle. Do not use only parking lights, day, or night, when vehicle is in motion.



SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

1. Turn on **headlights** at dusk and in daytime when visibility is poor to make sure that the other driver sees you.
2. Use low beam (dim) when driving in rain, fog, snow, or dust.
3. When meeting vehicles at night **do not stare** at headlights.

   Use quick glances to:

   a. Check oncoming vehicle for lane position.
   b. Check your own vehicle's position.
   c. Check right edge of road.
   d. Look ahead for objects in your driving path.

MAJOR ROADS

CHECK VEHICLE

Any kind of mechanical failure is dangerous.

- High speeds generate heat. Check oil, water level, radiator hoses and fan belt frequently.
- Be sure tires are safe for high-speed driving. Blowouts are a common factor in crashes.
- If you have vehicle trouble, be especially cautious at night. There is danger of being hit from the rear. Use the hazard lights (all four flashing turn signals simultaneously).

EMERGENCIES

- If vehicle is disabled, move it so that all wheels are off the traveled portion of the road, if possible.
- Raise hood or tie white cloth or handkerchief on left door handle or radio antenna.
- Remove vehicle without delay.

QUIT DRIVING WHEN DROWSY

- Drowsiness is the first step in falling asleep.
- Do not stare. Move your eyes from side to side and change focus from near to far.
- Keep vehicle interior as cool as possible.
- Take a break and get out from the vehicle every 100 miles.

SPEED

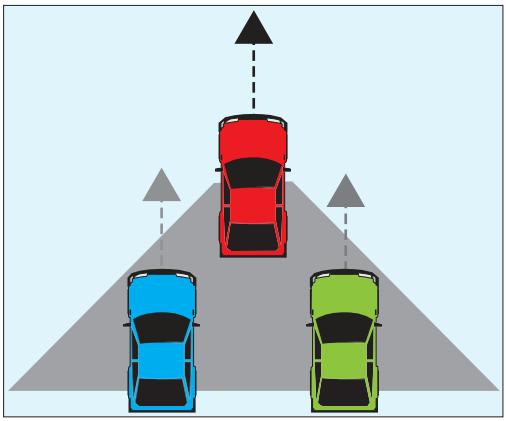
- Speed limits—as posted. Speed limitations imposed by traffic, weather and road conditions are applicable on all roadway systems.
- You are not required to drive at the maximum speed limits, though on certain roads if you are not traveling at the speed limit, you are required to pull your motor vehicle off the roadway at the first opportunity to pull over safely if there are five or more vehicles are behind you (AS 28.35.140)..
- High speed causes tire wear and results in poor gasoline mileage.
- Vary speed from time to time to prevent monotony and road hypnosis. Driving at the same speed for a long time and distance dulls the senses and makes a driver crash prone.
- Speed is a direct contributor to severity of crash because

  $Kinetic\ Energy = \frac{1}{2} Mass \times Velocity(speed)^2$.

CONTROLLED ACCESS MULTI-LANED

CHANGING LANES ... CHECK BLIND SPOTS

- Driver of front car cannot see other two cars in inside mirror.
- Check mirrors and look over shoulder toward the rear before changing lanes.
- If traffic conditions permit don't cruise in blind spot of vehicle ahead.



FOLLOWING

- Rear end crashes are one of the most prevalent crash types on high-speed roadways.
- Use the Four-Second Rule as outlined on page 28.
- Do not follow the same vehicle or group of vehicles for a long distance - this results in complacency, and you cease to consider the car ahead as a source of danger.
- Don't drive in other drivers' blind spot. They cannot see you with their inside mirror if you are near their left or right rear fender.

PASSING

- Slow moving vehicles must keep right.
- Safe passing is dependent upon cooperation between drivers. Do not speed up when being passed.
- Don't cut in too soon. Quick movements at high speed can be fatal.
- Be aware of a truck's "deaf spot." Partial vacuum often prevents truck drivers from hearing your horn.

CHANGING LANES

1. Use mirrors.
2. Check blind spots.
3. Signal intentions.
4. Check mirrors and blind spots again.
5. Change lanes gradually and carefully.

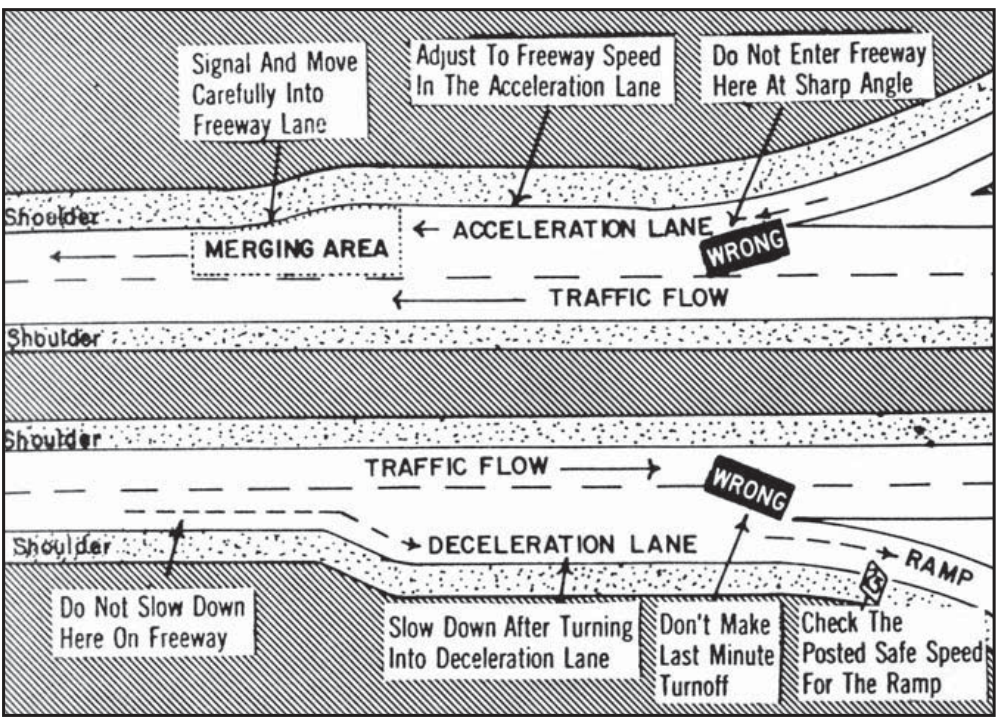
HIGHWAYS

ENTERING THE CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY-FREEWAY

- Use the acceleration lane to get up to cruising speed before attempting to merge into the traffic stream.
- Yield to approaching traffic on the freeway as you are about to enter and stop, if necessary, but be cautious of the vehicles following you.

