NEW HAMPSHIRE
DRIVER'S MANUAL









KELLY A. AYOTTE
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



As Governor and the mother of two young adults, one of whom recently received his license within the past year, I know how important it is to work together to keep our roadways safe.

This manual represents a great first step in ensuring that you are prepared to be a safe driver, with valuable information that will help you understand the rules of the road and reminders on how you can drive responsibly and keep others safe.

New Hampshire is a beautiful state with incredible scenery, rich history, and wonderful places to visit. With several major interstates and highways located throughout our state, it's important that we keep safety top of mind for the millions of residents and visitors that travel on all of our roads.

The NH Division of Motor Vehicles, the NH Department of Transportation, and our law enforcement agencies throughout the state are committed to working collaboratively to help people travel safely and will keep working to improve road safety. I encourage you to do your part – slow down, avoid distractions while driving, and look out for your fellow travelers.

I wish you and your family safe travels throughout the Granite State.

All the best,

Kelly A. Ayotte

Governor of New Hampshire

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MOTOR VEHICLES



Congratulations on taking this first step towards becoming a licensed driver in the State of New Hampshire and thank you for taking the time to review all of the important information provided within this New Hampshire Driver's Manual!

By taking the time to carefully review and study the information contained within this manual, you will develop a strong foundation of the laws and rules that apply to driving a vehicle in New Hampshire, as well as driving "Best Practices," to keep yourself and others on our roadways safe.

This manual offers important guidance relating to what to expect and what you should do if you are stopped by a police officer while driving and it provides for an overview of the dangers and penalties associated with such illegal activities as impaired driving, failure to yield to emergency vehicles, and the laws relating to the proper clearing of snow and ice from your vehicle.

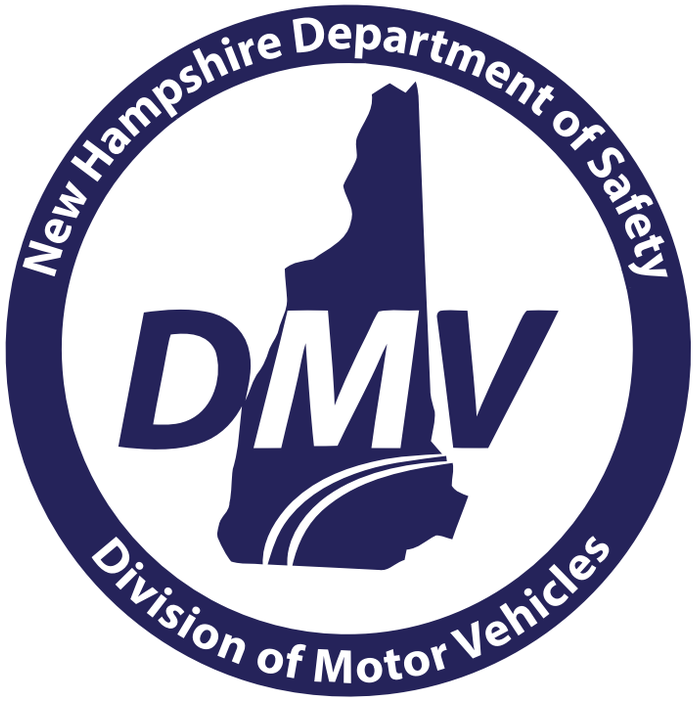
By reviewing the information in this manual carefully at the beginning of your driving career and remaining up to date on law and rule changes throughout your years of driving, you will be doing your part to be a successful and safe driver.

Driving gives us all an incredible amount of freedom to visit family and friends, maintain a job, and to enjoy all of the amazing and beautiful places that New Hampshire has to offer, but with the privilege of receiving a driver's license, it is important to remember that just one moment of inattention, distraction, or dangerous driving can lead to an unintended tragedy, so please challenge yourself to be the best driver you can be each day and always - "Be a Leader on the Roadway!"

I wish you every success in your journey to obtain your New Hampshire Driver's License and throughout your driving career - we look forward to seeing you on the roadway in the future!

John C. Marasco
Director of Motor Vehicles

AT THE NH DMV



WE WORK FOR YOU!

SECTION 1 *DRIVING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE* **1**
About This Manual 1
New Hampshire Laws 1
Licensing Requirements 1
New Residents to NH 1
Out-of-State Drivers Driving in NH 2
Practice Driving 2
Required Driver's license Tests 2
What To Bring To The Tests 3
Parental Consent 3
Organ Donation Giving the Gift of LIfe 3
SECTION 2 DRIVER'S LICENSE AND NON-DRIVER ID INFORMATION **4**
Types of Driver Licenses 4
License restrictions 4
REAL ID 4
Non-Driver Identification Cards 5
Out of State Driver's license 5
Driver's license Renewal 5
Youth Operator "Under 20" Law 5
Loss of Driving Privileges 6
Habitual offenders 6
SECTION 3 *DANGEROUS DRIVING* **7**
Vision 7
Fatigue 7
Driver Distractions 7
Aggressive Driving 8
Alcohol, Other Drugs and Driving 8
Emotions 9
SECTION 4 *BEFORE DRIVING* **11**
Vehicle Inspection 11
Adjusting Seat 11
Adjusting Vehicle Mirrors 11
Using Safety Belts 111
Child Passenger Safety Laws 122
Motorcycle Helmet Use 122
Air Bags 122
Securing A Load 122
Towing a Trailer 122
Snow and Ice Removal 133
SECTION 5 *BASIC DRIVING* **14**
Steering 14
Yielding Right-of-Way 14
Speed Management 14
Communicating and Signaling 15
Stopping Distance 16
Changing Lanes 16
Passing 17
Backing 17
Adjusting To Roadway Conditions 17

Rural Road Driving 18
Night Driving 18
Vehicle Warning Systems 19
SECTION 6 RULES OF THE ROAD 20
New Hampshire Rules of the Road 20
Traffic Control Devices 20
Traffic Signs 20
Warning Signs 21
Regulatory Signs 22
Route Number Signs 22
Guide Signs 22
Railroad Crossing Warning Signs 22
Work Zone Signs 23
Pavement Markings 23
SECTION 7 *GENERAL DRIVING AND PARKING* 25
Toll Roads 25
Turning and U-Turns 25
Reversing Direction 25
Intersections 26
Multi-lane Roundabouts (Traffic Circles) 27
Rules for School Buses 27
Parking 27
Perpendicular and Angle Parking 29
Parallel Parking 29
SECTION 8 *DRIVING SAFELY* 30
Safe Driving Tips 30
Visual Search 30
Space Management 30
SECTION 9 *ACCIDENTS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY* 32
Accident procedures 32
Financial Responsibility 32
SECTION 10 DRIVING EMERGENCIES 34
Braking 34
Swerving 34
Accelerating 34
Dealing with Skids 34
Uneven Surface Drop-Offs 34
Vehicle Malfunctions 34
SECTION 11 SHARING THE ROAD 36
Pedestrians 36
Bicyclists 36
Motorcycles 37
Slow Moving Vehicles 38
Interacting with Large Trucks and Commercial Vehicles 38
Emergency Vehicles 40
Police/Traffic Stops 40
Work Zones 41
SECTION 12 *TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE* 42

SECTION 1
DRIVING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This Manual is intended to assist a person who is learning how to drive. Each section should be studied and applied in conjunction with training and practice out on the road with a driver education instructor or a licensed, responsible adult age 25 years or older. Motor vehicle drivers should use this manual to become familiar with New Hampshire rules and laws. This manual may also be used as a resource to review everyday driving habits.

NEW HAMPSHIRE LAWS

Please take time to review New Hampshire's motor vehicle laws. Refer to the Revised Statutes Annotated (RSAs) sections 259 through 269 under Title 21 (Motor Vehicles). Also review the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles rules and other information contained on our website atwww.dmv.nh.gov .

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Driver Education: State of New Hampshire law RSA 263:19 requires that all individuals 16 or 17 years of age wishing to apply for a driver's license, to have first completed an approved driver education program. Over 13,000 students participate in driver education every year through State approved driving schools. The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles, Driver Education Section, is responsible for ensuring that each of these students is trained using the standards that the State of New Hampshire has established within law and administrative rule.

Additional information on driver education in New Hampshire is available on the Division of Motor Vehicle's website: https://www.dmv.nh.gov/drivers-licensenon-driver-ids/apply-your-first-drivers-licensenon-driver-id/driver-education or by calling the Driver Education Section at (603) 227-4075.

Driver education, combined with involved and supportive parents or guardians, provides the fundamental base that New Hampshire's young drivers need to become successful, safe drivers.

Requirements of Driver Education:

- 30 hours of classroom instruction with a certified driver education instructor.
- 10 hours of practice driving with a certified driver education instructor.
- 6 hours of driving observation with a certified driver education instructor.
- 40 hours of additional supervised driving time with a parent, guardian or other responsible adult, in which 10 hours must be completed at night.

NEW RESIDENTS TO NH

New residents to New Hampshire have up to 60 days to obtain a driver's license after moving into the State.

One License Concept: State of New Hampshire law, RSA 263:4 requires that new residents to NH surrender all valid driver licenses issued by any other jurisdiction when applying for a New Hampshire driver's license.

An application for driver's license will not be accepted if the driver's privileges are under suspension or revocation in any other state until the driver's privileges are reinstated.

The following drivers are exempt from obtaining a New Hampshire Driver's License:

- Non-residents who hold a valid license from their home state;
- Members of the US military stationed in New Hampshire who hold a valid license from their home state; or
- Foreign citizens visiting the United States as a tourist and hold a valid license from their home country.

OUT-OF-STATE DRIVERS DRIVING IN NH

Non-resident drivers must have a valid out-of-state driver's license while travelling in New Hampshire, or must be at least 15 ½ years old and accompanied by a licensed, responsible adult age 25 or older. Under no circumstances may a person drive in New Hampshire if their driving privileges are suspended or revoked even if they possess a license from another state.

PRACTICE DRIVING

New Hampshire does not issue permits to learn to drive; however, New Hampshire law allows a person at least 15 ½ years of age, who does not possess a driver's license, to drive a motor vehicle while being taught to drive, when accompanied by a parent; legal guardian; or a responsible adult who is 25 years of age or older, and who is a licensed driver. This exception does not apply to persons whose driving privileges have been suspended or revoked in this or any other state.

REQUIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE TESTS

In order to obtain an operator, non-commercial, driver's license, an applicant is required to successfully pass all three of the following tests:

- **Vision Test**: Applicants must have a visual acuity of 20/40 vision in both eyes. If an applicant has sight in only one eye, they must have a visual acuity of 20/30.

  If the applicant is required to wear glasses or contact lenses to pass the vision test, then glasses or contacts must be worn while driving, and the "B" restriction for corrective lenses will be placed on the applicant's license.

  If the vision test is not passed, an eye examination containing a doctor's recommendation of visual capability will be required before additional driver's license testing can be completed.

- **Automated Knowledge Test**: The knowledge test consists of 40 multiple choice questions pertaining to the rules of the road and general driving conditions. Testers have 40 minutes to complete the test. The test is administered on a touch screen monitor, which does not require computer experience to answer the questions. Each question is displayed with four possible answers, and the answer is chosen by touching the corresponding letter on the screen. If more than 8 questions are answered incorrectly, the test will automatically end.

  Automated oral testing with the use of headphones is available for anyone requiring this service. The applicant should notify the customer service representative prior to taking the test if they wish to take advantage of this feature. Automated testing is also available in the following languages in both written and audible formats:
  - English
  - American Sign Language (ASL)
  - French
  - Spanish
  - Portuguese
  - Arabic
  - Farsi
  - Mandarin Chinese

- **Road Test**: The road test is a comprehensive test of driving skills administered by a Licensing Examiner. While the Licensing Examiner will give clear and concise instructions, the Examiner cannot coach the driver during this test. Questions may be answered before or after the road test only, unless the driver needs clarification of any directions provided. During the road test applicants will be graded on their skill in handling the vehicle in traffic, driving habits, working knowledge and understanding of traffic signs and rules of the road. The average test will take approximately 20 minutes. Applicants are required to

demonstrate their ability to drive a motor vehicle with good control. No person except

the applicant and the authorized Division of Motor Vehicles Licensing Examiner may be present in the vehicle during the road test.

Pass/Fail of Tests:

Pass: Applicants will be issued a 60-day paper temporary driver's license. The permanent license will be mailed within 45-days.

Fail: If either the knowledge test or road test is not successfully completed, the applicant will be provided with an appointment to retest not sooner than ten days from the failed test.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE TESTS

- All driver licenses issued by any state.
- Proof of identity and residency. Please visit our website for a complete list of required documents at www.nh.gov/dmv.
- A vehicle that is legally registered, inspected and in safe running condition. The vehicle must be the proper class for the type of license being tested for.
- A licensed driver to drive the test vehicle to and from the testing site. That person is required to remain at the test site until the road test has been completed.

PARENTAL CONSENT

New Hampshire law states that no person under the age of 18 years shall be issued a driver's license unless the person's father, mother, or guardian, or, in the event there is no parent or guardian, another responsible adult, gives written permission for the issuance of such license, insurance coverage is presented at the time of application or the person under 18 is emancipated by marriage.

ORGAN DONATION
GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Every time a person applies for a driver's license or non-driver identification card, they are given the opportunity to designate consent to be an organ and tissue donor. Applicants may choose to revoke or change their designation at any time by submitting a Record Change Request form in person at any DMV office.

By registering with the New Hampshire Donor Registry, applicants indicate their willingness to help the thousands of Americans awaiting lifesaving and life-enhancing organ and tissue transplants. Advances in medical science make it possible to replace a failing human organ such as kidneys, heart, liver and lungs or to provide heart valves, skin or tendon to those in need.

The DMV releases donation information to a federally designated organ procurement organization so that a person's decision to donate may be honored. The DMV is currently working with the New England Donor Services. Please visit their website at https://neds.org/ for more information about the New Hampshire Donor Registry and the choice to Give the Gift of Life.

