SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



South Dakota Driver License Manual

A document produced by South Dakota Driver Licensing,
an agency of the Department of Public Safety.

Central Driver Licensing Office
118 W Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-6883
dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing



Attention:

South Dakota law requires all motorists from any direction approaching an authorized emergency vehicle making use of **red visual signals**, to come to a complete stop before reaching the stopped emergency vehicle and may, unless otherwise directed, proceed with caution only after making sure it is safe to do so.

South Dakota law also requires all motorists from any direction approaching any stopped vehicle making use of **amber, yellow** or **blue** warning lights to do the following:

- When motorists are travelling on South Dakota interstates or highways with two or more lanes travelling in the same direction as the authorized emergency vehicle, merge into the lane farthest from the vehicle at least three hundred feet before the vehicle and proceed with caution, unless otherwise directed.
- On two lane highways, at least three hundred feet before the vehicle, motorists must slow to a speed that is at least twenty miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or five miles per hour when the speed limit is posted at twenty miles per hour or less and proceed with caution, unless otherwise directed.

Emergency vehicles include, but are not limited to, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances and fire department vehicles.

A violation of this law is a class 2 misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine and/or time in county jail.

South Dakota Codified Law 32-31-6.1

Any person who, while violating 32-31-6.1, causes an accident is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if the accident is with a stopped emergency vehicle making use of its **red visual signals**, or any stopped vehicle making use of **amber**, **yellow**, or **blue** warning lights.

South Dakota Codified Law 32-31-6.2

Table of Contents

THE DRIVER'S LICENSE

About this Manual 5
Licensing Requirements 5
Types of Driver's Licenses and Driver's Permits 8
Required Noncommercial License Tests 10
License Options 11
Driver License Renewal 12
Loss of Driving Privileges 12
Vehicle Registration and Titles 13
Financial Responsibility 13

BE IN SHAPE TO DRIVE

Vision 18
Hearing 18
Fatigue 18
Driver Distractions 19
Aggressive Driving 19
Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Driving 19
Other Impairing Drugs and Driving 21
Emotions 22
Health 22

BEFORE YOU DRIVE

Inspecting Your Vehicle 23
Adjusting Your Seat 25
Adjusting Your Mirrors 25
Using Seatbelts 25
Air Bags 26
Child Passenger Safety Laws 26
Secure Your Load 28
Trip Planning 28

BASIC DRIVING

Starting the Engine 29
Moving the Vehicle 29
Stopping the Vehicle 29
Steering 29
Controlling Speed 29
Backing Up 30

RULES OF THE ROAD

Yielding Right-of-Way 31
Traffic Control Devices 31
Traffic Signals 32
Traffic Signs 33
Pavement Markings 36
Other Lane Controls 37

GENERAL DRIVING

Turning and Turnabouts 38
Intersections 39
Rules for School Buses 43
Parking 43
Changing Lanes 45
Adjusting to Traffic and Interstate Driving 45
What a Driver Should Do During an Enforcement Stop 46

SAFE DRIVING TIPS
Visual Search ... 48
Speed Management ... 50
Stopping Distance ... 50
Cushion of Space (Space Management) ... 51
Communicating ... 54
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND AVOIDING CRASHES
Emergencies and Avoiding Crashes ... 57
Vehicle Malfunctions ... 58
Crashes ... 59
SHARING THE ROAD
Pedestrians ... 61
Bicyclists ... 61
Motorcyclists ... 62
Large Trucks and Buses ... 62
Emergency Vehicles ... 64
Slow-Moving Vehicles ... 65
SPECIAL DRIVING SITUATIONS
Night Driving ... 66
Work Zones ... 66
Winter Driving Safety Tips ... 67
Rural Road Driving ... 67
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ... 68

The Driver's License

About This Manual

This manual gives you information on safe driving rules and practices to help you become a safe driver. Be sure to read the manual carefully and completely. Unless you know the information contained in this manual, you cannot pass the knowledge test.