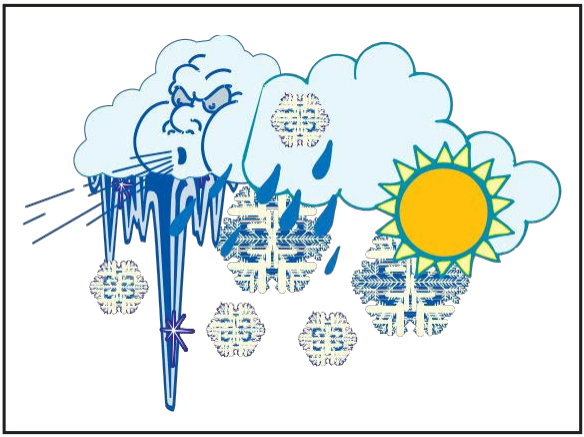
LEAVING THE EXPRESSWAY

- Keep moving on the expressway. A stop can result in a serious rear end crash. Move to the deceleration lane and then slow down.
- Plan. Watch for exit signs. If you miss an exit don't back up. Go to the next exit.
- If you take a wrong exit don't stop. Stops are a primary cause of rear end crashes.
- Except in the case of emergency, parking is prohibited on the paved portion of the highway, the shoulders, or anywhere within right-of-way.
- Make only authorized turns on the highway or freeway.
- Dimming of headlights is required on divided highways as it is elsewhere.



WEATHER CONDITIONS

RAIN - SNOW - SLEET - ICE - FOG - FROST - WIND - SUN



Weather conditions greatly affect visibility and vehicle traction. You can't avoid striking or being struck by something which you can't see. You can't stop or change direction quickly when the road surface is covered with rain, snow, or ice. The first half hour after a rain often makes hard surface roads slippery. The dust and road film are not washed off the surface. Oil, dirt, and tire dust mixed with water forms a slippery combination. Test the road surface for traction but check rear vision mirror before doing so.

Windshield wipers that streak and skip are especially hazardous on a rainy night. Good windshield wipers, in addition to washer fluid are valuable safety essentials.

SAFETY TIPS

- Carry a small bottle of detergent in glove compartment. Rub a small amount on windshield when it begins to rain to cut the oil film.
- Request service station attendant to refrain from using an oily cloth on windshield.
- Stay well back and allow plenty of distance from the vehicle ahead to aid in avoiding spatter on windshield and headlights.
- Clean lights often, especially after a rainy spell.
- Approach "stale" green traffic signals slower to be ready to stop if the light changes, especially during inclement weather.
- Bald tires do not give you directional control of your car when attempting to stop on a wet surface. Drive on tires with good tread.
- Keep your fuel tank full in cold weather to prevent moisture condensation in the fuel tank.



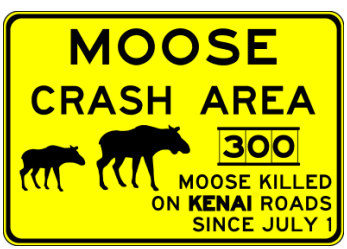




ANIMALS

- Animal encounters are a common occurrence on Alaskan roads. Moose, caribou, deer and other large animals are prevalent in most areas of the state. Regionally caribou are common in the Kenai Peninsula, sheep, and bear in South Central, with mountain goats and deer being common in the Southeast. Collisions with big game animals can be dangerous and costly. Drivers should take precautions to help prevent such crashes.
- Use caution when driving at dawn or dusk and scan roads and roadsides ahead. Look for wildlife warning signs for areas known to have higher activity near the roadway.
- Keep vehicle headlights and windshields clean. Moose can be difficult to see, and most vehicle-moose accidents occur at dawn and dusk when light is low and moose are most active.
- Reduce your speed at night and use high beams when possible.
- Slow down when approaching deer or moose standing near the roadside, as they may suddenly bolt into the road.
- Deer and moose often travel in pairs or groups, so if an animal is spotted crossing the road, slow down and be alert for others that may follow.
- Briefly use flashers or a headlight signal to warn approaching drivers when deer or moose are spotted in or near the highway.
- Drivers need to be careful of other vehicles pulling over suddenly to view wildlife.
- Be especially alert and use caution when traveling through frequent deer or moose crossing areas, which are usually marked with “leaping stag” or moose signs.
- Do not rely on devices, such as deer whistles, extra lights, or reflectors, to deter animals.
- Research has shown that your best defense is your own responsible behavior.
- Motorcyclists should be especially alert for animals as motorcycle collisions with animals have a higher fatality rate.
- If an animal does run in front of your vehicle, brake firmly but do not swerve. Swerving can cause a vehicle-vehicle collision or cause the vehicle to strike a pedestrian or potentially deadly fixed object, such as a tree or utility pole.
- If a collision with a big game animal occurs, contact your local Police Department or the Alaska State Troopers. Big game animals killed or injured in a vehicular collision are the property of the state. If, following a vehicle collision, you kill or injure a big game animal, you must notify a State Trooper or a Fish & Wildlife Officer as soon as possible.



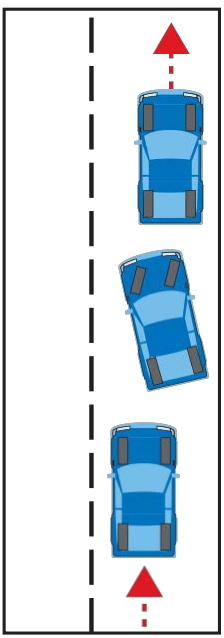




SKIDS

PREVENTION

1. Be alert to conditions that may cause skidding.
2. Avoid abrupt speed and direction changes.
3. Be extra alert for slippery conditions during thawing and freezing weather.
4. Shaded areas, protected areas, and bridges become slippery before the balance of the road surface and stay so longer.
5. Do not over-correct in a skidding situation. This results only in changing the direction of the skid.
6. Practice stopping and skid recovery in a safe area, on private property at slow speed before attempting to drive on ice or packed snow in traffic. (Don't use this as an excuse to drive recklessly).
7. When suspicious of ice, test road surface cautiously. Check mirror before making test stop.
8. Slow down well in advance of stopping point when driving on ice or packed snow.
9. Do not lock wheels when using brakes. "If wheels don't roll you don't have control." Pump brakes lightly to slow down or stop on a slippery surface. If your vehicle is equipped with ABS, check your vehicle manual for instructions on use.



RECOVERY FROM SKID

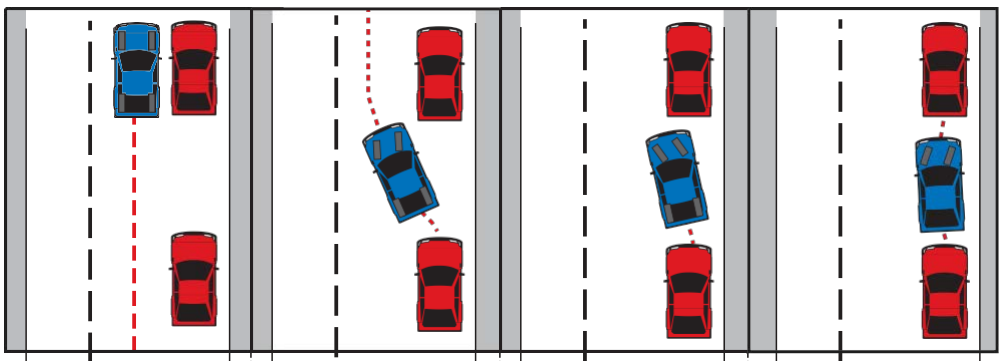
1. Control Yourself — Don't Panic.
2. Turn the front wheels in the direction of the skid.
3. Don't Brake Suddenly.
4. Don't Oversteer or Overcorrect.
5. As control is being regained, safely slow the vehicle by very gently depressing and releasing the brake pedal.