DONATE LIFE New England

SECTION 2
DRIVER'S LICENSE AND NON-DRIVER ID INFORMATION

TYPES OF DRIVER LICENSES

New Hampshire issues several types of driver licenses that include:

- **Class A**: Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.
- **Class B**: Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR.
- **Class C**: Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that does not meet the definition of Class A or Class B, but is either designed to seat more than 16 or more persons, including the driver, or is required to be placarded for hazardous materials.
- **Class D**: Allows a driver to drive a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or less if not towing a trailer of over 10,000 pounds, transport hazardous materials, or is designed to seat more than 16 or more persons, including the driver.
- **Motorcycle**: Allows the driver to operate motorcycles, 3-wheeled motorcycles, motor driven cycles and mopeds.
- **Motor-driven cycle**: Allows the operator to operate a bicycle with a motor attached which has no more than 5 brake horsepower.
- **Moped**: Allows the operator to operate a moped. Drivers do not need a moped license if they already possess a Class A, B, C, D or motorcycle license.
- **Youth Operator license holders**: Any person 16 years of age or older and under the age of 21 will be issued a Youth Operator license. Youth Operator's licenses are printed vertically, and they expire on the holder's 21st birthday.

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

Under some conditions, a driver's license must be restricted. Such restrictions include:

- **B** Corrective Lenses
- **C** Mechanical Aid
- **D** Prosthetic Aid
- **E** Automatic Transmission
- **F** Outside Mirror
- **G** Daylight Only
- **IID** Ignition Interlock Device
- **RTW** Restricted to 3-Wheel Motorcycle

There are additional restrictions and endorsements for a Commercial Driver's License. Please refer to the New Hampshire CDL manual for a complete listing.

Specific Restrictions for Youth Operators – In addition to any other restrictions, the holder of a Youth Operator License, who is under the age of 18 years of age shall NOT operate a motor vehicle:

- Between the hours of 1:00 am and 4:00 am;
- With more than one passenger less than 25 years of age who is not a member of the driver's family unless accompanied by a licensed, responsible adult who is at least 25 years of age during the first six (6) months holding the license; and
- With more passengers than seat belts or safety restraints in the vehicle.

Drivers under the age of 18 years of age shall not use a cellular or mobile telephone or other mobile electronic device, whether hands-free or not, while driving a motor vehicle or temporarily stopped in traffic upon any way, except to report an emergency to the enhanced 911 system or any public safety agency (RSA 265:79-,IV).

REAL ID

The US Congress enacted the REAL ID Act in 2005, which created minimum security standards for identification and prohibited federal agencies

from accepting forms of identification that do not meet the new standard. On May 7, 2025, the federal government will require New Hampshire Driver's Licenses or Non-Driver Identification Cards to meet specific requirements if it is to be used as identification to board a domestic flight or enter a secure federal facility. NH residents are not required to hold a REAL ID compliant identification since other forms of identification, such as a Passport, will be accepted for airplane boarding and for other federal purposes. Certain additional identifying documentation is required when applying for a REAL ID compliant Driver's license or Non-Driver Identification Card. Please visit our website at: www.dmv.nh.gov for the list of required documents.

NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Non-Driver Identification Cards may be issued to New Hampshire residents who do not hold a valid driver's license, and who are at least 12 years of age. Applicants will have to provide the same documentation needed to obtain a driver's license. New Hampshire offers the option of obtaining a REAL ID compliant non-driver identification card. Please visit our website at www.dmv.nh.gov for additional details.

OUT OF STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE

Only a vision test is required for drivers new to New Hampshire holding a valid out-of-state driver's license. If the out-of-state driver's license has been expired for more than one year, the applicant will be required to successfully pass the vision, knowledge and road tests.

Applicants new to New Hampshire may apply for a driver's license for a different class of vehicle other than they currently hold; however, the appropriate written test and road test for that class of vehicle must be successfully completed.

DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL

NH Driver's licenses expire on the applicant's birthday every 5 years. A reminder will be mailed to the applicant's last known mailing address approximately two months before the license is due to expire. The reminder will include instructions on how to renew the driver's license in person, or if the applicant is eligible, how to renew online. Applicants are encouraged to renew online, if they are eligible. Applicants may apply for a license renewal up to six months in advance if they plan to be temporarily out of state at the time of their renewal; however, if an applicant does not renew before leaving the state and will not be returning before the expiration of the driver's license, the DMV must be notified in writing to be eligible for a 6-month temporary (please visit www.dmv.nh.gov for specific details).

A renewal notice will not be sent if the applicant has changed their mailing address since their last renewal and did not notify the DMV of the change; or if the applicant's driver's license privilege is under revocation or suspension.

Renewal of a driver's license is the responsibility of the applicant. If a renewal notice is not received, it is the responsibility of the applicant to go to any DMV location to renew the license prior to the applicant's expiration date.

Military - Any person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and who, at the time of induction, call of active duty, or enlistment into the armed forces for two (2) or more years, was a resident of this state and was a holder of a valid New Hampshire license is entitled to renewal of a driver's license **at no cost** (https://www.dmv.nh.gov/drivers-licensenondriver-ids/apply-your-first-drivers-licensenon-driver-id/military-personnel).

YOUTH OPERATOR "UNDER 20" LAW

Pursuant to RSA 263:14 Original and Youth Operators Licenses, the Director of Motor Vehicles is authorized to revoke or suspend any original license held by a person under 20 years of age after a hearing:

- Upon showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the driver has committed certain motor vehicle offenses. The periods of suspension or revocations are:

- A minimum of 20 days, but not more than 40 days for a first offense
- A minimum of 45 days, but not more than 90 days for a second offense
- A minimum of 90 days but not more than 180 days for a third or subsequent offense. In addition, for a third of subsequent offense, a condition of license reinstatement will also be to complete an approved in-person driver attitude program.

- A holder of a youth operator license who is convicted of a driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, reckless operation or speeding more than 30 mph over the posted speed limit will face additional penalties.
- Upon receipt of proper evidence or information of misconduct, misuse, or abuse of such driving privileges. Circumstances of misuse, abuse or misconduct of driving privileges shall include driving behavior which poses an immediate hazard to the operator or to the safety or property of others on or near the roadway, or, when considered with other driving offenses, which demonstrates a repeated disregard for public safety.
- Upon proper evidence or information that the license holder was involved in an accident resulting in the death or serious bodily injury.

For more information regarding Youth Operators, please visit our website: *https://www.dmv.nh.gov/drivers-licensenon-driver-ids/driver-licensing-requirements-minors*

LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES

There are many ways to lose driving privileges. The following are only a few of the many causes of loss of driving privileges:

- **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs**: It is dangerous and against the law to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs including prescription or over-the-counter drugs that may impair the ability to drive. It is considered legally intoxicated if a driver's blood alcohol concentration is .08% or higher, .02% or higher if the driver is under 21 years old.
- **Refusal of Alcohol Testing ("Implied Consent")**: Any person who operates a motor vehicle in New Hampshire is considered to have given consent to having their blood, breath, urine, or any combination tested if arrested for an alcohol or drug offense. Refusal to allow testing may result in loss of driving privileges.
- **Excessive Accrual of Demerit Points**: Accruing excessive points may result in loss of driving privileges. Demerit points may range in size depending on the offense. Points are accrued for violations such as speeding, failure to obey traffic lights, driving while intoxicated, improper passing and failure to obey a stop sign. The consequences from the accrual of Demerit points may also vary depending on the driver's age. As there are many moving violations that may contribute to demerit points accumulation, please refer to following for a more complete listing: *https://www.dmv.nh.gov/tickets-accidents-or-restorations/demerit-points*

  Keep in mind that traffic violations occurring out-of-state may be reported to New Hampshire and may affect a driver's driving record and driving privileges. It is important to be familiar with laws and rules of the road whenever operating a vehicle in another State, such as seat belt use and insurance requirements.

HABITUAL OFFENDERS

New Hampshire may deny the privilege to drive to persons who, by their conduct and record, have shown indifference for the safety and welfare of others, disrespect for the laws of the state, and indifference to orders of the courts or administrative agencies.

If the Director of Motor Vehicles finds that a person's record contains the number of valid convictions required by law, that person shall appear for a Hearing. If after the hearing they are deemed to be a Habitual Offender, the Director shall revoke the person's driving privileges for 1 to 4 years. If a driver is convicted of driving after being declared a Habitual Offender, that person may be subject to imprisonment for not less than one year, and up to five (5) years.

SECTION 3
DANGEROUS DRIVING

Driving is one of the most important skills that a person will learn during their lifetime. A driver's ability to drive safely depends on several factors:

VISION

Good vision is important for safe driving. Having trouble identifying traffic and roadway conditions, spotting potential trouble and responding to problems in a timely manner, may be a result of poor vision acuity. Because seeing well is so important to safe driving, drivers should have eye examinations regularly.

If a driver is required to wear corrective lenses, the driver should:

- Always wear them when driving.
- Avoid using dark or tinted corrective lenses at night.

FATIGUE

Fatigue is extreme tiredness, typically resulting from mental or physical exertion or illness, repetitive tasks, or lack of sleep. Fatigue can affect a driver's vision and increase the time to make decisions. Drivers should avoid operating a vehicle while they are tired or fatigued.

A driver's physical condition is very important. Drowsy driving is quickly becoming one of the nation's largest problems. A motorist who has been awake for an extended period of time will likely experience performance traits similar to that of someone who has been drinking. For example, a driver who is up for a continuous 18 hours will typically exhibit performance levels similar to that of a person with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level of 0.05%. After 21 and 24 hours without sleep, performance mimics a BAC of 0.08% and 0.10%, respectively. Unlike drunk driving, there is no subjective or objective tool – such as a sleep breathalyzer – available to help law enforcement detect if a crash was the result of a driver operating on too little sleep. It is up to the driver to make the responsible choice to not drive if they are tired.

Ways to Avoid Fatigue

- Get adequate sleep – the average person needs 7 to 9 hours of sleep to maintain proper alertness during the day.
- During long trips, plan to stop at least every 2 hours to stretch or get a cup of coffee or soft drink.
- Before getting too tired, stop driving, pull off at the next exit or rest area to take a 15 to 20 minute nap or find a place to sleep for the night.
- Try not to drive late at night.
- Arrange for a travel companion to drive.

DRIVER DISTRACTIONS



A distraction is anything that takes a driver's attention away from driving. Distracted driving is dangerous, and the risk of an accident, injury, death or property damage is increased if a driver takes their eyes off the road, or their hands off the steering wheel. Mental activities that take the operator's mind away from driving are just as dangerous.

Use of electronic devises while driving:

- Pursuant to NH law RSA 265:79-c, no person, while driving a moving motor vehicle upon a way or temporarily halted in traffic for a traffic control device, or other momentary delay, shall use any hand-held mobile electronic device capable of providing voice or data communication, including but not limited to: reading, composing, viewing, or posting any electronic message; or initiating, receiving, or conducting a conversation; or initiating a command or request to access the Internet; or inputting information into a global positioning system or navigation device; or manually typing data into any other portable electronic device. An operator of a motor

vehicle who holds a cellular telephone or other electronic device capable of voice communication in the immediate proximity of his or her ear while such vehicle is in motion is presumed to be engaging in a call.

Drivers under the age of 18 years of age shall not use a cellular or mobile telephone or other mobile electronic device, whether hands-free or not, while driving a motor vehicle or temporarily stopped in traffic upon any way, except to report an emergency to the enhanced 911 system or any public safety agency.

Only drivers over the age of 18 years of age may:

- Use one hand to transmit or receive messages on any non-cellular 2-way radio.
- Use a Bluetooth enabled or other hands-free electronic device, or similar device that is physically or electronically integrated into a motor vehicle, for such a purpose to send or receive information provided the driver does not have to divert their attention from the road ahead. As used in this section, "hands-free electronic device" means a mobile electronic device that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of such mobile electronic device, by which a user engages in conversation without the use of either hand; provided, however, this definition shall not preclude the use of either hand merely to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of the telephone.
- To perform any action required by an ignition interlock device.

When driving:

- Avoid arguments and stressful or emotional conversations with passengers.
- Avoid eating while driving.
- Be sure children are properly and safely buckled up.
- Properly secure pets in a pet carrier or portable kennel.

An operator must pay attention to the task of driving. They are responsible for operating a vehicle in a safe manner.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Aggressive driving occurs when an individual intentionally commits an action which endangers other persons or property.

Some behaviors typically associated with aggressive driving include: speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, improperly signaling, and failing to obey traffic control devices (stop signs, yield signs, traffic signals, railroad grade cross signals, etc.).

Concentrate on driving. Be patient and courteous to other users of the road.

ALCOHOL, OTHER DRUGS AND DRIVING

Alcohol and other impairing drugs are involved in approximately 40% of all traffic crashes in which someone is killed each year. A Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level as low as .02% can affect a driver's ability to drive.

Operators under 21 years of age:
It is illegal for an operator under 21 years of age to have physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs or any other chemical substances, natural or synthetic, which impair a person's ability to drive or while having an alcohol concentration 0.02 or more. Further, no driver under the age of 21 shall, except when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or legal age spouse transport any liquor or alcoholic beverage in any part of a vehicle.

Effects of Alcohol and Other Impairing Drugs:
Alcohol and other impairing drugs reduce a driver's judgment, vision, and reaction time.

- *Judgment* – Reduces the driver's ability to make clear and quick judgments while driving.
- *Vision* – Blurs vision, slows the driver's ability to focus, causes double vision, and reduces the ability to judge distance, speed and the movement of other vehicles. Vision is impacted at .02 BAC for all drivers.
- *Reaction Time* – Slows a driver's ability to process information and respond to the driving task.

The best advice is not to drive a vehicle of any kind if alcohol or other drugs are consumed. Impairment starts with the first drink. Even one drink of alcohol can affect a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. With one or more drinks in the bloodstream a person can be impaired and could be arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Never let a friend or relative drive if they have been drinking or taking impairing drugs. After drinking there is nothing that will reduce the effects of alcohol except TIME. Coffee, food, fresh air, exercise, or cold showers might make a person more alert, but will not counter the effects of alcohol. Each ounce of alcohol consumed takes about an hour to go through the body.

Impaired Driving and the Law:

Any person who is convicted of a first offense of Driving or Operating Under Influence of Drugs or Liquor or Driving or Operating with Excess Alcohol Concentration shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor, fined not less than $500, may face a loss of driving privileges for a period of 9 months to 2 years, and will be required to attend an approved impaired driver education program prior to restoration of driving privileges. Second and subsequent convictions subject the offender to higher fines, longer suspension times, and stronger penalties.

Other Impairing Drugs and Driving:

Besides alcohol, there are many other drugs that can affect the ability to drive safely. These drugs can have effects like those of alcohol, or worse. This is true of many prescription drugs and many of the drugs that may be purchased over-the-counter, without a prescription.