If you want a license to drive a commercial motor vehicle, you will need to read the Commercial Driver License (CDL) Manual. If you want a license to drive a motorcycle, you will need to read the Motorcycle Manual.

Licensing Requirements

The Driver License

Anyone who operates a motor vehicle or a motor-driven cycle on public roadways in South Dakota is required to have a driver license. If you have a valid out of state non-commercial license, you are required to apply for a South Dakota driver license within 90 days of establishing residency in South Dakota. If you are a CDL holder, you must apply for a South Dakota license within 30 days of establishing residency in South Dakota. South Dakota law states that every licensee shall always have their driver license in their immediate possession when operating a motor vehicle.

Non-residents who are at least 16 years of age can drive on a valid operator license from their home state.

You may obtain a driver license if you:

- Are at least 14 years of age
- Provide the required documents
- Have parent/guardian consent if under the age of 18 (required for every application completed)
- Pass the required driver license test(s)
- Turn in all existing driver license(s) or identification card(s)
- Do not currently have suspended, revoked, or denied driving privileges in South Dakota or any other state
- Have not been found by a court to be mentally incompetent, alcoholic, or a habitual user of illegal drugs
- Have no unpaid fines for moving traffic violations
- Are in this country legally
- Are from a foreign country and can show U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents with the dates of legal presence in the United States

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS (photocopies are not acceptable)

Every time you apply for a driver license/identification card an application and resident address documents are required. You may obtain an application at the exam station or on our website at https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing.

Renewal of a driver license or ID card (must have a star on the front):

1. A driver license or ID card (with star on the front)
2. Two documents proving physical address in South Dakota (must be less than one year old)
3. Non-U.S. citizens and transfers from other states must provide proof of lawful status in the U.S. (such as U.S. Certified Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport/Passport Card, Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization, Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Card, or foreign Passport with a Visa/I-94)
4. If your name has changed from your current driver license or ID card, you will need to provide proof of the name change (Marriage Certificate, Divorce Decree, or Court Order)

Replacement of a South Dakota driver license or ID card (had a star on the front):

1. U.S. Certified Birth Certificate, valid U.S. Passport/Passport Card, Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization, valid Permanent Resident Card, valid Employment Authorization Card, or foreign passport with a U.S. Visa/I-94
2. Second document proving identity (such as social security card, W-2 form, military ID, tribal ID, or another document approved by examiner)
3. Two documents proving physical address in South Dakota (must be less than one year old)
4. If your name has changed you will need to provide proof of the name change (marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order)

New South Dakota driver license or ID card (includes transfer from another state*):

1. One document proving your date of birth, identity and lawful status or presence. If possible, select a document that has your current full legal name to avoid documenting any name change.

- Valid, unexpired U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card
- Certified copy of a Birth Certificate issued by a state of the United States. It must be a certified copy and have the stamp or raised seal of the issuing authority. A hospital-issued certificate is not acceptable. A Certified Birth Certificate issued by Puerto Rico must be certified as being issued on or after July 1, 2010.
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State (Form FS-240, DS-1350 or FS-545)
- Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550, N-570 or N-578)
- Certificate of Citizenship (Form N-560, N-561 or N-645)
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card (Form I-766)
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551)
- Record of Arrival and Departure (I-94) with attached photo and stamped "Temporary Proof of Lawful Permanent Resident"
- Record of Arrival and Departure (I-94) stamped "Refugee," "Parolee" or "Asylee"
- Unexpired foreign Passport accompanied by the approved I-94 documenting applicant's most recent admittance into the United States.
- Valid foreign Passport stamped "Processed for I-551"
- Permit to Reenter the United States (I-327)
- Refugee Travel Document (I-571)

***Transfer of a federally compliant driver license or ID from another state requires the documents listed under "Renewal of a driver license or ID card (must have a star on the front)".

2. Check your name. Is your current full legal name different from the name listed on the identity document you are providing in step 1? Were you previously issued a South Dakota driver license or ID card with a name different from that listed on the identity document in step 1? If you answered yes to one or both questions above, you must provide a document proving your name change. If not, go to number 3.