NOTE: Front-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicles require easy acceleration to pull out of a skid.

PARKING

1. When parking adjacent to roadway outside of city limits, all four wheels must be off the pavement, if possible. Parking lights or low beam headlights are to be left on at night, unless 8 feet from edge of pavement.
2. “No parking zones” in cities and towns are usually marked by a sign or yellow or red painted curb.
3. Double parking is prohibited by law.
4. To prevent theft never leave the key in the ignition of a parked unattended vehicle.
5. Remove ignition keys or fobs from a parked, unattended vehicle.
6. When parking on a downhill, turn front wheels toward curb. On an uphill, turn front wheels away from curb.
7. In parallel parking the wheels must be within 12 inches of near curb.
8. Driver must look, signal, and yield the right-of-way when moving out of a parking place.
9. It is illegal to park closer than the indicated distances from the following:
   a. 15 ft. from fire hydrant
   b. 30 ft. from stop sign
   c. 20 ft. from entrance to fire station
   d. 20 ft. from crosswalk or intersection
   e. 50 ft. from railroad crossing
   f. 500 feet from fire apparatus which has stopped with emergency lights flashing

PARALLEL PARKING



Step 1:

Signal, stop even with front vehicle about a foot and a half out from it. Rear bumpers even.

Step 2:

Back slowly turning steering wheel sharp right until vehicle is about at a 45-degree angle with the street. Quickly straighten front wheels and back slowly

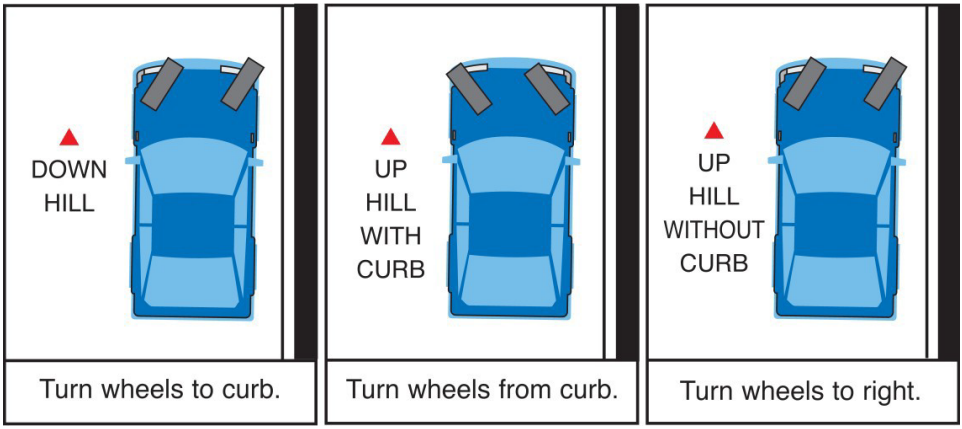
Step 3:

When front bumper is even with other vehicle’s back bumper, turn wheels sharply and rapidly to left as far as possible. Back slowly to vehicle behind without touching it.

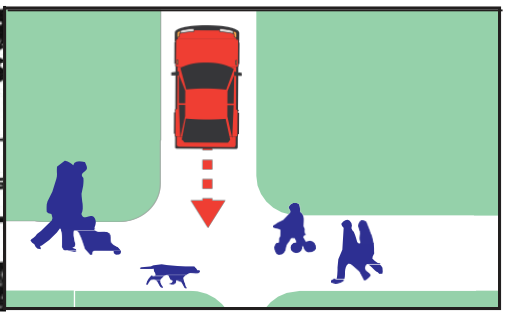
Step 4:

Turn steering wheel sharply to the right and slowly pull forward toward the curb. Center vehicle in space.

PARKING ON A HILL







Look back before driving from curb

LOOK • SIGNAL • YIELD

LEAVING PARKING SPACE

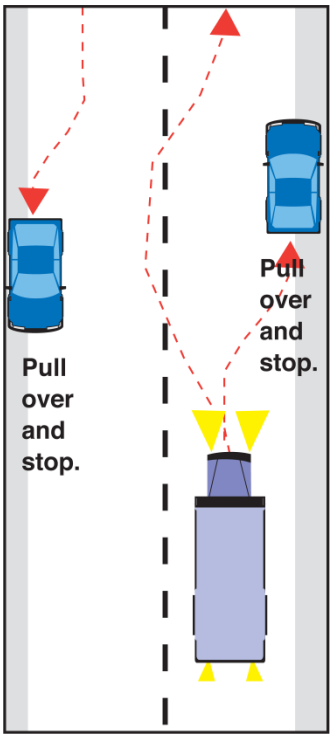
The chief responsibility for avoiding a collision lies with the driver who is leaving a parking space.

Exercise extraordinary caution when backing up in residential areas. Children may be present behind and between parked vehicles.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

1. Vehicles operated by police and fire departments as well as ambulances are equipped with sirens and front red and/or blue lights.
2. It is against the law for an unauthorized vehicle to have a red light visible from the front, or a blue light visible from the side.

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle displaying a flashing red light and/or blue light, whether a siren is in operation or not, the driver of every vehicle proceeding in any direction shall yield the right-of-way by slowing and pulling to the right-hand edge of the roadway, clear of an intersection and stopping, to await passage of the emergency vehicle. 13 AAC 02.140



Failure to vacate the lane or unsafe driving around emergency vehicles can lead to a crash, personal injury, and/or citations.

Approaching emergency vehicles

A driver of a motor vehicle must be cautious of the surrounding area. If there are emergency vehicles on the road (Ambulance, Fire truck, law enforcement, or tow truck) responding to an emergency, a driver must.

1. Yield the right of way to emergency vehicle approaching from any direction by moving to the lane away from the emergency vehicle. 13 AAC 02.140
2. If moving to another lane is not possible, or there is only one lane in the direction you are traveling, slow down to a reasonable speed and drive safely around the scene.

Encountering stationary emergency vehicles

When encountering stationary emergency vehicles or tow trucks with overhead flashing lights on a four-lane road, drivers must pull to the lane opposite the emergency vehicle/tow truck if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe to do so, or you are on a two-lane road, you must slow to a reasonable and prudent speed when passing. AS 28.35.185

Following emergency vehicle

A vehicle may not follow an emergency vehicle traveling in response to an emergency closer than 500 feet. Do not park a vehicle within 500 feet where fire apparatus has stopped and displays flashing red and/or blue lights.

Do not crossfire hoses

Do not drive over a hose of a fire department without the consent of a department official.

Driving your vehicle over any fire hose is not permissible under Alaska law. Damage or injury could occur to you, your vehicle or endanger the lives of rescue workers. 13 AAC 02.520 (c) $100 fine, 2 pts.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Be aware, your city may have additional ordinances in regards to motorists and emergency vehicles.