Over-the-Counter Drugs:

Over-the-counter drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever or other allergies or those to calm nerves can make a driver drowsy and affect a person's ability to drive. Pep pills, "uppers" and diet pills can make a person feel nervous, dizzy, unable to concentrate, and can affect the driver's vision. Before taking an over-the-counter drug, drivers should check the label on the product for warnings about its effect. If a driver is unsure whether it is safe to take the drug and drive, a driver should ask their doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Prescription Drugs:

Some prescription drugs can impact driving and can affect a driver's reflexes, judgment, vision, and alertness in ways similar to alcohol. Prescription drugs, such as, antidepressants, pain reducers, sleep aids and sedatives will have an impact on driving safely. Drivers should check the label on the prescription and packaging before taking a drug for warnings about its effect. If a driver is unsure whether it is safe to take the drug and drive, a driver should ask their doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Illegal Drugs:

Illegal drugs can impact a driver's ability to drive and can affect a driver's reflexes, judgment, vision, and alertness in ways similar to alcohol. Drugged driving is illegal and is as dangerous as drunk and distracted driving.

Combining Alcohol and Other Impairing Drugs:

A driver should never drink alcohol while taking other drugs. These drugs could multiply the effects of alcohol or have additional effects of their own which could severely impact a driver's ability to drive safely.

EMOTIONS

Emotions may interfere with a driver's ability to process information. Being overly worried, excited, afraid, angry or depressed may affect a person's ability to drive safely.

There are ways of dealing with emotions:

- A driver should take time to calm down before getting behind the wheel. Taking a short walk or nap prior to getting behind the wheel may help.
- Avoid stressful situations by leaving a few minutes early and plan for traffic congestion and/or poor weather conditions.
- Have someone else drive.

HOT VEHICLE INFORMATION

Drivers should be aware of the dangers of leaving children and animals in a vehicle. In warm weather a vehicle will begin to heat up immediately after being turned off and the warmer it is, the quicker the vehicle heats up. It takes only minutes for vehicles to reach dangerous temperatures.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 39 children died of heatstroke in 2024 because of being left in hot vehicles. The NHTSA has some tips to help prevent dangerous situations:

- Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time.
- Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle — especially the back seat — before locking the doors and walking away.
- Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat, as another reminder to look before you lock.
- Store car keys and fobs out of a child's reach and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.

https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke

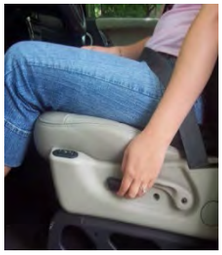
SECTION 4
BEFORE DRIVING

VEHICLE SAFETY CHECK

When it comes to road safety, a driver cannot control other drivers or road conditions, but drivers can control the proper maintenance of the vehicle being driven. Drivers should quickly check a vehicle before being driven to make sure that it is in safe operating condition.

Accidents due to tire maintenance are preventable, and simple steps can save lives. Driving on underinflated or overinflated tires; or tires with low tread can lead to safety issues on the road. It is recommended that drivers have the tire pressure checked once a month.

ADJUSTING SEAT



It is important that a driver adjusts the seat and mirrors before driving a vehicle so that the driver can see clearly, have full control of the vehicle's steering wheel and foot pedals, and for proper airbag deployment. Proper seat position is upright with the driver's feet on the floor. Improper seating positions, such as slouching can result in reduced effectiveness of the vehicle's restraint system. Proper seat positioning includes:

- The driver's foot should be able to pivot smoothly from brake to accelerator while the heel is kept on the floor.
- The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the top of the driver's shoulders and below chin level.
- There should be 10 inches between the driver's chest and the steering wheel. The seat should not be so far forward that the driver cannot steer the vehicle. The seat should not be reclined excessively.
- Head restraints, also known as head rests, are designed to prevent whiplash in the event of an accident. Head rests should be adjusted so the head rest comes in contact with the back of the driver's head, but not below the ears.

ADJUSTING VEHICLE MIRRORS

The inside mirror is the primary mirror to view traffic flow to the rear of the vehicle and should be adjusted so that it frames the rear window when the driver looks at it. If the vehicle has a day/night mirror, ensure that it is set for the current time of day.

Remember, even properly adjusted mirrors will not eliminate all blind spots. Proper head checks should be incorporated whenever possible.

USING SAFETY BELTS



Studies have shown that using safety belts greatly decreases the chances of injury or death in the event of a crash. Safety belts keep the driver and passengers from being thrown from the vehicle and help the driver keep control. In New Hampshire, safety restraints are required for anyone under the age of 18; however, it is highly recommended that drivers and passengers of all ages use safety restraints.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 50% of passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2021 were unrestrained, and that rate of people using seat belts in 2021 was 90.4% and in 2022 was 91.6%.NHTSA also reports that buckling up is the single most effective thing drivers and occupants can do to protect themselves in a crash.

It is important to wear the safety belt correctly:

- The shoulder harness is worn across the shoulder and chest with minimal, if any slack. The shoulder harness should **not** be worn under the

arm or behind the back. Wearing the harness the wrong way could cause serious internal injuries in a crash.

- The lap belt should be adjusted so that it is snug and lies low across the driver's hips after fastening. Otherwise, in a collision an operator or passenger could slide out of the belt resulting in injury or death.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAWS

New Hampshire law requires anyone less than 18 years of age to be properly restrained by a safety belt or secured in a child safety seat with the following exceptions:

- A Vehicle regularly used to transport passengers for hire;
- A School bus weighing in excess of 10,000 pounds, or a school bus weighing less than 10,000 pounds not manufactured with safety belts;
- An antique vehicle not manufactured with safety restraints;
- A motorcycle;
- If the child under 18 years of age has an individual education plan (IEP) statement indicating that the use of restraints is not safe.

A child less than 7 years old and less than 57 inches in height must be properly fastened and secured in a child passenger restraint which complies with the safety standards of the United States Department of Transportation.

MOTORCYCLE HELMET USE

Wearing a securely fastened helmet is the single most important thing a rider or passenger can doto improve the chances of surviving a motorcycle crash. New Hampshire law requires all riders and passengers under the age of 18 to wear helmets approved by the United States Department of Transportation.

AIR BAGS

Air bags are supplemental restraints and are designed to work best in combination with safety belts. In a crash, air bags and safety belts reduce the chance that a head and upper body will strike some part of the vehicle's interior. Safety belts help to properly position a person's body to maximize the air bag's benefits and help restrain a person during the initial and any following collisions. It is extremely important that safety belts always be worn, even in air bag-equipped vehicles.

Operators should read a vehicle's owner manual for specific information about the air bags in the vehicle they are operating.

It is recommended that safety belts be worn, even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags.

SECURING A LOAD

Driving with an unsecured load is both against the law and extremely dangerous. Drivers who fail to properly secure their load may face a costly fine if they cause a crash. A load must be securely fastened and is only considered secure when nothing can slide, shift, fall or sift onto the roadway, or become airborne.

TOWING A TRAILER

All trailers must be equipped with properly mounted wheels, lubricated and covered with fenders or mud guards. Tires must be properly inflated, and the trailer must have the proper tail, stop, turn signal, license plate and side marker lamps and reflectors.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Since 2002, New Hampshire drivers have been legally required to clear snow and ice off their vehicles before getting on the road. Jessica's Law is a law specific to New Hampshire that was passed after the death of Jessica Smith. Jessica was killed when ice from a tractor-trailer hit her vehicle.

It is the responsibility of a driver to ensure that all snow and ice are removed from a vehicle prior to driving. Snow and ice on a vehicle may not only impair a driver's ability to see but may become loose while on a roadway and may endanger other drivers.

Pursuant to RSA 265:79-b, If a vehicle travels New Hampshire roadways in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property, the driver may be considered guilty of a violation under Negligent Driving. Penalties for this offense can be $250.00 to $500.00 for the first offense with increased penalties for subsequent offenses.







SECTION 5
BASIC DRIVING

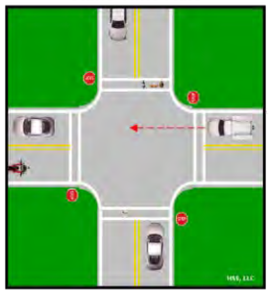
STEERING

Drivers' hands should be in the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock, or the 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock positions. Knuckles and thumbs should stay on the outside of the wheel. Drivers may use hand-to-hand steering for slight steering, and hand-over-hand for greater steering inputs.

YIELDING RIGHT-OF-WAY

Approaching an Intersection: NH law, RSA 265:28 states that the driver of a vehicle approaching or entering an intersection on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right, unless otherwise designated by an official traffic control device or otherwise directed by a police officer.

Same Time Rule



Vehicle Turning Left: RSA 265:29 states that a driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road, or driveway shall yield the right of way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard.

First Car Rule



Yielding right-of-way rules provide drivers with guidance for situations when other drivers or pedestrians are present. These rules determine which driver should yield the right-of-way and the sequence for entering and driving through an intersection or other driving scenarios.

Although yielding right-of-way rules provide a guide to determine who should yield the right-of-way, no one should assume they automatically have the right-of-way. The situation and circumstances at the intersection must always be considered.

Drivers should yield the right-of-way to:

- Emergency vehicles, such as police, fire and ambulance vehicles are equipped with sirens, flashing lights and special horns. Right-of-way must be given to emergency vehicles when approaching from any direction when they are sounding a siren or operating their flashing lights. Drivers should drive immediately to the right side of the road and stop the vehicle until the emergency has passed. Drivers should avoid blocking an intersection when stopping. Once the emergency vehicle has passed, drivers must use their signal and turn back into the roadway, only when it is safe to do so.
- The driver who is at or arrives at the intersection first;
- Drivers in the opposing traffic lane, when making a left turn;
  The driver on the right at a four-way intersection controlled by stop signs if both drivers arrive at the intersection at the same time.
- Drivers on a public highway, when entering the highway from a driveway or a private road;
- Drivers already on a limited access or interstate highway, on the entrance or acceleration ramp;
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are still in the intersection; and
- Funeral processions. Drivers should allow vehicles that have their headlights on while following a hearse to pass as a group.

SPEED MANAGEMENT

Driving safely means that a driver will have complete control of the vehicle in every situation. Safe speed is determined by:

- Road conditions
- Visibility (night driving, rain, fog, snow, etc.)
- Heavy traffic
- Fast moving traffic

- The condition of the vehicle

Speed limits are the maximum speed you may travel under ideal conditions. The maximum speed limits in New Hampshire are:

- 30 miles per hour in any business or urban residence district as defined in RSA 259:118;
- 35 miles per hour in any rural residence district as defined in RSA 259:93, and on any Class V Highway outside the compact part of any city or town as defined in RSA 229:5,IV;
- 45 or 55 miles per hour in other locations, except:
    - 65 miles an hour on the interstate system, the central New Hampshire turnpike and the eastern New Hampshire turnpike in locations where said highways are 4-lane divided highways or other divided highways of 4 or more lanes;
    - 70 miles per hour on the portion of I-93 from mile marker 45 to the Vermont border.

The minimum speed you may drive on an interstate highway is 45 mph, unless road and weather conditions are so bad that this speed is unsafe.

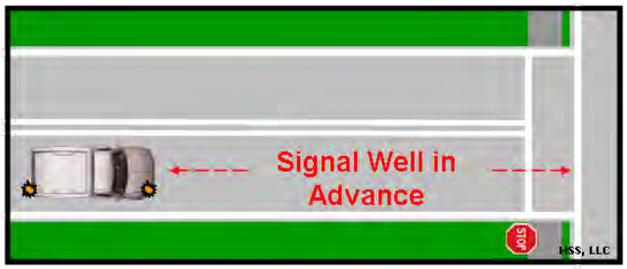
However, drivers who go far slower than the normal flow of traffic can cause a hazard. They often block those behind them, making other drivers jump from lane to lane, or take chances on passing when it may not be safe to do so.

Posted School Zone – the speed limit is 10 miles per hour (mph) below the usual posted speed limit, from 45 minutes before school opening until the school opening, and from the school closing until 45 minutes after school closing.

COMMUNICATING AND SIGNALING

It is important that drivers let other roadway users know where they are and what they plan to do. It is the responsibility of the driver to make sure the vehicle they are operating is visible to other roadway users.

Signaling Movements – An appropriate signal gives other roadway users time to react to the driver's vehicle movements. Drivers should signal at least 100 feet before a turn, and on the highway, drivers should signal at least 500 feet before changing lanes or exiting the roadway. Drivers should use the turn signal sooner when turning to allow for greater stopping distances by other vehicles when it is raining, snowy or foggy.



Drivers must use the appropriate turn signal when:

- Changing lanes
- Turning at an intersection
- Entering or leaving a highway or roadway
- Turning into a driveway
- Merging onto another road
- Pulling away from a curb
- Pulling over to the side of the road
- Passing another vehicle

Headlights – New Hampshire law requires every motor vehicle driven during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, and whenever rain, snow, or fog shall interfere with the proper view of the road so that persons and vehicles on the way are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1000 feet ahead, shall display at least 2 lighted lamps on the front; provided, however, that one suitable lighted lamp on the front of a motorcycle shall be sufficient.

Vehicle horn – Drivers should only use the horn when it is needed to communicate with other road users. Using the horn inappropriately could scare

or anger another road user. Drivers should not use the horn when near blind pedestrians or when approaching or near a horse as this may frighten the horse and cause a crash. If used properly a horn can get the attention of other road users. A light tap on the horn should be all that is needed under normal circumstances. Drivers may want to give the horn a light tap when:

- Pedestrians or bicyclists begin to move into the lane the driver is travelling in.
- Passing a driver who starts to turn into the lane the driver is travelling in.
- Another driver coming from the opposite direction crosses the center lane in the driver's lane of travel.
- A driver is unaware a vehicle is approaching or may have trouble seeing when backing up.

STOPPING DISTANCE

Total stopping distance is the distance a vehicle travels in ideal conditions from the time an operator realizes they must stop until the vehicle actually stops. Several things may affect stopping distance:

- Speed – the faster a vehicle is traveling, the more time and distance is needed to stop. The stopping distance of a vehicle increases 4 times when the speed of the vehicle is doubled.
- Perception time – the time and distance it takes for an operator to recognize they must stop. The average perception time for an alert driver is ¾ second to 1 second.
- Reaction time – the time and distance it takes for a driver to react and move their foot from the gas pedal and begin applying the brakes. The average driver has a reaction time of ¾ second to 1 second.
- Braking distance – the time and distance it takes for a vehicle's brakes to slow and come to a stop. At 50 mph on dry pavement with good brakes, it can take about 158 feet to stop.