To prove your name change, bring documents that connect the name on the identity document you selected to your current full legal name. Select the documents you will use (this can be more than one if needed to connect the name listed on your identity document to your current name).

- Certified Marriage Certificate
- Court Order under petition for name change
- Court Order for name change in a Divorce Decree or Decree of Annulment
- Court Order for name change in a Decree of Adoption

Any Marriage Certificate must be issued by the state office of vital statistics or equivalent agency in the state or country of marriage. It must be a certified copy and have the stamp or raised seal of the issuing authority. A church, chapel or similarly issued certificate is not acceptable.

Any Court Order must contain your prior full legal name, your court-ordered full legal name, your date of birth, and be stamped with the official court seal (date stamps and file stamps are not the official court seals). Photocopies and faxes are not acceptable.

3. Provide proof of your Social Security number (SSN). Select one document from the list below that contains your current name and full SSN.

- Social Security Card
- W-2 form
- Social Security Administration 1099 form
- Non-Social Security Administration 1099 form
- Paystub
- I am a temporary foreign national not authorized for employment. (You do not have to document an SSN, but South Dakota will verify your USCIS number. Make sure you are not authorized for employment. If you are eligible for employment but do not have an SSN, you are required to obtain and present one.

Note that we are prohibited from accepting any other documents to prove SSN.

4. Two documents proving physical address in South Dakota (less than one year old). A parent's proof of address is acceptable for a minor child. The parent's name who is accompanying the minor must be on the address documents.

- Utility bill
- Pay stub or earnings statement
- Rent receipt
- Phone bill
- Transcript or report card from accredited school
- Bank statement
- Mortgage document
- Tax document
- Homeowners/rent's insurance policy
- Other items with your address can be reviewed by the examiner

People Who Travel Full Time
If you are using a South Dakota mail forwarding address, a Residency Affidavit must be completed. You will also need to provide a receipt from a South Dakota hotel/motel, campground or RV park to prove one night of stay within the last year, South Dakota personal mailbox contract/agreement as well as ONE DOCUMENT (no more than ONE year old) proving your personal mailbox (PMB) service address (receipt from the PMB business or a piece of mail with your PMB address on it). If you have friends or family in South Dakota and plan to use their address, you can complete and follow the instructions on the Consent for Use of Address form. You can find these forms at the following link: https://dps.sd.gov/resource-library. Note that if you maintain a residence in another state, you do not qualify as a full-time traveler.

Veterans
Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military have the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license or ID. In addition to the documents listed previously, they will need to present one of the following:

- DD-214 Form which shows honorable discharge status from active duty
- Present a certificate signed by a county or tribal veteran's service officer verifying honorable status
- DD Form 2 (Retired)
- DD Form 2A (Reserve Retired)
- NGB Form 22

If you are unable to obtain any of the required documents, please contact our office at DPSLicensingInfo@state.sd.us or at 605-773-6883 to see if exceptions are available:

Selective Service Requirements
Registering with the Selective Service is required for young men to stay eligible for Federal Student Aid, Job Training and Government Jobs. Any male applicant aged 18 to 25 must submit on his application that he has registered with the Selective Service, or that he is authorizing the Department of Public Safety to forward to the Selective Service the personal information necessary to register. For more information regarding Selective Service Registration, contact Selective Service at 1-888-655-1825.

Fees (subject to change)
Regular Driver License or Instruction Permit (upgrade, new, renewal, or transfer from out-of-state) $38.00
Identification Card (new, renewal or transfer from out of state) $38.00
Address change, Name change, or a Replacement Driver License or Identification Card $20.00
Motorcycle Instruction Permit (new license or within renewal period) $38.00
Conversion of a Motorcycle Instruction Permit $38.00
Conversion of a CDL Instruction Permit $43.00
Commercial Driver License renewal, Instruction Permit, or transfer from out-of-state) $43.00
Commercial Driver License Endorsement test(s) ..... $20.00 each

The fee for a Commercial Driver License does not include the skill (drive) test. The skill test must be conducted by a third-party tester and the tester may charge up to $150 plus tax for testing.