Stop by Law Enforcement

Drivers are required to stop as soon as is practical and in a reasonably safe manner when signaled to do so by police. AS 28.35.182 If you are contacted by an officer and you have a deadly weapon concealed on your person, you must notify the officer immediately. AS 11.11.61.220(a)(1)(A) Drivers must have their driver's license in their possession AS 28.15.131, proof of insurance AS 28.22.019, proof of current registration AS 28.10.461 and show it to the officer upon request. Proof of insurance may be displayed on a mobile device.

Best practices:

- If you are being pulled over, signal immediately to show the officer your intentions and pull over to the right as soon as it is safe to do so, even if you are in the left lane of a four-lane roadway.
- Try not to stop on a curve, just after the crest of a hill, next to a guardrail, or other location that would make the stop unsafe for you and the officer.
- The driver and all passengers should stay in the vehicle.
- In times of darkness, turn on interior lights of the vehicle.
- Keep your hands visible, such as on the steering wheel.
- Prior to retrieving any documents from a wallet, purse, center console, or glove compartment, wait for the officer to ask. Notify the officer if you have a disability and cannot comply with the orders.
- When the stop is complete, the officer will remain in place until you signal and safely reenter the lane of traffic unless they instruct you otherwise.

EMERGENCIES

TIRE BLOWS OUT

- Don't apply brakes.
- Concentrate on steering.
- Slow down gradually.
- Brake softly.
- Pull completely off pavement.

FIRE

- If your vehicle is on fire, and if it can be done safely, utilize a fire extinguisher, check a ditch for water, apply mud, dirt, dust, or snow until the fire is extinguished or it is no longer safe.
- Use hub cap to carry water or wet wearing apparel.
- Loosen dirt with tire tool.

WET BRAKES

- Test brakes lightly after driving through deep water.
- Brakes may pull to one side or may not hold at all.
- Dry brakes by driving slowly in low gear and apply brakes lightly.

ACCELERATOR JAMMED

- Slap pedal hard with foot.
- Use brakes.
- Shift to neutral.
- Concentrate on steering.

DISABLED VEHICLE

- Park all four wheels off the traveled portion of the highway if possible.
- Turn on parking lights or 4-way flashers at night.
- If available, set out flares or warning triangles.
- If you cannot move car off roadway raise hood to warn other motorists.

BRAKES FAIL

- Use parking brake.
- Shift to lower gear.
- Rub tires on curb.

VEHICLE APPROACHING IN YOUR LANE

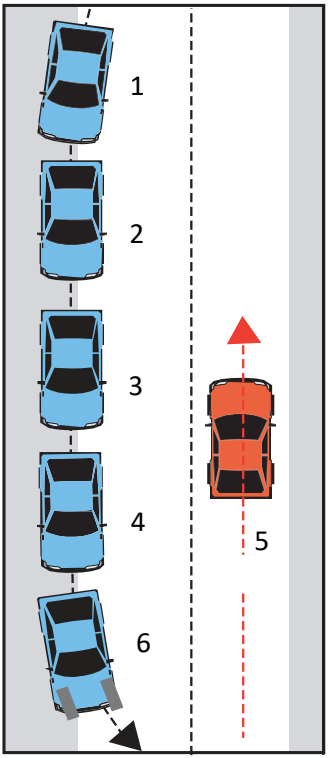
- Sound your horn.
- Brake sharply.
- Steer for shoulder or ditch.

SAFETY TIPS

WHEEL(S) OFF ROADWAY

If you have veered off the roadway the following tips will help you maintain control of the vehicle.

- Stop feeding gas.
- Maintain firm grip on steering wheel.
- Brake lightly and intermittently.
- Maintain car control.
- Do not attempt to return to pavement until there are no cars in your immediate vicinity.
- Turn back on to pavement at slow speed.



COASTING PROHIBITED

A driver of a motor vehicle when traveling on a downgrade may not coast with the gears of the vehicle in neutral, or with the clutch disengaged.

TURNING AROUND ON THE HIGHWAY

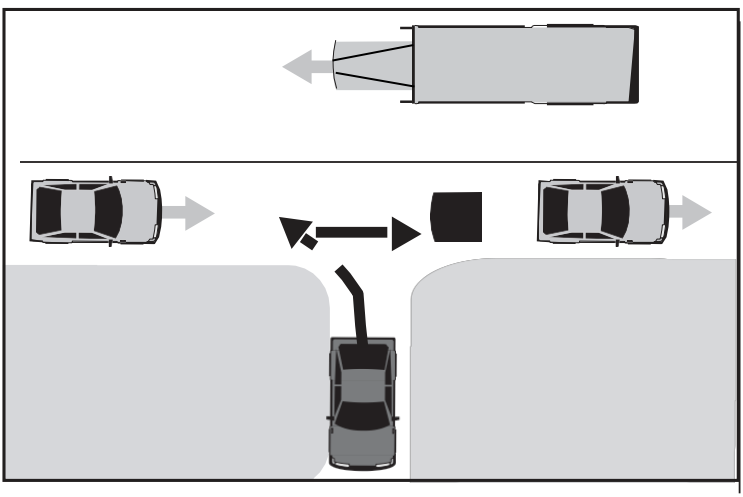
Do not turn around near a curve or hill when the driver cannot see 500 feet or more in each direction.

TURNING AROUND IN THE CITY

The safest method is drive around the block. Be alert for signs prohibiting “U” turns.

BACKING

Always look before you back. Avoid opening the door and sticking your head out to see this is dangerous. When backing, you must yield the right-of-way to a vehicle approaching on the highway or intersecting highway. Unless directed by police, fire or construction flag personnel, it is illegal to back on a “controlled access” highway, or on its entrance or exit ramps.

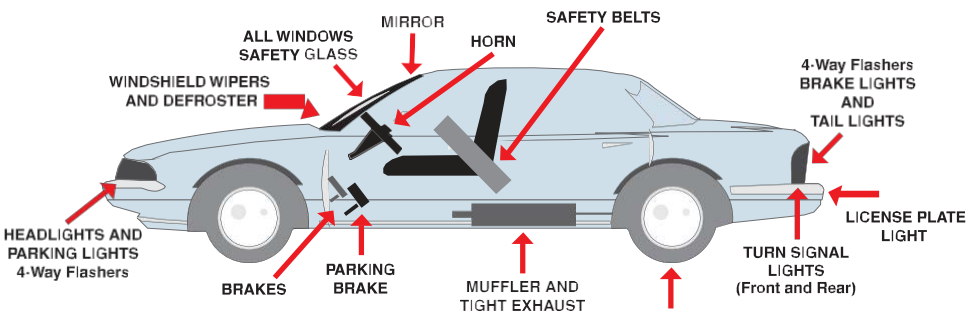


REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- **Safety/Seat belts.** All seating positions should have safety/seat belts.
- **Headlights**. At least two, one on each side on the front.
- **Taillights.** At least two red lights on the rear. (Both must be working).
- **Brake lights.** Two which shall only work when foot brake is applied. (Both must be working).
- **License plate light.** A white light must illuminate the rear license plate so that numbers are visible for at least 50 ft., if equipped.
- **Turn signals.** All vehicles must be equipped with directional signals, and they must be in working order.
- **Foot brake.** Adequate to stop passenger vehicle within 25 feet at a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **Emergency or parking brake and lights.** Adequate to hold vehicle stationary on any grade. Two lights, front, and rear.
- **License plate.** Must have a single license plate with month and year tabs displayed on rear of vehicle.
- **Windshield and windows.** Windshield required. Windshield, side wings, side, and rear windows must be safety glass and afford driver clear vision. Tinting may not exceed the percent allowed by law.
- **Windshield wipers and defroster**. Required devices for cleaning rain, snow, etc., from windshield.
- **Safety glass.** All original and replacement glass must be safety glass.
- **Horn.** Capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from not less than 200 feet. No device shall emit an unusually loud sound or whistle.
- **Mirror**. Left side and inside or right mirror required. Vehicles with obstructed driver's view through rear window and buses are required to have mirrors on left and right side. Mirrors must be adjusted to afford driver a view to the rear of the vehicle.
- **Anti-spray devices(mud flaps or fenders)** The vehicle design or accessories must effectively reduce wheel spray to the rear.