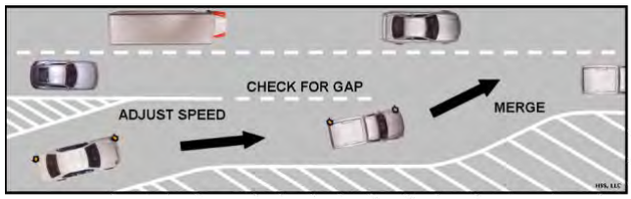
Tailgating – For safety reasons, drivers should avoid travelling closer to a vehicle with less than a four-second following distance. If being tailgated by another vehicle unsafely, drivers should find a safe location to pull over and let the vehicle pass. Following another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent is a violation of the law and is punishable by a fine.

CHANGING LANES

Before changing lanes, a driver should:

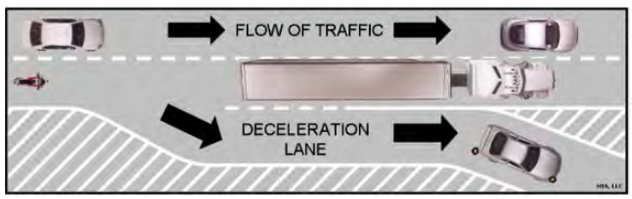
- Check the vehicle's mirrors.
- Check all "blind spots," or areas around the vehicle that cannot be seen by using head checks.
- Identify a gap in traffic, signal and look again in the direction of the lane change. Adjust speed and steer into the lane.

Entering a Multi-lane Highway:
Use the acceleration lane to reach the speed of other vehicles before pulling onto the roadway. Identify a gap in traffic and merge with the traffic flow.

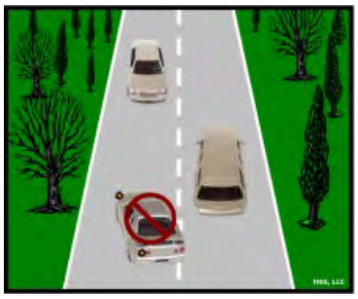


Exiting a Roadway:
It is important to know where to exit the roadway.

- Plan to move to the lane closest to the exiting point early to avoid a quick lane change.
- Maintain vehicle speed while on the main roadway.
- Check the posted speed for the deceleration lane.
- Signal intention, move to the deceleration lane and slow to exiting speed.



PASSING



Only pass when it is permitted to do so by signage or road markings and only when road conditions are favorable. Do not attempt to pass when an oncoming vehicle is approaching, when the view is blocked by a curve or a hill, at intersections, or before a highway-railroad crossing or bridge.

On multi-lane roads, the left-most lane is intended to be used for passing slower vehicles. Never pass on the shoulder, whether it is paved or not.

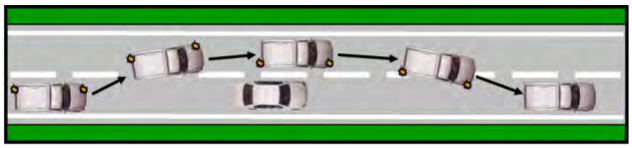
Prior to passing, drivers should estimate the time and space necessary to pass and do so without interfering with any other vehicle.

Before passing, drivers should:

- Check for oncoming traffic.
- Check all mirrors and or do a head check to determine if it is safe to pass.
- Signal intentions when it is safe to pass.
- Steer smoothly into the passing lane.
- Maintain or adjust speed as necessary.
- Continue to pass until the complete front of the passed vehicle is visible in the rearview mirror.
- Signal intention to return back to the lane.
- Steer smoothly into the lane, maintain or adjust speed as appropriate.

When being passed, drivers should:

- Stay in the lane they are travelling.
- Maintain a constant speed to allow the driver to pass.
- Never increase speed to prevent someone from passing.



BACKING

When backing up a vehicle, all drivers should:

- Check behind the vehicle before getting in. Children or small objects cannot be seen from the driver's seat. Mirrors and head checks should be used for backing, but they do not show the area immediately behind the vehicle.

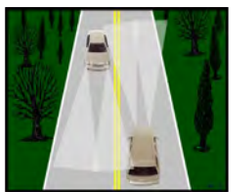
- Accelerate gently and smoothly, keeping speed slow. The vehicle is much harder to steer while backing. Steer slightly in the direction the rear of the vehicle should move. If backing while turning, make quick checks to the front and sides. Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.

- Many vehicles are equipped with technology such as back-up cameras. This technology can help drivers back-up safely when used in conjunction with the mirrors and proper head checks. Back-up cameras should never be used as the primary tool for backing safely.

ADJUSTING TO ROADWAY CONDITIONS

Curves – Always reduce speed prior to entering the curve to a safe speed (a speed that allows the driver to apply slight and constant acceleration through the curve). Reduce speed more when traction is poor, when following other vehicles or when the end of the curve cannot be seen. Hard braking after entry to a curve could cause the vehicle tires to lose traction.

Slippery roads – Reduce speed at the first sign of rain, snow, sleet, or ice. When the roadway is slippery, tires do not grip as well. It will take longer to stop and it will be harder to turn without skidding. Always reduce speed if the road is wet or covered with snow or ice.



Hydroplaning – Hydroplaning occurs when the steering tires start to ride up on any pooled water, similar to the action of water skis. The best way to avoid traction loss from hydroplaning is to slow down in the rain or when the road is wet with pooled water or water puddles. To help prevent hydroplaning, drivers

should reduce the vehicle speed when driving in the rain and should ensure that the tires on the vehicle have good tread depth, and are inflated to the proper pressure.

Flooded Roadways – Do not drive through large bodies of standing water on a road. If there is a flooded roadway, find another route to travel.

RURAL ROAD DRIVING

Driving on rural roadways can be dangerous. Stay alert, watch for warning signs, and obey the speed limit. Some road conditions and driving hazards are unique to rural roads. It is important to understand the different road conditions that drivers may experience on rural roads:

Gravel or Dirt: Traction can be reduced on gravel or dirt roads. Drivers should reduce speed, increase the following distance and be aware that the vehicle may skid when trying to stop.

Narrow roads: Rural roads are generally narrower and may have ditches or drop offs instead of shoulders. Drivers should reduce speed, center the vehicle in the travel lane and watch for oncoming traffic that may attempt to share or encroach on the lane.

Narrow and single lane bridges: Drivers should look for warning signs identifying narrow or single lane bridges. Take turns crossing the bridge; generally the first driver to the bridge has right-of-way.

Open Bridge Gratings or Steel Bridges: These can reduce traction of a vehicle. Drivers should reduce speed, increase the following distance, and maintain a firm grip on the steering wheel.

Areas of reduced vision: Blind corners created by wooded areas, crops growing in fields and steep hills can limit how far a driver can see. In areas with reduced vision always reduce speed and be prepared to stop.

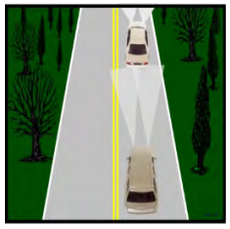
Uncontrolled intersections: Some intersections on rural roads are not controlled by yield or stop signs. These intersections can be very dangerous if a driver does not approach them with caution. When approaching an uncontrolled rural intersection slow down and be prepared to stop for crossing or oncoming traffic.

NIGHT DRIVING

Driving at night is more difficult and more hazardous than daytime driving. The distance drivers can see is limited by light provided by the headlights. Here are some things drivers can do that will help when it begins to get dark or driving away from a rising or setting sun:



- Use the high beams whenever there are no oncoming vehicles and dim the high beams for all approaching traffic. If a vehicle coming from the opposite direction is travelling with their high beams on, look toward the right side of the road to keep from being distracted or momentarily blinded by their headlights.
- Use the low beams when following another vehicle.
- In fog, rain, or snow, use the low beams. Light from the high beams may cause glare and make it more difficult to see ahead. Some vehicles have fog lights that may be useful in fog, snow, or rain.
- Avoid looking directly into oncoming headlights by looking at the fog line or the edge of the roadway.
- Try to search well ahead of the headlight beams, looking for dark shapes on the roadway such as pedestrians or animals.



- Glance occasionally to the right and left to determine the location of the edge of the pavement and hazards that may come from the sides.
- Tinted or colored lenses reduce vision. Do not wear sunglasses or colored lenses when driving at night or on overcast days.
- Increase the following distance by adding at least one additional second for night driving conditions and at least two additional seconds for driving on unfamiliar roadways at night.

VEHICLE WARNING SYSTEMS

Many vehicles are now manufactured with warning system technologies which notify the driver with a warning, by sound, light or vibration, that a collision is about to occur or it provides an alert that there is a problem or malfunction. Most of these technologies are passive, meaning they warn the driver of a potential issue, but do not automatically prevent a problem or collision. The driver may need to make changes to the operation of the vehicle to prevent a problem or collision. These technologies are intended to provide an **additional** monitoring resource to mirrors and head checks. Drivers should not become complacent and dependent on these technologies alone and should not solely depend on it.

Drivers should demonstrate all necessary behaviors for safely monitoring and maneuvering their vehicle while backing. These include checking:

- Side mirrors,
- Rear view mirror,
- Over the shoulders (head checks), and
- Camera(s), if equipped.

Below are some examples of Vehicle Warning Systems:

Rear camera: When the driver shifts into reverse, the rear camera activates to show the area behind the vehicle. Depending on the vehicle, the display screen may be found on the center console, in the rearview mirror, in the sun visor or in other locations.

Back-up warning: The back-up warning feature scans behind the vehicle when the driver shifts into reverse. It will let the driver know – through a sound, vibration, or a mix – if there's an object or car directly behind the driver.

Blind spot monitor and warning: The blind spot monitor helps the driver be more aware of other traffic. The warnings provided can be helpful to the driver when making a lane change but the driver should still always check their mirrors and look over their shoulders before doing so.

Curve speed warning: Warns the driver when they are approaching a curve or exit on the road too quickly.

Surround or Around-view monitor system: Displays a birds-eye view of the vehicle from overhead and shows a moving image on the vehicle's display monitor, along with parking lot lane markings, curbs, and adjacent vehicles. A driver can simultaneously check the rear and front-side views of the vehicle. Some systems reinforce the visual information with sonar that warns if the driver is too close to an obstruction, whether it's behind or in front.

Forward collision warning systems: Alerts drivers of an impending collision with a slower moving or stationary vehicle or object to the front so a driver can brake or swerve in time. The warning alone will not automatically brake for the driver. Forward collision warning scans the road ahead while driving.

SECTION 6
RULES OF THE ROAD

NEW HAMPSHIRE RULES OF THE ROAD

Every state has different rules and laws, but the main principles usually remain the same. Some basic rules that should be followed are:

- Know all traffic signals, signs, and markings
- Be alert of what is happening around the vehicle
- Do not exceed the speed limit
- Do not drive fatigued
- Do not tailgate other vehicles
- Obey all laws and rules while driving in this State or any state/country
- Do not drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Do not drive while distracted
- A police officer directing traffic overrules any traffic light or sign and must be obeyed.

TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Traffic control devices include traffic signals, signs, pavement markings and directions provided by law enforcement, highway personnel and school crossing guards.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Traffic signals are lights that tell a driver when they should stop, go forward or turn while at an intersection.

Solid GREEN Traffic Light – This means a driver may go through the intersection and if it is clear to do so, proceed with caution. Drivers must yield to pedestrians and vehicles in an intersection.

Solid YELLOW Traffic Light – This is a warning light to let a driver know the traffic light is about to change to red.

Solid RED Traffic Light – This means stop prior to entering the intersection. Drivers must wait behind the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection until the traffic light turns green.

EXCEPTION: Drivers may make a right turn on a red signal ONLY IF there is no sign prohibiting a right turn on red.

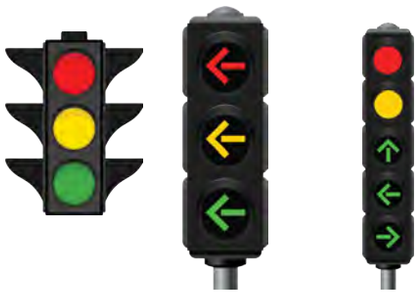
Flashing YELLOW Traffic Light – Slow down and proceed with caution. Drivers should be prepared to stop for any traffic flow entering the intersection.

Flashing RED Traffic Light – Drivers must come to a complete stop behind a stop line, crosswalk, or intersection before proceeding though the intersection, yielding any right-of-way.

GREEN arrow – Drivers may turn in the direction of the arrow after yielding to traffic and pedestrians.

RED arrow – Drivers may not enter the intersection unless permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal, pedestrians facing a steady red arrow signal shall not enter the roadway.

YELLOW arrow – Slow down and proceed in the direction of the arrow with caution.



TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs advise drivers about traffic rules, hazards, roadway location, roadway directions and the location of roadway services. The shape, color, symbols, and words of these signs give clues to the type of information they provide.

The shapes and colors of road signs have significant meanings, which allow a driver to quickly identify which types of signs they are looking at.

Standard colors:

- Red Prohibition (stop or do not do something)
- Green Direction or guidance
- Blue Driver services
- Yellow General warning
- White Law or rule of the road
- Orange Road repair work warning
- Brown Tourist and recreation guidance
- Pink Incident management
- Purple EZPass

Standard shapes:

- Octagon (8 sides) Stop.
- Down pointed triangle Yield (slow down and give other vehicles the right of way)
- Pennant (sideways triangle) No passing (this sign, found on the left side of the road, gives the driver warning of no passing zones ahead.)

EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITION SIGNS



Stop Sign - Drivers must come to a full stop (wheels must completely stop moving) behind the stop line or crosswalk, or if there is no stop line or crosswalk, before entering the intersection. Look for crossing vehicles and pedestrians in all directions and yield the right-of-way prior to proceeding.



Yield Sign - A yield sign is a red and white downward pointing triangle with red letters. It means the driver must slow down and allow traffic that has the right-of-way to cross before entering.



Do Not Enter


No Trucks



Wrong Way Sign


No Left Turn


No Right Turn


No U-Turn

- Diamond Warning (special hazards are ahead – pictures or words will describe what the hazard is).
- Rectangle Traffic regulations or directions to drivers.
- Pentagon (5 sides) School zone and school crossing.
- Circle Advance warning of a railroad crossing.
- Crossbuck (X) Indicates where a railroad crossing is.