For testing purposes, the fee allows you three attempts to pass a test within a 6-month period. After 3 attempts, or 6-months, the fee must be paid again. (SDCL 32-12-2)

A proration of fees is given to applicants under 21 years of age who are being issued less than a 5-year license.

Who Can't Get a South Dakota Driver License?
- Persons under 14 years of age.
- Persons who have a license or driving privilege withdrawal in South Dakota or any other state.
- Persons who have accumulated child support arrearages of $1,000 or more. (These people may be eligible for one 6-month temporary license.)
- Persons present illegally in the U.S.
- Persons who have been determined medically or psychologically unfit to drive.

Types of Driver's Licenses and Driver's Permits

Instruction Permit (Under 18 years of age) **–** To obtain an Instruction Permit, you must be at least 14 years of age and pass the vision and knowledge tests. The permit is valid for five years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. Minors at least 14 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, must hold the valid permit continuously for 275 days (180 days if successful completion [score of 80% or better on both written and driving portions of driver education] of an approved Department of Education driver education course) prior to upgrading the permit to a Restricted Minor's Permit or Operator's License. The cost is $38.00.

Restrictions: Drive under adult supervision. The adult must be a parent/legal guardian or other adult with a valid driver's license and at least one year of driving experience. The adult must be seated beside the Instruction Permit holder. The driver must complete 50 hours of adult supervised driving on an Instruction Permit (must include 10 hours in inclement weather and 10 hours after dark).

Instruction Permit (Over 18 years of age) **–** To obtain an Instruction Permit, you must pass the vision and knowledge tests. The permit is valid for five years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. Prior to upgrading to an Operator License successful completion of a drive test is required. The cost is $38.00.

Restrictions: Drive under adult supervision. The supervising adult must have a valid driver's license and at least one year of driving experience. The adult must be seated beside the Instruction Permit holder.

Instruction Permit holders may not use any type of wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle upon public roadways. A 'wireless communication device' is defined as any wireless electronic communication device that provides for voice or data communication between two or more parties, including a mobile or cellular telephone, text messaging device, a personal digital assistant that sends/receives messages, an audio-video player that sends/receives messages or a laptop computer.

Restricted Minor's Permit **-** To obtain a Restricted Minor's Permit, you must be at least 14 years of age, complete the requirements of the Instruction Permit, pass the driving test, and not have been convicted of a traffic violation during the six months prior to application for the Restricted Minor's Permit. An individual up to age 18 years of age may hold a Restricted Minor's Permit. The permit is valid for 5 years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. The cost is $38.00 for a Restricted Minor's Permit.

Restrictions: Entitles the holder, while having the permit in their immediate physical possession, to operate a motor vehicle during the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. if the motor vehicle is being operated with the permission of the minor's parent/legal guardian. During the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the minor must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who is occupying the seat beside the driver. The Restricted Permit holder must drive on the Restricted Permit for a minimum of 6 months and no passengers are allowed except for immediate family or members of household for first 6 months on the Restricted Permit. Upon reaching age 18, the permit automatically converts to an Operator's License.
You may drive alone after 10 p.m. if you are taking the most direct route and traveling to or from:

- School or school event
- Church or church event
- Work
- Driving ag machinery (not subject to registration) or doing farm related work

A Restricted Minor's Permit holder may not use any type of wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle upon public roadways. A 'wireless communication device' is defined as any wireless electronic communication device that provides for voice or data communication between two or more parties, including a mobile or cellular telephone, text messaging device, a personal digital assistant that sends/receives messages, an audio-video player that sends/receives messages or a laptop computer.

Operator's License **-** To obtain an Operator's License, you must be at least 16 years of age and must have passed the vision, knowledge and driving tests. If a minor is at least 16 years of age, but under 18 years of age, they must complete the requirements of the Instruction Permit and/or Restricted Minors Permit and not have been convicted of a traffic violation during the past six months prior to obtaining the Operator's License. The license is valid for 5 years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the United States, whichever occurs first. The cost is $38.00 for an Operator's License.