Note: No lights illuminated while the vehicle is on the roadway (including those listed above) should be labeled "for off-road use only".

YOUR CAR MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WORKING AND IN PROPER ADJUSTMENT:



* Alaska non-commercial registered vehicles must have a single rear license plate with valid year and month tabs.

UNNECESSARY USE OF HORN

Audible signal devices may not be used unless necessary to assure safe operation.

MUFFLERS, PREVENTION OF NOISE

Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise. No person may use a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway.

SUGGESTED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Jumper Cables
Three flares for nighttime emergencies.
Flashlight.
Windshield washer.
Booted anti-ice wiper blades.
Snow tires or tire chains.
Frost scraper and snow brush.
Tow chain.
Emergency kit (i.e., first aid kit, extra clothing/boots, blanket, sand, shovel, food.)

CARBON MONOXIDE

A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas from vehicle exhaust can make you a dangerous driver and even cost you your life. It paralyzes before it kills.

Symptoms— headache, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Prevention— tight exhaust system, adequate fresh air circulation.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE

- Never run a vehicle in a closed garage.
- Be sure that the vehicle's exhaust system is in good condition.
- Keep the operating efficiency of engine high.
- Never Park and run heater or air conditioner with the windows closed.
- Always have plenty of fresh air in vehicle.
- Move victim of carbon monoxide to fresh air and administer artificial respiration.

LARGE TRUCKS & BUSES

You are at a serious disadvantage if involved in a crash with a larger vehicle. In large truck crashes, the occupants of a car, usually the driver, sustain 78% of fatalities. To keep you and your family safe when driving around large trucks and buses, you should be extra cautious. Sharing the road with larger vehicles can be dangerous if you are not aware of their limitations.

Large trucks and buses do not operate like cars. They are so large that accelerating, slowing down, or stopping takes more time and much more space than any other vehicle on the road. They have large blind spots, make wide turns, and are not as maneuverable. If they come upon an unexpected traffic situation, there may not be enough room for them to avoid a crash. Here are a few tips to help you drive safer to prevent a crash.



STAY OUT OF THE "NO-ZONE"

Watch out for the No-Zone around large trucks and buses. The No-Zone represents the blind spots around the front, back, and sides of trucks and buses where crashes are more likely to occur because truck drivers have limited visibility. Because of a truck's size, truck drivers must react faster than car drivers in emergency situations. If faced with a potential front-end crash, the truck driver may turn into your lane not knowing you are there. So be safe and don't hang out in the No-Zone. Remember, if you can't see the truck or bus driver in their side mirrors, they can't see you.

DON'T CUT IN FRONT OF TRUCKS

If you cut in front of another vehicle, you may create an emergency-braking situation for the vehicles around you, especially in heavy traffic. Trucks and buses take much longer to stop in comparison to cars. A car traveling at 55 mph can stop in about 130 to 140 feet, however a truck needs 400 feet to stop. Truck drivers leave extra room behind the vehicles they follow. If you move into that space and must brake suddenly, you cut the trucks available stopping distance in half — placing you and your passengers in danger.



When a car is hit from behind by a truck the results are too often deadly. Trucks are not equipped with the same type of energy-absorbing bumpers as cars. More than 60% of fatal car/truck crashes involve impacts with the front of the truck.

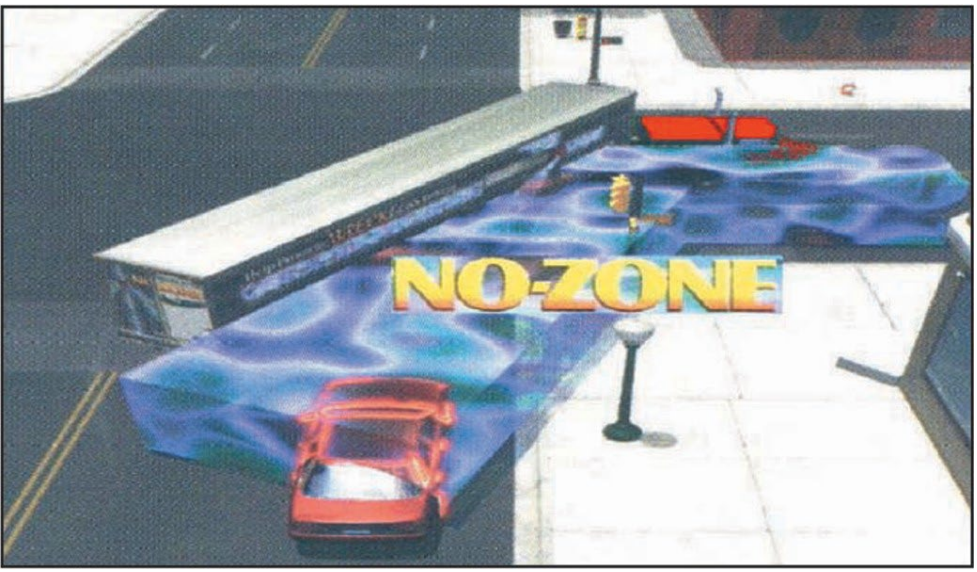
Anticipate the flow of traffic before pulling in front of trucks. When passing, look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front of the truck, and then don't slow down!

AVOID TAILGATING

Large trucks are almost as wide as your lane of travel. Driving too close behind a truck prevents you from seeing and reacting to changing traffic conditions. You won't notice a slow down on the highway, debris in the road, or a crash until it is a braking emergency. If there is a problem ahead, your first hint will be the truck's brake lights. If you happen to be distracted or fatigued, you may not be able to react in time. If you hit the rear of a truck, you'll quickly learn that trucks are unforgiving. Trucks do not have impact-absorbing bumpers and their metal bumpers may not align with yours. So be smart and give yourself plenty of room; more than you would for a passenger vehicle.

TRUCKS MAKE WIDE RIGHT TURNS

Be careful of trucks making wide right turns. If you get in between the truck and the curb, you'll be caught in a "squeeze" and can suffer a serious collision. Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left so that they can safely negotiate a right turn especially in urban areas. They can't see cars directly behind or beside them. Cutting in between the truck and the curb increases the possibility of a crash. So, pay attention to truck signals, and give them lots of room to maneuver.