EXAMPLES OF WARNING SIGNS



WARNING SIGNS

These signs warn a driver of upcoming driving conditions, such as warning the driver to slow down because of a curve or intersection ahead, to be prepared to stop if necessary, or of a hazard or special situation on the roadway that is ahead.

REGULATORY SIGNS

These signs are square or rectangular and contain letters or symbols. These signs tell a driver about specific laws that must be obeyed, such as rules for traffic direction, lane use, turning, speed, parking, and other special situations. Some regulatory signs have a red circle with a red slash over a symbol, which prohibit certain actions.

EXAMPLES OF REGULATORY SIGNS



Straight



Left Turn Only



Straight or Turn Right



No Right Turn on a Red Light



Speed Limit Signs - These black and white signs indicate the maximum legal speed allowed in ideal conditions.



Shared Center Lane Left Turn Only – This sign tells a driver where a lane is reserved for the use of left turning vehicles from either direction and is not to be used for through traffic or passing other vehicles.



One-Way Street – These signs tell a driver that traffic flows only in the direction of the arrow. Never drive the wrong way on a one-way street.

ROUTE NUMBER SIGNS

The shape and color of route number signs indicate the type of roadway: interstate, US routes, state routes, and city, county, or local roads. Interstate routes are numbered by code. Even numbers are west/east routes and odd numbers are north/south routes. Three numbered routes with an odd first number are routes into a city. Three numbered routes with an even first number go through or around a city.



Interstate Route



U.S. Route



State Route

GUIDE SIGNS

These signs are square and rectangular and are green, brown, or blue. They give information on intersecting roads, help direct drivers to cities and towns, and show points of interest along the roadway. Guide signs can also help drivers find hospitals, service stations, restaurants, and hotels.









RAILROAD CROSSING WARNING SIGNS

Active railroad crossings have signs, lights, or other signals to caution drivers about railroad crossings. A round warning sign with an "X" symbol (crossbuck) and black "RR" letters is placed along the road prior to a highway-railroad grade crossing. The sign cautions the driver to slow down or stop, to look and listen for a train or railroad vehicle before proceeding.



When a train or railroad vehicle is approaching the intersection, a driver must stop behind the stop line or not less than 15 feet, nor more than 50 feet from the nearest rail of the track. Drivers should not proceed across the tracks until the lights stop flashing, or trains have passed. If there is more than one track at the crossing, the driver should not cross the tracks until there is a clear view of the tracks in both directions.

When the intersection is clear, drivers should look both ways and cross the tracks quickly, without stopping.

The law requires buses that carry passengers and trucks carrying flammable or hazardous material to stop before any railroad crossing, even if there is no sign of a train coming. Drivers should be ready to stop when driving behind these vehicles.

WORK ZONE SIGNS



They are generally diamond or rectangular shaped and orange with black letters or symbols. These construction, maintenance, or emergency operation signs alert drivers that there are work zones and that people are working on or near the roadway. These warnings include workers ahead, reduced speed, detours, slow moving construction equipment and poor or suddenly changing road surfaces.



Flagger Ahead



Workers Ahead



Road Construction Ahead



One Lane Road Ahead



Detour

In work zones, traffic may be controlled by a person with a sign or flag to tell drivers which direction to travel, to slow down or stop. Drivers must follow their instructions.

Barriers, such as drums, cones, and tubes (panels) are used to keep traffic out of hazardous work zones. Along with signs and road markings, they guide drivers safely through the work zone. Barriers may be used to keep drivers from entering closed roads or other areas where it is dangerous to drive. Temporary traffic signals may be used in work zones. Drivers should reduce speed in work zones and be prepared to stop suddenly. Do not tailgate in work zones. Fines may be doubled in a work zone; however, this will be clearly marked before entering the work zone.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings are lines, arrows, words, or symbols painted on the roadway to give a driver directions or warnings. They are used to divide lanes, tell drivers when they may pass other vehicles or change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, define pedestrian walkways and where drivers must stop for signs or traffic signals.

Single, Broken (Dotted) Lines: These lines mark traffic lanes. White lines mean these lanes of traffic are moving in the same direction. Yellow lines mean the lanes of traffic are moving in the opposite direction. Driver may pass other vehicles over broken (dotted) lines when it is safe to do so.

Solid White Lines: Drivers are prohibited from changing lanes or to pass another vehicle.

Double White or Yellow Lines: Drivers must not pass if the line on the driver's side is solid. If the line on the driver's side is broken (dotted), they may pass when safe to do so.

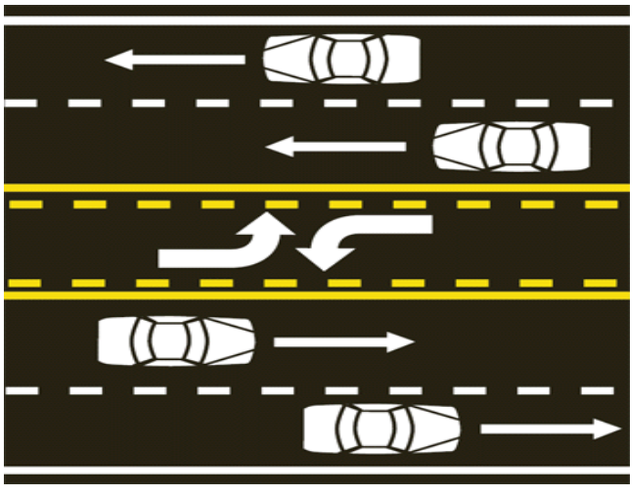
Edge Markings: Edge markings are the single line that marks the edge of the road. The line is white on two-way roads and on the right edges of one-way roads. The line is yellow on the left edges of one-way roads.

Stop Lines: White stop lines are located on the pavement to show drivers where to stop. After initially stopping at the required point, a driver should look both ways and proceed forward making sure it is safe to continue into the intersection. If there is no white stop line but only a crosswalk present, then drivers must stop before the crosswalk. If no crosswalk lines are present, drivers should come to a full stop prior to entering the intersection.

Crosswalks: Crosswalk lines are painted across a road to show pedestrian crossing areas. Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians crossing the road in marked crosswalks or at intersections even if no crosswalk lines exist at the intersection.

Arrows: White arrows are painted on some roadways to help guide drivers into the proper lanes for turning at intersections and through traffic.

Shared Center Turn Lane: Shared center lanes are for left turns only**.** This sign tells a driver where a lane is reserved for the use of left turning vehicles from either direction and is not to be used for through traffic or passing other vehicles.



SECTION 7
GENERAL DRIVING AND PARKING

TOLL ROADS

There are different types of roadways, such as state roads, rural roads, and highways. Highways can also be known as expressways, turnpikes, throughways, and freeways. Some highways can be toll roads. There are two different ways to pay a toll. One is with cash, and another is through an electronic toll collection system known as E-ZPass, which allows drivers to drive through designated lanes without stopping to pay a cash toll, thereby reducing traffic congestion. To obtain an E-ZPass transponder, drivers must contact the New Hampshire Department of Transportation at www.ezpassnh.com.

Important safety information for Cash Only Toll Lanes

Drivers should:

- Obey posted speed limits within the toll plazas.
- Never back up or reverse direction at a toll plaza.
- Come to a complete stop at staffed lanes.
- Do not get out of your vehicle.

Important safety information for E-ZPass Toll Lanes:

Drivers should:

- Obey posted speed limits in the toll lanes, but do not come to a stop.
- Never back up or reverse direction in the toll lane.
- Do not get out of your vehicle.

TURNING AND U-TURNS

Before turning, drivers should:

- Search all corners for traffic controls, pedestrians, other vehicles, etc. and signal intentions.
- Enter and maintain proper position in the lane that is closest to the direction they want to go.
- Look through the turn to the farthest point possible along the intended path.
- Accelerate smoothly to appropriate speed, make sure turn signal is cancelled and check traffic to the rear.

Right turns

- Avoid swinging wide to the left before making the turn.
- Always turn right from the right-most portion of the lane.

Left turns

- When making a left turn yield to oncoming traffic.
- Always turn left from the left-most portion of the lane.

Multiple lanes turning

- Identify which lane and enter the lane.
- Stay in that lane until the turn is completed.

REVERSING DIRECTION

There are times when a driver must reverse direction; however, drivers must do so in a safe manner. Depending on the type of roadway, there are different ways to reverse direction safely.

Next Exit – If a driver misses an exit on a divided highway, they should drive to the next exit to reverse direction. Drivers should never stop, back up or try to turn around.

U-Turn – U-turns can be extremely dangerous and are not legal everywhere. If a driver must reverse direction, the driver should first check to see if it there are any signs indicating that U-turns are prohibited. Drivers should pull over to the

shoulder of the road on the right using the turn signal and wait for the road to be clear of vehicles. Drivers should then use the turn signal to indicate they are pulling back out onto the road and proceed to turn in the nearest lane going in the opposite direction.

Two-point Turn – In this type of turn a street, alley or driveway is used to reverse the direction being travelled when it is not practical or possible to drive around a block. A two-point turn can be done in two directions:

- *Reverse Two-Point Turn* – Drivers should signal their intention to turn right, stop and check traffic to the sides and rear of the vehicle. Move back until the rear bumper of the vehicle reaches the near edge of the driveway. While backing slowly, steer rapidly all the way to the right. As the vehicle centers in the driveway, straighten the wheels and stop. Shift to drive and check in both directions, if clear, signal and turn left into the proper lane and accelerate as appropriate.

- *Forward Two-Point Turn* – Drivers should check their mirrors and signal their intention to turn left. Move close to the center of the road and turn into the driveway or alley as near as possible to the right side. Stop as the rear of the vehicle clears the curb or edge of the driveway. Check in all directions for traffic, signal a right turn and shift to reverse. When the path is clear, move slowly back while turning the steering wheel quickly all the way to the right. As the vehicle centers in the nearest lane, straighten wheels, stop, shift to drive, cancel right signal and move forward.

Three-Point Turn – Drivers should use this type of turn only when the road or street is too narrow to make a U-turn. This type of turn should only be used on a two-lane roadway.

To perform a three-point turn:

- Drivers should check the mirrors and activate their right turn signal to communicate their intention to pull off to the right side of the road.

- Once stopped, drivers should activate their left turn signal, check traffic and check blind spots by utilizing head checks. When traffic is clear, turn hard left to the other side of the road and stop once reaching the other side.

- Place the vehicle in reverse, check traffic and check blind spots to both sides by utilizing head checks. When traffic is clear, turn a hard right to the other side of the road and stop.

- Place the vehicle in drive, activate the left turn signal, and check traffic and blind spots. When traffic is clear, make a hard left and drive forward into the right lane of traffic heading in the new direction. Check traffic and make sure the turn signal has cancelled. Continue driving straight in the new direction.



INTERSECTIONS

Drivers should not rely on other road users to obey traffic control signals or signs. Drivers should always be prepared to avoid a collision.

Before moving after stopping at an intersection, drivers should take the extra time to check for crossing traffic and bicyclists. It is recommended that drivers look left, then right and left again before entering the intersection. At a traffic signal when the light turns green, avoid immediately moving into the intersection. Take the time to make sure the path of travel is clear and there is no crossing traffic. Drivers need a large enough gap to get their vehicle across the roadway and enough space to turn into the appropriate lane and get up to speed.

Drivers should not turn into a lane in front of another vehicle just because an approaching vehicle has a turn signal active. The driver with an active turn signal may plan to turn after they go past the intersection a driver is at or may have forgotten to turn the signal off from a prior turn.

MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUTS (TRAFFIC CIRCLES)

Roundabouts may have one or more lanes. Here are a few tips to help drivers safely negotiate a multi-lane roundabout.

- ***Lane Choice*** **–** Prior to entering the roundabout, pay close attention to the signs indicating exits and lane uses, along with pavement markings. Choose the appropriate







lane to exit, as shown in the diagrams below:

- ***Yield -*** Yield to the traffic in **both** lanes in the roundabout. When there is an appropriate gap in traffic, enter the roundabout.
- ***Lane Position*** – Maintain lane position until exiting. Avoid lane changes while inside the roundabout.
- ***Do Not Pass –*** Do not drive beside or attempt to overtake or pass any vehicles. Large trucks and trailers within the roundabout may need to straddle both lanes.
- ***Emergency Vehicles in Roundabouts*** - Do not enter a roundabout when emergency vehicles are approaching. Pull over to the right. Allow other vehicles to clear the intersection so the emergency vehicles can move through the roundabout. Never stop while inside the roundabout. Instead, move through and exit the roundabout, pull over to the right and allow emergency vehicles to pass.

RULES FOR SCHOOL BUSES

Drivers must stop at least 25-feet in any direction for a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and/or the stop arm extended at all times **unless the roadway is separated by a physical barrier**. Drivers shall remain stopped until the school bus resumes motion or until the flashing red lights cease to operate. Proceed slowly while always watching for children.



PARKING



Drivers are responsible for making sure that their vehicle is not causing a driving hazard when it is parked. Any vehicle parked along a rural highway must be moved off the paved or main travelled portion of the road. If it is impossible to pull completely off the road, drivers should pull off as much as they can as long as there is a clear view for a distance of 200 feet in each direction and if there is enough space for other vehicles to pass. However, the police often tow vehicles abandoned along the roadway even if the vehicle is well off the travelled portion. If a driver must leave a vehicle for several hours, they should leave a note on the windshield advising the police of the problem, an anticipated time the vehicle will be moved, and how to get in touch with the driver or owner.

When parking along the roadway, drivers should park their vehicle as far away from the flow of traffic as possible. If parking near a curb, park as close to it as possible.

When parked, drivers should:

- Secure the vehicle. The law requires drivers to turn off the engine and remove the key when leaving a vehicle unattended. Drivers should also lock the vehicle whenever it is being parked.

- Make sure the vehicle cannot move. Drivers should place the vehicle in "park" if the vehicle has an automatic transmission or leave it in gear if the vehicle has a manual transmission. Set the parking brake and turn the wheels into the curb if the vehicle is parked on a hill.

- Never open a door into traffic.

No-Parking Zones - There are many areas where a driver cannot park. Drivers should check for signs or painted curbs that may prohibit or limit parking.