NOTE: Per South Dakota law, every licensee shall always have their driver license in their immediate possession when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same upon demand of a judge, court of record, a magistrate, or a peace officer.

Motorcycle Instruction Permit (Under 18 years of age) **-** To obtain a Motorcycle Instruction Permit, you must be at least 14 years of age and pass the vision and knowledge (car/truck and motorcycle) tests. Minors at least 14 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, must hold the valid permit continuously for 275 days (180 days if applicant completes a driver education course) prior to the upgrade of the permit to a Motorcycle Restricted Minor's Permit. However, if in addition to the approved driver education course, the minor has successfully completed the South Dakota (or another state's) authorized motorcycle safety course, the Motorcycle Instruction Permit needs to be held for 180 continuous days. Time driven on an Instruction Permit (car) can be substituted for the 180 days required to drive on a Motorcycle Instruction Permit. The permit is valid for one year or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. The cost is $38.00. If less than 18 years of age and the Motorcycle Instruction Permit expires, the minor would be required to obtain another Instruction Permit for the required length of time.

Motorcycle Instruction Permit (Over 18 years of age) **-** To obtain a Motorcycle Instruction Permit, you must pass the vision and knowledge (car/truck and motorcycle) tests. The permit is valid for one year or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. The cost is $38.00.

Restrictions: **The Motorcycle Instruction Permit holder may operate a motorcycle during the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. if accompanied by a driver with a valid motorcycle license who is at least eighteen years of age, who has at least one year of driving experience and who is driving another motorcycle along with the permit holder. No Motorcycle Instruction Permit holder may carry another person on the motorcycle.**

Motorcycle Restricted Minor's Permit **-** To obtain a Motorcycle Restricted Minor's Permit, you must be at least 14 years of age and pass the vision, knowledge (car/truck and motorcycle) tests, motorcycle drive test, complete the requirements of the Instruction Permit and have not been convicted of a traffic violation during the past six months prior to application. The permit is valid for 5 years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first.

Restrictions: **Entitles the holder, while having the permit in their immediate possession, to operate a motorcycle during the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. if the motorcycle is being operated with the permission of the minor's parent/legal guardian. Drive on the Restricted Permit for a minimum of 6 months immediately preceding the application for a motorcycle operator's license.**

Motorcycle Operator's License **-** To obtain a Motorcycle Operator's License, you must be at least 16 years of age and pass the vision, knowledge (car/truck and motorcycle) tests, motorcycle driving test and not have been convicted of a traffic violation during the past six months prior to application. If a minor is at least 16 years of age, but under 18 years of age, they must complete the requirements of the Instruction Permit. The license is valid for 5 years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first.

Duplicate License **-** When a duplicate license is obtained, your license will retain the original license expiration date. To obtain a duplicate license you must provide 2 proofs of physical address in South Dakota. Our examiners may question any documents and request additional information for verification of identity. Duplicates are available for the following only: name change, address change, or if the card is lost.

Moped Operators **-** You must be in possession of a valid Operator's License.

Identification Card **-** To obtain an Identification Card, you must provide the required documents listed at the beginning of this manual. There is no age requirement. The card is valid for 5 years or until the same date as the expiration date on the valid documents authorizing the applicant's presence in the U.S., whichever occurs first. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will be required to present a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) record authorizing your legal presence in the U.S. Our examiners have the right to question any documents and request additional information for verification of identity prior to issuance of the identification card.

Note to all applicants: Any driver license or non-driver ID issued to any individual under 21 years of age with five years or less remaining until the applicant's 21st birthday will expire 30 days after the individual's 21st birthday.

For information about Commercial Driver Licenses (CDL's), please refer to the Commercial Driver's Manual.