FLOODING

Flooding can occur when streams and rivers flow over their banks, when dams or levees break, when there is run-off from deep snow or any time there is heavy rainfall. Floodwaters can be found on roads, bridges, and low areas. Flash floods can come rapidly and unexpectedly. They can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- Be cautious, especially at night, when the visibility is limited.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- Two feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can hide dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways by washing away the underlying road surface.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.

CHECK YOUR DRIVING HABITS

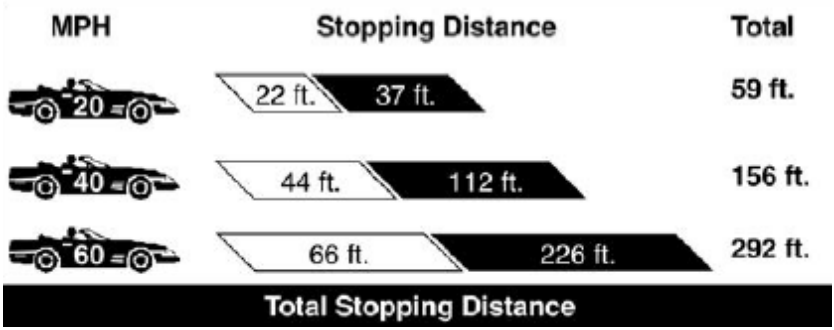
SMART DRIVING TO PROTECT YOU, YOUR WALLET, AND THE PLANET*

Safe driving does more than protect you: it saves you money and reduces air pollution. Operating a car involves many expenses, including gas, maintenance, and tires. Drivers and car owners can take several steps to minimize these expenses at no additional cost.

DRIVING HABITS TO ADOPT

1. Slow down. Fuel consumption increases about 5% for every five miles per hour driven above 60 mph. If you traveled a 20-mile highway commute at 60 mph instead of 70 mph, you would save approximately 1.3 gallons of gas each five-day work week.
2. Ease up on the pedals. Rapid starts and hard stops can increase fuel usage by 40% but reduce travel time by only 4%. The Environmental Protection Agency predicts that gentle acceleration and braking can save more than $1 per gallon. To avoid unnecessary stress on the acceleration and gas pedals:
   a. Accelerate gradually and avoid jackrabbit starts.
   b. Anticipate your stops; when approaching a red light, let your foot off the gas pedal as early as possible.
   c. Maintain a constant speed and coast when you can.
   d. Make sure you have an E-Z Pass to save time and fuel.
3. Drive Cool. In the summer, avoid driving during the hottest parts of the day. Cooler, denser air can boost power and mileage.
4. Stay Cool. Use your car's air conditioner when driving more than 40 mph. Today's air conditioners create less drag on the engine than driving with the windows open.
5. But Drive to Warm Up. Even on the coldest days, it only takes 30 seconds to get your vehicle ready to drive. Today's engines are designed to run most efficiently when warmed up, so warm up the vehicle by driving it.
6. Keep Cruising. Get a 7% average fuel savings by using cruise control while driving on flat highways. Using cruise control for 10,000 miles could save more than 60 gallons of fuel.
7. Follow the Light. When your vehicle's onboard diagnostics (OBD) light turns on, it is possible that fuel economy is decreasing, and emissions are increasing. If the OBD light comes on, talk with your auto dealer for more information.

8. Drive Safely. Keep enough distance between you and other vehicles. Doing so not only protects you, it also prevents wear and tear on your vehicle. You should know:
    a. "Two-second" rule: Pick an object in front of you, like a signpost or tree. When the vehicle in front of you reaches that object, count out "one-one thousand, two-one thousand ..." If you reach the object before you count two, you are too close. Slow down until you've put enough distance between you and the other vehicle. (Alaska Regulation 13 AAC 02.090)
    b. React and Step: It takes about three-quarters of a second to react to a situation and step on the brake pedal. At 50 mph, your vehicle will go another 55 feet in the three- quarters of a second it takes to react. Once you hit the brakes, you may go another 160 feet or more before you stop.



    c. Be Alert: Notice your surroundings, road conditions, and car features when driving. Make sure that you:
        I. Do not let your footrest on the brake pedal (also called riding your brakes).
        II. Never pump the brakes if your vehicle has antilock brakes. As of 2010, 89% of new cars and 99% of new light trucks have antilock brakes.
        III. Always slow down near a curve or an area where you cannot see clearly ahead.
        IV. Give yourself more distance from other vehicles when it is raining or snowing. When roads are wet or icy, it requires a longer distance for your vehicle to come to a complete stop.
9. Utilize Your Car. If your vehicle has an "ECO" setting, use it. It will smooth out your gas pedal inputs, optimize transmission shift points, and decrease the impact of air conditioners on the engine.
10. Turn it Off. Idling wastes fuel and may be prohibited. If you need to idle, shift to neutral so the engine is not working against your brake and consuming more fuel. As a rule of thumb, tum off your car for stops anticipated to be longer than 30-60 seconds.
11. Drive less. There are multiple ways to reduce costs and save money by driving less:
    a. Take public transportation, bicycle, or walk, or carpool. These modes of transportation lower operating costs for your vehicle.

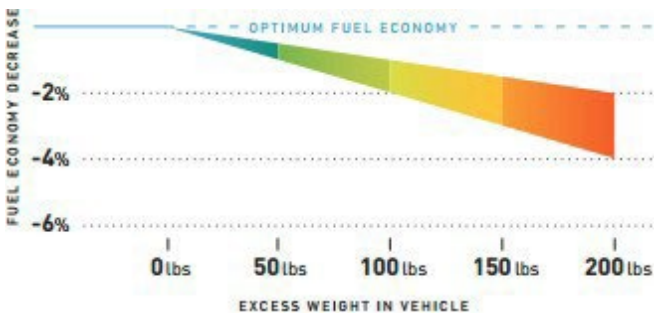
b. Combine errands to save time and gas. When you need to make multiple stops, go to your farthest destination first to warm up your engine more quickly for better fuel economy. If possible, park in a central place and walk to each destination.

12. Stay on Your Couch. Shop online and use online services for banking, paying bills, and other tasks that do not require leaving your home.
13. Educate Yourself. There are many resources available to get and stay educated about the best safe driving practices.

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES TO FOLLOW

1. Click the Cap. Loose, damaged, or missing fuel tank caps cause 147 million gallons of fuel to evaporate each year. Make sure the cap is tight and you can save about $120 per year.
2. Check the Pressure. In 2005, 1.2 billion gallons of fuel were wasted by driving on underinflated tires. Proper tire pressure is safer, extends tire life, and can provide up to 3% benefit per tank of fuel.

   DID YOU KNOW? Tires must have at least 2/32 inches of tread depth. The distance between the edge of a penny and the top of Lincoln's head is about 2/32 of an inch. If you slide a penny into a tread groove and can see the top of Lincoln's head, your tires are worn out.
3. Twist and turn. Rotate your tires. Proper rotation can add as much as 10,000 miles to the life of a set of tires.
4. Travel Light. Remove unneeded items from the trunk and avoid using the roof rack. Added weight and air resistance will cause more fuel to burn.