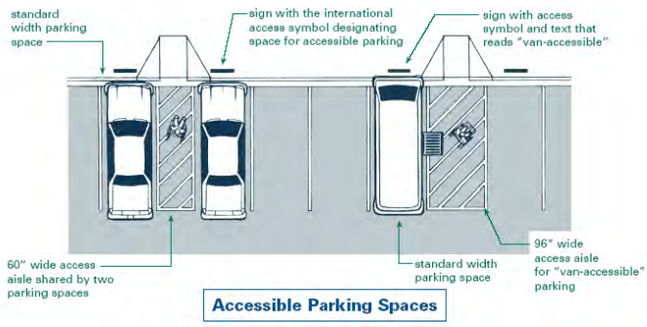
Spaces and Access Aisles Reserved For Persons with Walking Disabilities:

It is against the law to park in a space that is reserved for individuals with walking disabilities. A conviction for parking in such spaces carries with it a fine.

Access aisles are the crosshatched area parallel and adjacent to the accessible parking space. This area, marked with yellow or white diagonally striped lines is the space needed by individuals with walking disabilities to be able to fully open the door to their vehicle and safely maneuver in and out of their vehicle. Exiting or entering a van with a lift or ramp requires the entire access aisle space, which can be up to 8 feet wide to engage the lift/ramp and safely maneuver a wheelchair on or off the lift/ramp. There is a fine for parking in an access aisle for the first offense, and an in increased fine for each subsequent offense.



If a member of the disabled community finds themselves in a situation where they cannot exit or enter their vehicle safely due to a vehicle parked in an access aisle, they should contact the local police department immediately.



Accessible Parking Spaces

The law permits persons with walking disabilities or their drivers to submit a photo of a vehicle that is parked illegally, in an accessible parking space or an access aisle. The photo must be accompanied with a sworn statement to the local police department.

Although not marked, it is illegal to park in the following places:

- Alongside another parked vehicle (no double parking)
- On a sidewalk
- In an intersection
- On a crosswalk
- On any bridge
- In any highway tunnel
- In such a way that blocks traffic or is a hazard to others on the road
- On any street where there is no clearance for other vehicles to pass between the parked vehicles and the far curb
- In front of a driveway
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign or traffic control signal
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or within 75 feet on the opposite side of the street
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing

PERPENDICULAR AND ANGLE PARKING

- *When Entering a Perpendicular or Angle Parking Space, Drivers should:*
  - o Identify the space in which to park and check traffic.
  - o Signal intentions.
  - o Move forward slowly, turning the steering wheel left or right as appropriate, until the vehicle reaches the middle of the space.
  - o Center the vehicle in the space.
  - o Move to the front of the parking space, stop and secure the vehicle.

- *When Exiting a Perpendicular or Angle Parking Space, Drivers should:*
  - o Check for traffic in all directions by utilizing the mirrors and head checks.
  - o Continue to check traffic and move straight back until the front bumper clears the vehicle parked next to the driver's vehicle.
  - o Then turn the steering wheel sharply in the direction that the rear of the vehicle should move.
  - o When the vehicle clears the parking area space, stop and shift to drive.
  - o Accelerate smoothly, steering as needed to straighten wheels.



Angled Parking

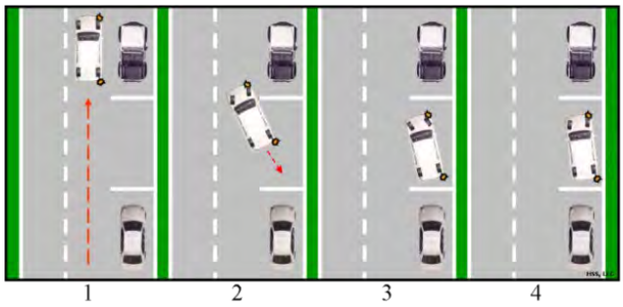


Perpendicular Parking

PARALLEL PARKING

When Entering a Parallel Parking Space, Drivers should:

- Identify the space in which to park, check for traffic and then signal.
- Once traffic is clear, shift to reverse and look to the rear in the direction the vehicle will be moving.
- Back slowly while turning the steering wheel rapidly in the appropriate direction. Continue backing until the front bumper is in line with the rear bumper of the vehicle the driver is parking behind.
- Back slowly while turning the steering wheel rapidly to center the vehicle into the space.
- Stop before touching the bumper of the vehicle to the rear. Shift to drive and adjust the vehicle in the parking space.



When Exiting a Parallel Parking Space, Drivers should:

- Check traffic in all directions by utilizing the mirrors and head checks.
- Shift vehicle into "reverse" and back up as much as possible to the vehicle parked behind the driver's vehicle.
- Check for traffic and signal. Shift to drive and move forward slowly, steering into the lane.
- Make sure that the front bumper of the vehicle will clear the vehicle ahead. If not put in reverse and correct steering.
- Move forward into the appropriate lane of traffic when the door post of the vehicle clears the rear bumper of the vehicle parked ahead of the driver.

SECTION 8
DRIVING SAFELY

SAFE DRIVING TIPS

Driving requires skills that drivers can only gain through practice and experience. The following section offers some driving tips that drivers can practice to help become a safer and more skillful driver.

VISUAL SEARCH

Something for drivers to remember: ***turn your head before you turn the wheel***. Drivers need to be aware of what is happening around their vehicle. Drivers must look ahead to the sides and behind the vehicle, and should develop a searching pattern that can be used every time.

Searching – Searching helps drivers to see situations that could cause a problem and gives them time to change speed and/or roadway position. Drivers should keep their eyes moving and searching for possible problems.

Looking ahead – Looking ahead down the road, looking past the vehicles in front of the driver, and continually checking mirrors will help make drivers aware of potential dangers.

Drivers should avoid getting into situations that could limit how far they can see down the road, like following too close to a larger vehicle. If a driver is behind a large vehicle, they should adjust their speed and road position.

Look to the sides – Drivers should search to the sides to make sure other roadway users will not cross the path of travel.

Look to the rear – Drivers need to be aware of traffic behind their vehicle. Drivers should check their mirrors continually before slowing down, stopping, turning or changing lanes.

SPACE MANAGEMENT

Providing an Adequate Following Distance

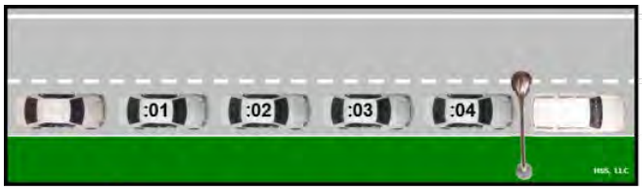
Drivers need time and space to adjust and react to other road users. The more space drivers allow between their vehicle and other roadway users, the more time the driver has to react. Traffic, speed, along with light, weather and road conditions will impact the space needed between the vehicle being driven and potential hazards. In order to reduce the risk of a collision, drivers should maintain enough following distance space to allow time to safely stop or change the path of travel to avoid a collision.

Space in front – A driver that closely follows the vehicle in front of them limits their vision of the road and does not allow enough time to react to avoid a collision. Drivers should always try to keep a minimum following distance of at least four seconds between their car and the vehicle in front.



To determine the following distance, drivers should:

- Watch when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes a sign, pole or any other stationary point.
- Count the seconds it takes to reach the same sign, pole, or any other stationary point (“One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four”).
- Not pass the stationary point before counting to one-thousand-four.
- Reduce speed and then count again at another stationary point to check the new following interval. Drivers should repeat this practice until they are following no closer than “four-seconds.”
- Practice by guessing how many seconds away the vehicle is from an object and then count the seconds it actually takes to reach the object.

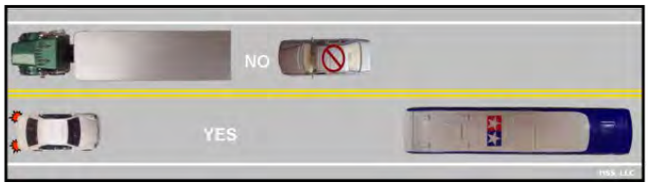


4 Second Minimum Following Distance

There are certain situations where drivers would need additional space in front of the vehicle.

Drivers should increase the following distance:

- On slippery roads.
- When following large vehicles like trucks, buses, recreational vehicles and vehicles pulling a trailer.

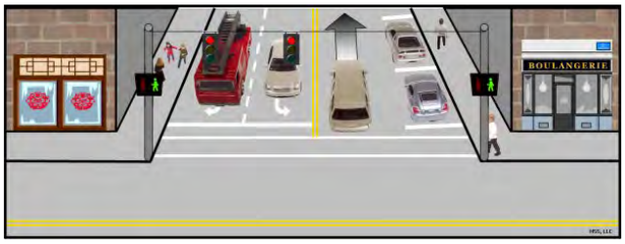


- At night, in fog, or in bad weather.
- When following vehicles required to stop at railroad crossings, like transit buses, school buses or vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

Space to the side

Space on the sides of the vehicle allows drivers to move right or left. Drivers should:

- Avoid driving next to other vehicles for long periods of time. The vehicle may be in their blind-spot, and it reduces the space needed to avoid a collision.
- Avoid crowding the center line marking. Try to keep as much space as possible between the vehicle and oncoming traffic.
- Allow space for vehicles entering a multiple-lane or limited access roadway by moving over a lane or adjusting the speed of the vehicle.
- Provide adequate stopping space for pedestrians in crosswalks, and space around the vehicle for bicyclists, children playing in and around the roadways, joggers, and pedestrians walking along the side of the road.



- When an approaching vehicle in the opposite lane is on a curve, or is a large vehicle, drivers must be careful not to crowd the center lane to allow for the vehicle to pass safely.

Space behind

To help maintain a safe distance from the vehicles following, drivers should drive at a steady speed, signal in advance and increase the following distance in front to allow for a safe stopping distance.

SECTION 9
ACCIDENTS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In New Hampshire there are more than 30,000 crashes reported each year. All drivers have the responsibility to do their best to prevent collisions. If every driver always obeyed the rules and drove sensibly, driving would be safer; however, drivers often encounter other road users, such as other drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who ignore the rules and laws that apply to them.

Drivers should learn to drive defensively, which means drivers must watch for illegal acts and the driving errors of other drivers and adjust their driving accordingly so as to avoid a crash.

ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

What to do when an accident happens:

No one wants to be involved in a crash; however, crashes do happen. If a crash occurs, drivers should:

- Stop.
- If possible, move the vehicle off the road so that traffic is not blocked from passing the site of the crash.
- Call 911 if there are injuries.
- Give aid to any injured people, but do not move them unless it is necessary, and be sure an ambulance has been called.
- Get the following information for all people involved in the crash:
  - Names and addresses.
  - Driver's license numbers, and state(s) of issue.
  - License plate number(s) and state of issue of all vehicles involved in the crash.
  - Make, model and year of all vehicles involved in the crash.
  - Insurance information, if applicable.
- Get the names and addresses of any witnesses or injured persons.

Reporting an accident:

New Hampshire law requires that an accident report be filed with the Division of Motor Vehicles **within fifteen (15) days** if there is a fatality, injuries or if the combined property damage totals more than $1,000 as a result of the accident.

If the crash is investigated by a police officer, drivers are not required to file a separate report to the Division of Motor Vehicles. The report filed by the police officers will satisfy the reporting requirement; however, if a driver involved wishes to file an accident, they may do so.

The Operator Accident Report (DSMV 400) may be obtained at any DMV office around the state, on our website at https://www.dmv.nh.gov/forms under Documents and Forms, or at any police department. If the driver is injured and is unable to complete the report, it may be filed by a passenger or the owner of the vehicle.

If a driver is uncertain if the combined property damage is over $1,000, it is recommended to file an Operator Report with the DMV to ensure compliance with the law.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Insurance:

Almost all states require drivers to purchase automobile insurance. New Hampshire has no mandatory law, so a driver may drive a vehicle within the State of New Hampshire without insurance. However, if a driver is involved in an uninsured accident, they could be held responsible for payment of all damages to the other person's property and the payment of all medical bills arising out of the crash. If a driver is unable to pay for these damages and medical bills, New Hampshire law requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend the driver's driving privileges until a settlement has been reached.

New Hampshire law may also require a driver to carry insurance for several years after having an uninsured accident in the form of an SR-22 certificate being filed by an insurance company. This type of insurance gives protection to the driver, to the occupants of the vehicle, and any damages to any vehicle involved in the accident.

Financial responsibility:

There are motor vehicle convictions that would also require a driver to show the DMV proof of insurance (SR-22) in order to have their driving and registration privileges reinstated:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Failing to stop and report when involved in a crash.
- Homicide arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle.
- Second offense reckless driving
- After a review of a driver's record of all traffic violations (just cause hearing).

SECTION 10
DRIVING EMERGENCIES

Driving emergencies can happen to any driver and may vary from windshield wiper failure to being involved in a major collision. Drivers should always think before taking action. A panic reaction could result in making the situation worse.

BRAKING

The first reaction for most drivers to avoid a collision is to stop the vehicle. Vehicles equipped with ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) will allow a driver to stop the vehicle without skidding and keep steering control. Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. Drivers should press on the brake pedal and keep applying pressure. ABS will work only if the driver keeps the pressure on the brake pedal. A driver may feel the pedal vibrate and hear a clicking noise, which is normal.

If the vehicle is not equipped with ABS, refer to the vehicle's owner's manual for proper braking procedure.

SWERVING

Drivers may be able to avoid a collision by quickly steering around a problem. This is sometimes referred to as "swerving." If a vehicle suddenly approaches from the opposite direction, drivers should:

- Make sure they have a good grip with both hands on the steering wheel.
- Steer in the direction they want to go, but try to avoid other traffic – never swerve to the left to avoid a crash.
- Once the problem has cleared, steer in the opposite direction to straighten out and gain control.

ACCELERATING

It may be necessary for a driver to accelerate to avoid a collision. This may happen when another vehicle is about to be hit from behind or from the side.

DEALING WITH SKIDS

Skidding is caused when a driver is traveling too fast for conditions, stops too suddenly or when the tires can no longer grip the roadway. Once the vehicle begins to skid, a driver has little control of the vehicle. If the vehicle begins to skid, drivers should:

- Ease up on the accelerator.
- Steer in the direction that the rear of the vehicle is sliding. This will allow the vehicle to go straight instead of sideways.
- Be prepared to steer in the opposite direction if the vehicle starts swerving in the other direction.
- Once the vehicle stops skidding, straighten the front wheels and steer back in the original direction of travel.