Required Noncommercial License Tests

Cooperation with Examiner

- The applicant must cooperate fully with the examiner and follow instructions.
- License applicants must furnish their own safe vehicle for the on-the-road skill test.
- Pets or passengers will not be allowed in the vehicle during the on-the-road skill test.
- It is recommended that children or pets not be brought to the exam station. Children and pets are not permitted in the testing area or on drive test.

Examination Procedures

You may apply for a South Dakota operator license at any exam station within the state. Licenses may be renewed 180 days prior to their expiration date unless the applicant is turning 21 years of age upon renewal. Licenses expiring 30 days after licensee's 21st birthday may only be renewed on or within the 30 days immediately following the birthdate.

For other Driver License information regarding locations, procedures, testing times, locations, handicap assistance, and other issues call 1-605-773-6883; or you may visit the South Dakota web site at https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing.

When applying for a South Dakota Driver License all South Dakota or out-of-state driver license(s) and/or ID(s) must be surrendered at the time of application. If you are currently holding a valid out-of-state driver license, no testing will be required for the transfer of that license unless you have a hazardous materials endorsement. Previous states will be notified and your credential(s) from that state will become invalid.

Note: According to State law, examiners are prohibited from issuing a driver license to anyone who is physically incapable to drive. If an applicant appears to be physically impaired the examiner may require them to test. (SDCL 32-12-32)

1.Photo: Your photograph will be taken every time you come in.

2.Vision Test: If you wear glasses or contact lenses while taking the vision test, you will be required to wear them whenever driving. If you do not pass the vision test, you must present a statement from an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist certifying that you possess the visual ability to drive safely before continuing the examination process.

3.Knowledge Test: You will be required to pass a test covering the rules of the road and safe driving practices. Those wishing to obtain a motorcycle or commercial driver's license should also obtain those manuals from any South Dakota Driver Licensing Office (the manuals are also available on the department's website at https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing). If someone is caught cheating you will not be allowed to re-test the following day, you will be required to wait a minimum of two weeks before being allowed to test again.

4.Driving Test: This test will provide an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. The driving test consists of normal driving tasks. You will not be asked to do anything against the law.

As of the date this manual was printed, drive tests in all locations must be scheduled. You may schedule a drive test online at https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing or by phone at 1-605-773-6883.

Unsuccessful Examinations

If you fail any of the tests, you may not re-test before the next working day. You may wait longer if you want more time to study the manual or to practice driving. You are allowed 3 opportunities to test for each fee paid within a 6-month period. After 3 failures in a 6-month period, the fee will need to be repaid.

Restrictions Placed on Licenses

An operator license may be issued with certain restrictions. For example, a person who cannot see clearly with their right eye will be restricted to driving a vehicle with a left outside rearview mirror.

	Driver License Restrictions
B	Corrective lenses
R	Restricted permit (6AM-10PM)
G	No night driving
F	Left outside rearview mirror
I	No driving outside of town
A	Automatic transmission (Non-commercial)
Y	50-mile radius of residence
C	Special equipped vehicle

License Options

If you choose yes for any of the options listed below, it will be identified on the license or ID card.

Living Will: You have the option of checking the South Dakota Driver License application "yes" or "no", if you have a living will governing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

Durable Power of Attorney: You may indicate on the South Dakota Driver License application if you have "Durable Power of Attorney" that designates the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

Veteran: If you are an honorably discharged veteran and wish this to be designated on your driver license or ID card, you may indicate this on the application form. To have this designation placed on your license or ID card, you must present either a U.S. Military DD-214 form (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), DD form 2 (retired), DD for 2A (reserved retired), NGB22 (National Guard DD-214) form or a certificate signed by your local Veteran Service Officer indicating a honorable character of service.

Organ and Tissue Donation

Organ, tissue and eye transplantation are successful, routine procedures that save or improve the lives of thousands of people each year. Unfortunately, there are many more people waiting for transplants than there are organs and tissues available. The cure to this crisis is an increased commitment to donation. One organ and tissue donor can save or improve the lives of up to 60 people.