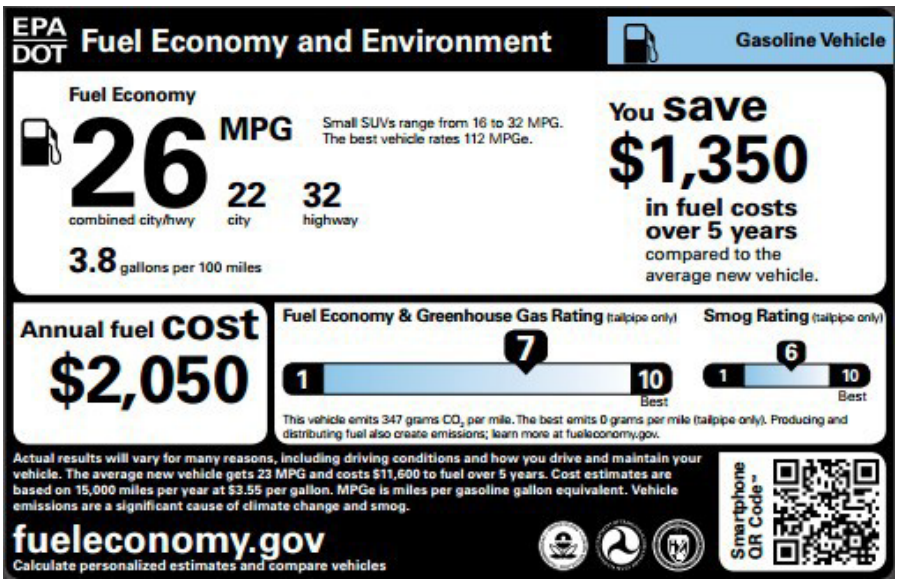


5. Slim Down. Wind resistance can reduce mileage, so remove luggage racks, roof-top carriers, and ski racks when not being used.
6. Oil Up. Make sure you use the type of motor oil recommended in your vehicle's owner's manual. You can improve your fuel economy 1-2% by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Remember to change the oil regularly because degraded motor oil will degrade fuel economy.
7. Tune Up. A tune up can improve gas mileage by an average of 4%. Visit your local dealership or auto shop on a regular schedule.
8. Keep it Clean. Keep the air filter clean to the point where light can be seen through it.
9. Clogged filters reduce mileage by 10%.

STAY INFORMED

☐ The actions outlined in this plan can go a long way to producing meaningful savings for you, but it is important to remain informed. Keep records of your driving history to compare costs over time and make better decisions when purchasing new cars. There are several smartphone applications that make it easy to track your driving history and calculate fuel efficiency and cost savings. Check your smartphone's app store to see which app is the best fit for you.

As you shop for vehicles that are model year 2013 and later, be sure to review the fuel economy and environmental labels designed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These labels are designed to give you, the buyer, information about how each car ranks in areas like fuel economy, fuel cost savings, and impact on the environment. Additionally, by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone, you can access online information about how various models compare on fuel economy and other environmental and energy factors.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visit the EcoDriver 's Manual for more information on how to drive smart and green.
- Check your phone 's app store to find an eco-driving app that works for you.
- To access the links in this document, visit the electronic version at www.livewithlessimpact.com

** Prepared by the Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School. This document includes information from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicle's driving manual and AAA publications. Cost savings may vary based on the price of gasoline.*

Maintenance Safety Tips

Automobile Accidents are the No. 1 Killer of Teens in America

2,614 Teen Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes in 2013

1,000,000 Teen Drivers Involved in Police-Reported Crashes in 2013

12% Of Crashes Among Inexperienced Drivers are Tire Related

AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH:

1. CHECK YOUR TIRE TREAD
   - ☐ Hold a penny with Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.
   - ☐ Place Lincoln's headfirst into the deepest-looking groove.
   - ☐ Can you see all his head? If yes, your tires are too worn - don't drive on them and get them replaced.
2. CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE
   - ☐ Buy a tire pressure gauge, if you don t have one already.
   - ☐ Open your car door and on the inside jamb you should see a sticker - take a picture on your smartphone of the number that says "PSI" (the measurement for tire pressure).
   - ☐ Use the pressure gauge to check your tires (make sure you check when they are cold).
   - ☐ Compare the number on the gauge to the number you wrote down. If above, let air out.
3. CHECK YOUR BREAK LIGHTS
   - ☐ Turn on your car.
   - ☐ Have a friend or parent stand behind the car.
   - ☐ Step on the brake pedal.
   - ☐ Does your friend see both lights? If not, you should replace the bulb or fuse
   - ☐ If you don't know how, get a professional to do it.
4. CHECK YOUR WINDSHIELD WIPERS
   - ☐ Windshield wiper blades need to be replaced periodically to ensure optimum visibility.
   - ☐ Replace them at least yearly if you live in a sunny/hot or cold region, and twice a year if you live in a dusty or dry region.
   - ☐ Clean wiper blades periodically with rag or alcohol wipe to maintain their performance.

5. CHECK YOUR FLUIDS
   a. Oil
      - ☐ Open the hood of your car
      - ☐ Find the oil dipstick, remove it and wipe it down with a rag or paper towel
      - ☐ Put back the dipstick - make sure you push it in as far as it will go
      - ☐ Pull out the dipstick again - if the film of oil does not reach the markings, add more oil
      - ☐ Check your driver's manual to see how often you should replace your oil
   b. Coolant
      - ☐ Open the hood of your car
      - ☐ Find the coolant tank- this is usually next to the radiator
      - ☐ If the coolant doesn't reach the "minimum" fill line, fill it with a coolant/water solution (the ratio for this will be in your car's driver manual)

WARNING: Never open the radiator cap on a hot car! Wait until the car has cooled down first.

**Statistics from NHTSA, information provided by Michelin North America Inc. See* http://beyondthedrivingtest.com/ *for more information*

KEEP OUR STATE SAFE AND LITTER FREE



- Up to 45% of Alaska's liter comes from uncovered or unsecured truck loads.
- Roadside Litter is not only unsightly but can be dangerous to motorists.
- It is illegal to travel Alaska's roads with an unsecured load.



The penalty for littering in Alaska is a fine up to $1000; a maximum of 90 days imprisonment, and a possible court-imposed penalty of gathering litter in a specified area for a specified time.

For information on litter reduction and recycling, write:

Department of Environmental Conservation

PO Box 111800

Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800

MOTOR VEHICLE CONTACTS

DMV services are available at the following locations. Offices listed under DMV Field Locations are State of Alaska DMV offices.

DMV services are performed by Business Partners as well, these businesses provide Title, Registration and Driver's license and ID services for an additional fee. Please visit our web to see a full listing of these partners.