UNEVEN SURFACE DROP-OFFS

Uneven surface drop-offs can cause serious crashes if a driver reacts improperly. Drivers should avoid panic steering back onto the pavement. If the vehicle leaves the paved road surface, drivers should slow down gradually and turn back onto the pavement when it is safe to do so.

VEHICLE MALFUNCTIONS

There is always a chance of a vehicle problem while driving. Drivers should follow the recommended maintenance schedule listed in the vehicle owner's manual. Following these preventive measures greatly reduces the chance that the vehicle will have a problem.

Brake Failure:

Brakes can fail due to a malfunction, or if they have come in contact with a large amount of water. In the event that the brakes stop working as the vehicle is being operated, drivers should:

- Engage the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle in the center console or push the parking brake foot pedal slowly to avoid locking the rear wheels and causing a skid. Be ready to release the brake if the vehicle starts to skid.
- If engaging the brake does not work, turn off the engine and look for a safe place to slow to a stop off the roadway.

Tire Blowout:
Tire blowout is the rapid deflation of a tire and can cause sudden loss of control of the vehicle. If a front tire blows out, the vehicle will pull sharply in the direction of the blowout. If a rear tire blows out, the vehicle will wobble, shake and pull some in the direction of the blowout.

If a tire blows out or suddenly goes flat, a driver should:

- Grip the steering wheel firmly and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow down gradually by relieving pressure on the accelerator pedal.
- Allow the vehicle to slow by itself or brake gently if necessary.
- If possible, pull off the road in a safe place and turn on the emergency flashers.

Power Failure:
If the engine shuts off while the vehicle is in motion, drivers should:

- Keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. Be aware that the steering wheel may be difficult to turn.
- Do not brake hard, brake with steady pressure on the pedal, slow down then pull off the roadway.
- Stop and try to restart the engine, if unsuccessful, raise hood, turn on emergency flashers and call for help.

Stuck Accelerator:
If the accelerator becomes stuck, drivers should:

- Keep their eyes on the road.
- Shift the vehicle into the neutral gear.
- Brake firmly to counteract the effects of the acceleration.
- When safe to do so, pull the vehicle off the road.
- Bring the vehicle to a stop and turn off the engine.

Headlight failure:
If the headlights on the vehicle suddenly go out, drivers should:

- Try the turn signals or emergency flashers.
- Pull off the road as quickly and safely as possible and leave the emergency flashers on.

Vehicle Breakdown:
When a vehicle breaks down, drivers should:

- Turn on the emergency flashers to show the vehicle is disabled.
- If possible, get the vehicle off the road and away from traffic as safely and quickly as possible.
- Try to give other drivers some time to change lanes if necessary by leaving the emergency flashers on and if available, by placing emergency flares or reflectors 200 feet in front of and behind the vehicle.
- Once stopped, use a cell phone or other device to notify authorities that the vehicle has broken down. If no cell phone or device is available, raise the hood of the vehicle and tie a white cloth (red in a snowstorm) to the driver's door handle or the vehicle's antenna, which alerts drivers that help is needed. If possible, stay with the vehicle until help arrives. If the vehicle is in a hazardous location, get all passengers out of the vehicle and well away from traffic.

SECTION 11
SHARING THE ROAD

Road users consist of not only vehicles, but pedestrians, bicyclists, large trucks, motorcycles, animal riders, joggers and slow moving vehicles. There are laws and important information drivers should know when sharing the road with these users.

PEDESTRIANS



Vehicle–Pedestrian collisions account for nearly 20 percent of all traffic deaths each year. Drivers must use extreme care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian, especially in areas such as school zones, bus stops, playgrounds and parks. Pedestrians are difficult to see and it is difficult to determine their intentions. Drivers should be prepared to yield to pedestrians at all times.



Pedestrians have the right of way when they are:

- In a crosswalk
- Using a sidewalk, crossing an alley entrance or driveway
- Visually impaired and crossing the street guided by a service animal or carrying a white cane with a red tip.

Pedestrians must:

- Use crosswalks at intersections and follow all pedestrian warning signs and signals.
- Look in both directions before crossing any roadway.
- Walk on the left side of the roadway facing oncoming traffic when walking on the side of the road where there is no sidewalk.
- Always wear white or light colored clothing or carry a light when walking at night
- Never walk on interstate or limited access highways

Drivers should use caution when:

- Driving next to parked or stopped vehicles as pedestrians can walk out between vehicles.
- Backing up. Always check for pedestrians before backing, especially in parking lots or places where there are many pedestrians.
- Approaching a school zone when lights are flashing or children are present. Drivers must obey the school zone speed limit. At a school crossing where there is a crossing guard, drivers should stop and yield if they are signaled to do so.

Visually Impaired/Blind Pedestrians

New Hampshire law requires drivers to come to a complete stop whenever a person who is carrying a white cane (the international symbol of blindness) or using a harnessed guide dog is attempting to cross a roadway. The person who is visually impaired listens to determine if a vehicle has stopped moving before proceeding into the roadway. While listening to the traffic flow and other auditory information, the visually impaired approaches an intersection and locates the best place to make a safe crossing. Drivers should be aware that the person will begin to cross the street when he or she has determined that a safe crossing can be made. Drivers must come to a complete stop and use extra caution when proceeding, and should NEVER honk the horn or yell at a person who is visually impaired.

BICYCLISTS

Bicycles are considered vehicles when on roadways. Bicyclists are required and expected to obey all traffic laws and regulations as motorized vehicles and have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as any driver on the roadway.

As a driver, you must:

- Ensure the safety and protection of the bicyclist and shall exercise due care by leaving a reasonable and prudent distance between the vehicle and the bicycle. The distance shall be presumed to be reasonable and prudent if it is at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 miles per hour or less, with one additional

foot of clearance required for every 10 miles per hour above 30 miles per hour. Yield to bicyclists in intersections as you would for pedestrians and other vehicles.

- Yield right of way when a bicycle path or bike lane intersects a road. Do not stop, park, or drive on a designated bicycle path or lane unless you are entering or leaving an alley or driveway, performing official duties, directed by a police officer or an emergency situation exists.
- Allow as much space as possible and slow down when approaching or passing a bicyclist. You should slow down and let the cyclist clear the intersection before making your turn.
- Avoid slowing down or stopping quickly. A motor vehicle's brakes are more powerful than a bicycle's and you could cause a crash.
- Avoid sounding your horn close to bicyclists unless there is a chance of a crash. Sounding your horn to alert your presence may startle bicyclists and cause them to steer into your path and crash.
- Watch carefully for bicyclists entering your lane. Be especially careful if you see children riding bikes on the sidewalk. They may come onto the road.
- Avoid turning sharply in front of a bicyclist and do not force a bicyclist off the road.
- Although bicyclists are required to ride in the direction of traffic, you should look for them riding anywhere on the roadway.
- Be particularly careful around bicyclists when the roadway is wet or covered with sand or gravel. These conditions affect bicycles much more than vehicles.
- Cooperate with bicyclists. They are required to use hand signals when turning and stopping. However, keep in mind that bicyclists may be unable to signal if road or traffic conditions require them to keep both hands on the handlebars. Look for other clues of a bicyclist's intent, such as turning their head or looking over their shoulder before changing lane position.



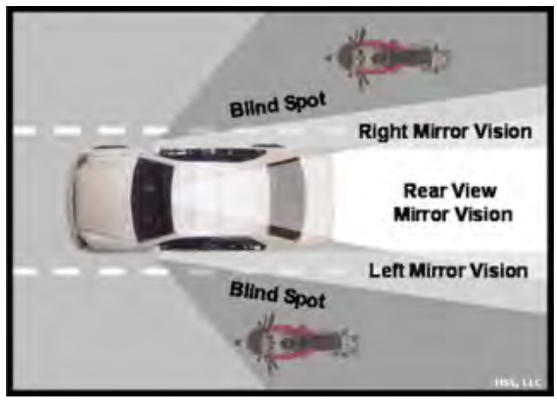
- When parked on the street, check to the sides and rear for bicyclists before you open your door.
- You should check for bicyclists in your path before backing. Be especially cautious near schools or residential areas where bicyclists may be present.

MOTORCYCLES

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on New Hampshire's roadways as other drivers. However, because most motorcycles are only about two feet wide, a motorcycle may not be easily identifiable in traffic, they can be easily hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. It is sometimes difficult to judge how fast they are traveling.

Drivers should:

- Never attempt to share a lane with a motorcycle. Motorcycles are entitled to the same full lane width as all other vehicles.
- Always carefully check oncoming traffic for motorcycles before taking a left turn across traffic and know its speed before making the turn.



- Be sure to allow at least four seconds following distance when behind a motorcycle.
- Be aware that most motorcycles do not have automatic cancel for turn signals. Before taking a turn in front of a motorcycle with its turn signal on, be sure the rider is actually turning.

Drivers should be aware that motorcyclists may slow down or change direction under the following circumstances:

Bad weather and slippery surfaces
Rain, wind, dust and fog affect a cyclist's vision, and wet and slippery roads can create glare that is especially hard to see at night.

Cross winds
Windy conditions can move a motorcycle out of its lane of travel. Areas to look out for are wide open, long stretches of highway and bridges. Fast moving large trucks have been known to create wind blasts which can startle a cyclist, and under certain conditions, may actually move a cyclist out of their path of travel.

Road surfaces
Uneven road surfaces, gravel, debris, pavement seams, grooved pavement, and manhole covers.

Metal or grated bridges
Motorcyclists may experience a wobbling sensation when traveling over metal or grated bridges.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLES





Drivers should be alert for slow moving vehicles. A fluorescent or reflective orange and red triangle displayed on the rear of vehicles drawn by animals, farm equipment or construction equipment means the vehicle is traveling less than 25 mph. Drivers should use caution when approaching a slow-moving vehicle and be sure it is safe before passing.

- ***Farm machinery*** – Watch for tractors, combines and other farm equipment moving across the road and traveling on state highways in rural areas. Pass with caution and remember the operator of the farm machinery cannot hear approaching vehicles. Do not attempt to pass until it is safe to do so.

- ***Animal drawn vehicles and horseback riders*** – In some rural areas, drivers may be sharing the road with animal drawn vehicles and horseback riders. They have the same rights to use the road as a motor vehicle and must follow the same rules of the road. Drivers approaching any horse shall take every precaution to prevent frightening the horse. Drivers should reduce speed, assess the situation and pass with caution, and **never use the horn or "rev" the engine**.





INTERACTING WITH LARGE TRUCKS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



Over 250,000 crashes occur between cars and commercial vehicles each year nationwide. Many of these crashes could be avoided by keeping these points in mind:

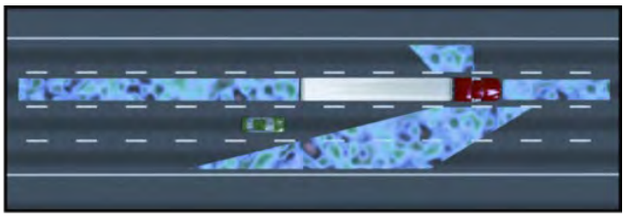
- Commercial vehicles are generally larger vehicles and less maneuverable than a car.
- These vehicles have much larger blind spots than cars.
- They have longer stopping and accelerating distances and need more room to turn.





The No-Zone

The No-Zone is the area around large trucks or buses where vehicles disappear from the commercial driver's view into blind spots. These blind spots are on the sides, rear and front of the large vehicle.



- ***Side No-Zones*** – Large trucks and buses have big No-Zones on both sides. They are much larger than a vehicle's blind spot. Trucks have a large blind spot on their right side starting behind the cab and extending up to the length of the truck. It's important for a driver to know that if the truck driver's face cannot be seen in the side view mirror, then the truck driver cannot see the other vehicle. Drivers should avoid driving alongside a large vehicle for any longer than what is required. If the truck driver needs to swerve or change lanes, the chances of a collision are greatly increased.



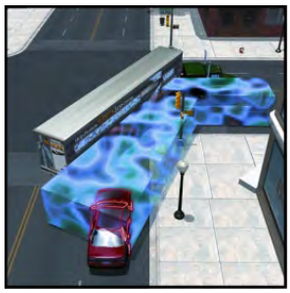
- ***Front No-Zones*** – Because of a large vehicle's size and weight, they take longer to stop than cars. A loaded truck with good tires and properly adjusted brakes, under ideal conditions, traveling at 55 mph requires a minimum of 335 feet before coming to a complete stop, or greater than 1½ times the stopping distance of a car. Therefore, it is essential not to enter a roadway in front of a large vehicle or change lanes in front of a large vehicle. When passing a large vehicle look for the whole front of the vehicle in the rear-view mirror before pulling in front and maintaining speed.

- ***Rear No-Zones*** – Unlike cars, large vehicles have huge blind spots directly behind them that extend up to 200 feet. If travelling too close, the large vehicle cannot see a vehicle travelling near them and the driver of the car cannot see what is up ahead. If the large vehicle brakes or stops suddenly, drivers have no place to go and could run into them. To prevent this, drivers need to pay close attention when following a large vehicle. Drivers should avoid following too closely and position their vehicle so the truck driver can see the vehicle in their side mirrors. When traveling up or down steep hills, large vehicles drive slowly and therefore typically use the right lane. Avoid driving in the right lane, if possible, when traveling up or down hills, as well as near truck weigh stations, where large vehicles will be attempting to re-enter faster-moving traffic. By avoiding the right lane in these areas, drivers will reduce the possibility of a crash with a large vehicle.



<u>Turning</u>

Pay close attention to large vehicle turn signals and give them plenty of room to maneuver. When a truck or bus needs to make a right turn, they may need to swing wide to the left in order to safely turn right and clear the corner of a curb or other obstruction. Sometimes space from other lanes is used to clear corners. If a driver tries to get in between the truck or bus and the curb, the vehicle will be squeezed in between them and could suffer a serious crash. To avoid a crash, do not turn until the truck or bus has completed its turn.



Drivers should keep in mind the following:

- When meeting a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far as possible to the right side of the roadway to avoid a side-swept crash and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles, which pushes the vehicles apart.
- Many collisions with large vehicles occur at intersections because motorists are unable to judge accurately the speed of a truck

approaching before making a left turn. When in doubt about the speed of an oncoming truck or bus, do not turn left in its path. The truck or bus may be going too fast, and it takes a longer stopping distance for them than a car.

- Many intersections are marked with stop lines to show where drivers must come to a complete stop. These stop lines help to set a vehicle farther back at an intersection to give larger vehicles more turning space. Always stop behind stop lines.
- Do not cut off a large vehicle in traffic or on the highway to reach an exit or turn or to beat a truck into a single-lane construction zone.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Emergency vehicles, such as police, fire and ambulance vehicles are equipped with sirens, flashing lights and special horns. Right-of-way must be given to emergency vehicles when approaching from any direction when they are sounding a siren or operating their flashing lights. Drivers should drive immediately to the right side of the road and stop the vehicle until the emergency has passed. Drivers should avoid blocking an intersection when stopping. Once the emergency vehicle has passed, drivers must use their signal and turn back into the roadway, only when it is safe to do so.

Drivers must not follow a fire truck closer than 500 feet when it is sounding a siren or operating flashing lights. Drivers must not drive or park a vehicle within the block where the fire truck has stopped to answer a fire alarm.







When approaching a highway emergency:

New Hampshire's "Sherrill's Law" law (RSA 265:37-a) requires drivers to provide a wide space or change into a lane not adjacent to certain situations if traffic conditions allow to do so safely.

Specifically, drivers should:

- When in or approaching an incident involving a fire, collision, disaster, utility construction or maintenance, or other emergency resulting in partial or complete blockage of a highway, or a location where a police officer has made a traffic stop, or a stopped or standing vehicle displaying warning signals, including vehicle hazard warning lights, road flares, traffic cones, caution signs, or any nonvehicular warning signs, every driver other than the driver of an emergency response vehicle, shall:
  - o Maintain a reduced speed and if practical give a wide berth, without endangering oncoming traffic, to public safety personnel, any persons in the roadway, and vehicles displaying blue, red, or amber emergency, warning lights, or a stopped or standing vehicle.
  - o Obey the directions of any authorized person directing traffic and of all applicable emergency signals and traffic control devices.
  - o Vacate any lane wholly or partially blocked, as soon as possible.
- Any person violating this law shall be fined plus penalty assessment for a first offense and an increased fine plus penalty assessment for a subsequent offense in a 12-month period.

POLICE/TRAFFIC STOPS

If an approaching police vehicle with lights and/or sirens engaged pulls in behind a vehicle pulling off to the side of the road, a driver must:

- Come to a complete stop and place the vehicle in park.
- Remain in the vehicle unless requested to get out.
- Turn off the engine and turn on the hazard flashers and if at night, the interior lights to help the officer see that everything is in order inside the vehicle.
- Remain calm and keep the safety belt fastened. Ask any passenger(s) to do so as well. Place hands on the steering wheel and limit movements.

- When requested, locate and provide their driver's license, and vehicle registration. If the officer asks the driver for these documents, tell the officer where they are located and reach for them slowly with one hand on the wheel. Answer the officer's questions fully and clearly.
- If the vehicle is unmarked, be sure it has its blue lights activated. If the police officer is in plain clothes (no uniform), ask for identification such as a badge or department identification card.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators offers a very good example of what to do when pulled over by a law enforcement officer on their website: https://youtu.be/fel8CA_k20g.



WORK ZONES

A work zone is an area where roadwork takes place and may involve lane closures, detours and moving equipment.







Work zones have become increasingly dangerous places for both workers and drivers. In 2022, 891 people were killed and 37,701 people were injured as a result work zone crashes.



When approaching a work zone watch for signs, cones, barrels, large vehicles, and workers. Work zone signs have an orange background and black letters or symbols. Always reduce speed in a work zone, even if there are no signs indicating a change in speed limit within the work zone. The narrower lanes and rough pavement can create hazardous conditions.

While driving in a work zone, drivers should:

- Reduce speed, increase the following distance; watch the traffic around the vehicle and be prepared to stop.
- Use extreme caution when driving through a work zone at night whether workers are present or not.
- Adjust lane position to allow space for workers and construction vehicles.
- Observe the posted work zone signs and do not resume normal speed until the "End Road Work" sign is visible.
- Expect delays, plan for them, and leave early to reach a destination on time.
- When available, use alternate routes to avoid work zones.



SECTION 12
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

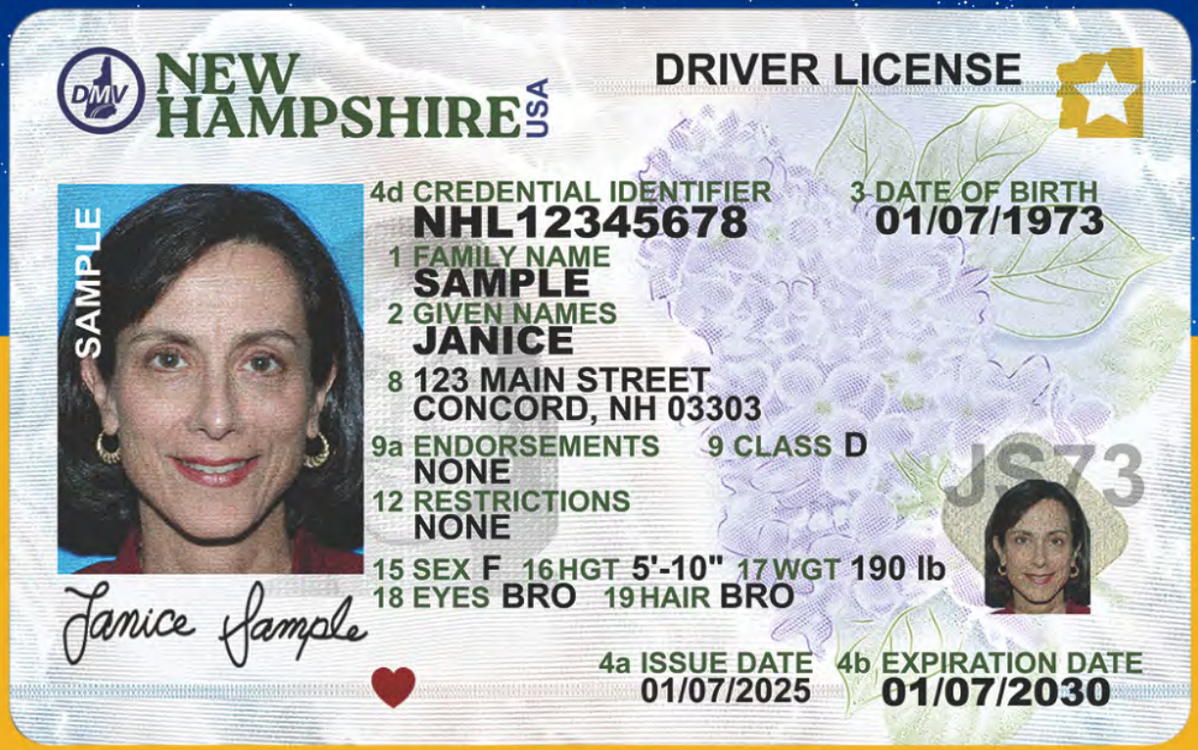
1. New Hampshire law requires every motor vehicle driven during the period from _____ to _____ to have their headlights activated.
2. Right turns on a red light are permitted after a stop except when _____ or _____.
3. Jessica's law requires a driver to remove all _____ and _____ from a vehicle prior to driving.
4. The law requires drivers to _____ and _____ when leaving a vehicle unattended.
5. An eight-sided (octagonal) sign always means _____.
6. The speed limit when passing a school during school opening is _____.
7. When you are involved in any accident causing death, personal injury, or aggregate damage of over $_____, a written report must be filed within _____ days, which must be filed with the _____.
8. The N.H. vision test requires that you can read letters and obtain a reading of 20/ _____.
9. In New Hampshire a blood alcohol level of _____% is evidence of legal intoxication.
10. Drivers should provide a minimum of _____ feet when passing a bicyclist at 30 mile per hour or less.
11. Upon being approached by an emergency vehicle, you should take what action: _____ and _____.
12. A driver under the age of 20 is convicted of a motor vehicle violation. How many days will their license be suspended? _____
13. The speed limit in a business or urban residence district is _____MPH.
14. If two vehicles enter an uncontrolled intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the _____ has to yield the right-of-way.
15. A rectangular sign indicates a _____.
16. A brown sign means _____.
17. A solid red traffic signal means _____.
18. A yellow warning sign with 5 sides (shaped like a house) indicates: _____
19. On multi-lane highways a dashed white line means _____.
20. If, when driving on a freeway or toll road, you miss your exit you should _____.
21. Fire apparatus responding to an alarm should not be followed closer than _____ feet.
22. Any person convicted for the first time of driving under the influence shall lose their license for at least _____.
23. The speed limit in a rural residence district is _____ MPH.
24. A diamond shaped sign indicates _____.
25. The closest, safe following distance is _____.
26. Alcohol and other impairing drugs reduce a driver's _____, _____, and _____.
27. It is illegal for an operator under 21 years of age to have physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled drugs, prescription drugs, OTC drugs, or any other chemical substances, natural or synthetic, which impair a person's ability to drive or while having an alcohol concentration of _____% or more.

28. A green arrow on a traffic light means _____.
29. Drivers should signal at least _____feet before a turn and, on the highway, drivers should signal at least _____feet before changing lanes or exiting the roadway.
30. A green sign indicates _____.
31. Drivers do not need a moped license if they already possess a _____ license.
32. A solid yellow line on your side of the roadway parallel to the yellow center line means _____ _____.
33. When driving at night and another vehicle approaches with their lights on you should: _____ _____
34. Speed limits are the maximum speed you may travel under _____ conditions.
35. A down pointed triangle sign means _____.
36. A person with sight in one eye must read the 20/ _____ line to get a driver license.
37. When a train or railroad vehicle is approaching the intersection, a driver must stop behind the stop line or not less than _____ feet nor more than _____ feet from the nearest rail of the track.
38. What does a flashing yellow traffic light mean? _____
39. The color of a traffic sign indicates the type of message to be found on the sign. Red indicates _____.
40. A solid green traffic light means _____.
41. When approaching a school bus with flashing red lights in operation, you must bring your vehicle to a full stop in front or rear of the bus at a distance of _____ feet away.
42. If you become stuck in a heavy snowstorm or blizzard, attach a _____ to your vehicle and stay with the vehicle.
43. Parking is not allowed within _____ feet of a fire hydrant.
44. Which way should you steer if you have a blowout? _____
45. Almost all major roads are numbered with route signs. To make traveling easier, interstate routes are numbered by code. Even numbers are _____ routes, odd numbers are _____ routes.
46. Drive with the headlights on _____ beam to reduce the glaring reflection of the lights bouncing back at you in thick fog.
47. You should not park the vehicle on the roadway unless it can be seen for a distance of _____ feet.
48. If you refuse to take a breath test your license will be _____.
49. When it becomes necessary to walk on a roadway, which side should you walk on? _____
50. The correct hand signal for slow or stop is _____.
51. The area of the roadway that cannot be seen by looking in your mirrors is known as the _____.
52. What is the only thing that reduces the effects of alcohol? _____
53. Individuals holding an out-of-state license shall not be issued their New Hampshire driver's license until they _____ their out-of-state license.
54. A motor-driven cycle has an engine which produces no greater than _____ horsepower.
55. Youth operators must not drive a vehicle with more people than there are _____.
56. A "B" restriction on a license means that the driver must _____.
57. Anyone driving a motor vehicle in New Hampshire must have in their possession a valid _____ and _____.

58. Drivers should _____ to traffic already traveling in a roundabout.
59. What does BAC stand for? _____
60. If the accelerator (gas pedal) gets stuck, a driver should _____.
61. Skidding is caused by _____
_____
62. The driver of every vehicle shall _____ for a person crossing the street who is being led by a guide dog or is holding in an extended position a white cane with a red tip.
63. A pennant-shaped sign located on the left-hand side of the road points to the beginning of a _____.
64. To make a right turn, you should be in the _____ lane.
65. The _____ is the area around large trucks or buses where vehicles disappear from the commercial driver's view into blind spots.
66. Do not park within _____ feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
67. When you walk on the roadway at night you should always _____.
68. An "E" restriction on a license means an _____ must be used.
69. Persons riding a bicycle must ride on the _____ side of the roadway.
70. New residents are allowed _____days to obtain their New Hampshire driver's license.
71. What should you do when you come to an intersection and the traffic light changes from green to yellow?
_____
72. A red arrow on a traffic light means? _____
73. Youth operators may not operate a vehicle between the hours of _____ and _____ before their 18th birthday.
74. Parking is not allowed within _____ feet of a stop sign.
75. The distance you travel from when you see danger until you step on the brake pedal is called _____.
76. A white sign indicates _____.
77. A cross buck sign means _____.
78. What is the slowest you may travel on a New Hampshire interstate highway in good weather? _____
79. What is indicated on a yellow sign? _____
80. New Hampshire driver's licenses expire every _____ on the applicant's _____.
81. Passing on a two-way road is permitted when indicated by _____ and/or _____.
82. To operate a motorcycle, you must have a _____.
83. The distance you travel while operating your brakes to bring your vehicle to a stop is called _____.
84. Are bicyclists subject to the same laws and rules as automobile drivers? _____
85. What is the heaviest vehicle you may operate with your operator's license? _____
86. Youth operators may only have one (1) nonfamily member with them while operating a vehicle for the first _____ months after their license is issued.
87. What is the youngest age one may legally practice drive a vehicle in New Hampshire? _____
88. Someone who is practice driving must be accompanied by a person seated on the front seat who is at least _____ and holds a _____.

89. Your safety belt will keep you from _____, thereby helping you to keep control of the vehicle.
90. New Hampshire law requires people to wear a safety belt or be restrained in a safety seat until _____ years of age.
91. New Hampshire law requires operators and/or passengers on a motorcycle to wear an approved protective helmet until _____ years of age.
92. A _____ directing traffic overrules any traffic light or sign and must be obeyed.
93. A yellow line on the left edge of a street or roadway indicates _____.
94. A _____ has the right of way over all vehicles at intersections and crosswalks.
95. When making a turn at an intersection, you should turn into the lane that is _____to you.
96. You should signal before you change directions. Signals should be used before:
    1.
    2.
    3.
    4.
    5.
97. What does a flashing red light mean? _____
98. What does an orange sign indicate? _____
99. When you double your speed, the stopping distance is nearly _____times greater.
100. Hydroplaning is when _____.

You're ready for take-off with a Real ID.



IS YOUR IDENTIFICATION REAL ID COMPLIANT?

SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE N.H. DMV