DMV FIELD LOCATIONS – Call 269-5551 or 1-855-269-5551

City	Location
Anchorage	4001 Ingra Street, Suite 101
Eagle River	11723 Old Glenn Highway, #113
Bethel	300 State Hwy. (City Hall)
Delta Junction	Mile 1420 Alaska Hwy.
Fairbanks	414 3rd Street
Haines	259 Main St. Suite 16 (Gateway Building)
Homer	3798 Lake St. Suite B
Juneau	2760 Sherwood Lane #B
Ketchikan	415 Main Street, #103
Kodiak	2921 Mill Bay Rd. Suite B
Kotzebue	605 3rd Ave.
Palmer	515 E. Dahlia Avenue, Suite 230 (Palmer)
Sitka	901 Halibut Point Road, Suite A
Soldotna	43335 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Suite #9
Tok	Mile 1314 Alaska Highway (Alaska Public Lands Information Center)
Valdez	217 Meals Avenue, Suite 6

Offices listed under Commission Agent locations are offices operated by local governments or private companies who contract with the State to provide services.

Commission Agent	Location
Anderson	260 West 1st Street
Cordova	602 Railroad Avenue (Public Safety building)
Craig	506 2nd Street
Dillingham	404 D Street
Glennallen	Mile 187.5 Glenn Highway
King Salmon	Bldg. 150 King Salmon Air Force Base
Kotzebue	605 3rd Avenue
Petersburg	15 N. 12th Street, Suite 103
Seward	410 Adams Street (City Hall)
Skagway	17th and State Street
Talkeetna	Mile 0.3 Talkeetna Spur RD (Susitna Valley DMV)
Trinity Sales & Service (Nome)	306 West 5th Avenue Suite #183
Unalaska	29 Public Safety Way
Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow)	2022 Ahkovak St. (City Hall)
Wrangell	431 Zimovia Highway
Yakutat	609 Forest Highway Number 10

MAILING ADDRESSES

Anchorage – Headquarters

4001 Ingra Street, Suite 101 • Anchorage, AK 99503

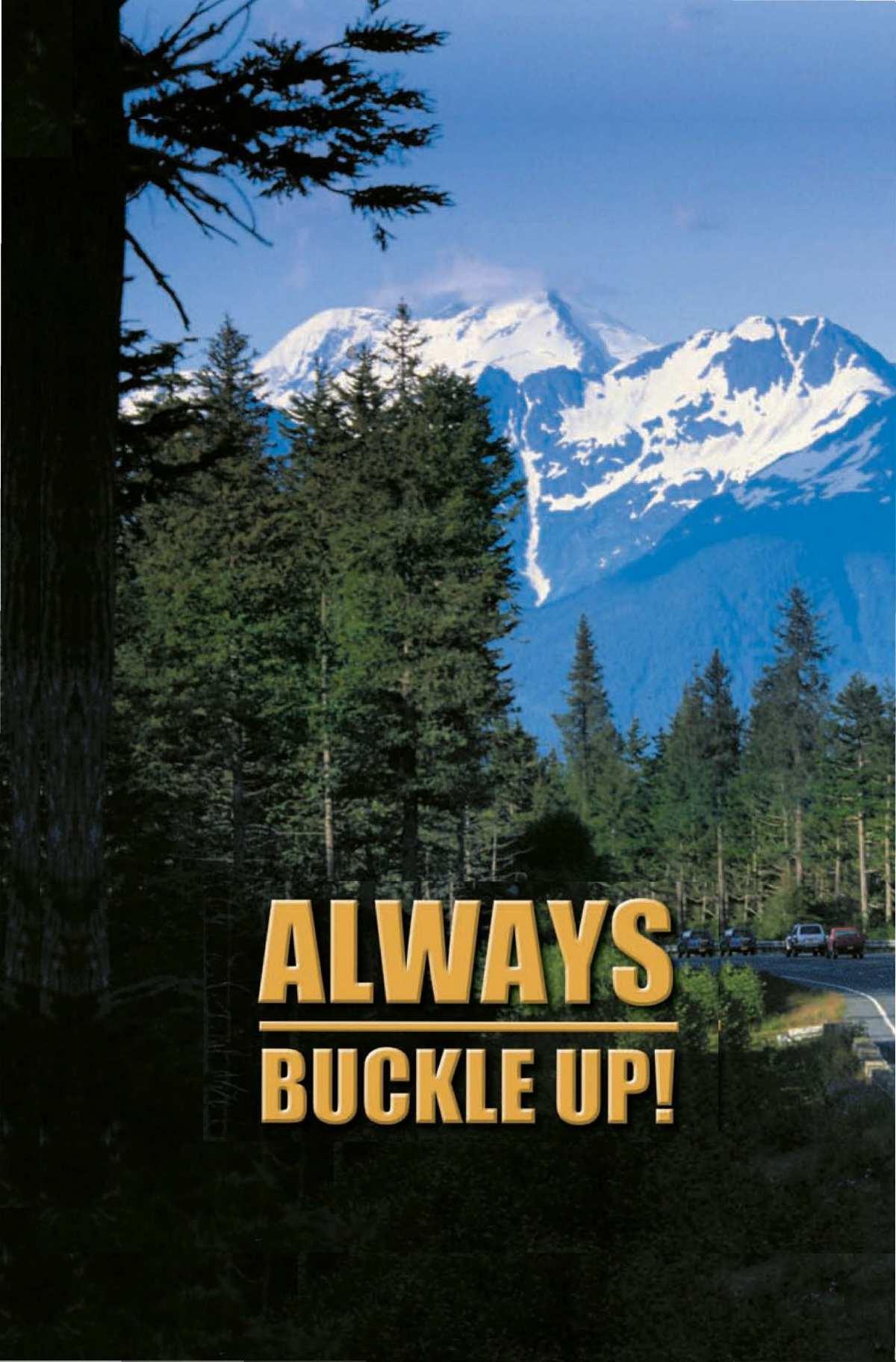
Online Services

- Register your vehicle
- Renew your driver's license
- Get a duplicate driver's license or ID
- Make a same day appointment
- Send us an email request
- Sign up for Road Test
- Find a Business Partner
- Find a Driving School
- Driver Manuals & Practice Exam

WWW.DMV.ALASKA.GOV/HOME

Driving is not just getting behind the wheel and taking off down the road. Driving involves many other issues.

- Privilege - Driving is a privilege, not a right.
- Distracted Driving - The use of cell phones, eating, grooming, playing the radio or CD player extremely loud, or other activities while driving contributes to crashes.
- Tired Driving- Research shows that tired drivers can be as dangerous as drunk drivers.
- Road Rage / Aggressive Driving - Earmarks include speeding, frequent lane changes, cutting in and cutting other drivers off, forcing your way ahead and being competitive with your vehicle.
- Crashes - Do you know what to do if you're involved in a crash?
- Insurance - Vehicle insurance coverage is mandatory in Alaska; either the vehicle owner or the driver must have liability insurance coverage.
- Safety belts - Wearing seat belts is mandatory in Alaska; seat belts save lives.
- Road Conditions/weather - Much of Alaska's weather doesn't contribute to good road conditions; rain, sleet, snow, ice, and fog make road conditions poor and driving difficult.
- Rules of the Road - Traffic Laws - Breaking the law means accumulating points on your driving record, fines, and penalties, and even the loss of your driver license. Not obeying the traffic laws endangers everyone on the road. Please obey the laws and rules of the road - it keeps us all safe.


ALWAYS
BUCKLE UP!