Organs and tissues that can be donated include heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, intestines, corneas, skin, heart valves, bone, and connective tissue. Once a donor is identified, donation coordinators obtain a medical/social history from the next-of-kin and conduct thorough tests to determine the medical suitability of the organs. Additional tissue testing is conducted in order to place the organs with the most appropriate match.

Recovery of organs and tissue is a surgical procedure. Donors are treated with great care and dignity. The donation process does not prevent an open casket funeral.

All costs related to donation are covered by the procurement organization, which passes those costs on to the transplanting facility. No charges related to donation are incurred by the donor or the donor's family. For more information about donation, please call 1-888-5-DONATE.

In South Dakota when you indicate on your license or ID that you wish to give the precious gift of life by being an organ and tissue donor, you are relieving your loved ones of the burden of making that decision for you at the time of your death. The issuance of a driver license or ID with a donor designation completes the donation registration process and is effective unless you request removal of the donor designation.

If you are not planning to apply for a new driver license or non-driver identification card but would like to be designated as an organ donor on your record, you may register online at www.dps.sd.gov/licensing/drive_licensing or you may contact our office at 1-605-773-6883 to obtain the Donor and Tissue Registry Form. Once you've completed the online or paper form, you will be sent an organ donor sticker to affix to your driver license or ID.

If at some future time you decide to amend or revoke your designation, you may do so by removing the organ donor designation from your driver license or ID. For more information regarding amending or revoking your designation, please refer to South Dakota Codified Law Chapter 34-26.

Driver License Renewal

Your driver license is valid for 5 years and will expire on your birthday or 30 days after your birthday if you are turning 21. You may renew the license anytime up to 180 days before it expires (unless you will be turning 21). You will be required to take a vision test when renewing. If the driver license you surrender is expired, a knowledge test will also be required. Drivers of foreign countries will be issued a license for the duration of their legal stay based on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services documents provided at license issuance, but not to exceed 5 years.

SKIP THE TRIP, APPLY ONLINE: Effective July 1, 2014, driver license renewals, duplicates and the upgrade of a restricted minor's permit may be done online. Any person who is eligible may apply by mail or online for a replacement and renewal once in any ten-year period. For more information go to www.skipthetripsd.com or dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/renew-and-duplicate/renew-online.

Loss of Driving Privileges

Keeping Your Driver License

In order to keep your driver license, you must always drive safely. You can lose your license for:

- a drug conviction in a vehicle
- a conviction for driving while intoxicated
- an alcohol conviction by a minor
- refusing to be tested for alcohol or drugs if you are asked to do so by a police officer
- driving during a period of court sentence prohibiting driving
- driving while license is suspended, cancelled, revoked, or denied
- giving false information when you apply for a driver license or a non-driver ID
- failing to settle a financial judgment made against you for damages resulting from a motor vehicle accident
- attempting to alter the information on your license or using someone else's license
- failing to appear for a re-examination when requested to do so by Driver Licensing
- using a motor vehicle to commit a felony or causing the death of someone in a motor vehicle accident
- having too many points on your driving record, as dictated by the current point system
- failure to maintain proof of insurance on every vehicle owned or operating a vehicle without proof of insurance
- any conviction of a traffic violation committed prior to the age of 16 by the holder of a restricted permit or instruction permit
- failure to pay a fine resulting from a traffic violation conviction
- owing debt to a South Dakota government agency totaling $1,000 or more
- any convictions for violating the restrictions of the license for a driver under 18 years of age
- under 21 and are being arrested for 0.02% to 0.079% BAC in violation of SDCL 32-23-21
- sale/distribution of alcohol to a minor under 21 years of age
- possession of alcohol by a minor under 21 years of age
- eluding law enforcement

Revocation: The loss of a driver license and/or privilege to drive or apply for a license. Following a revocation, all applicable tests will be required in addition to the application fee and a $50-$225 reinstatement fee.

Reinstatement from a Revocation: A person whose license has been revoked, suspended or disqualified is required by law to pay a license reinstatement fee of $50-$225 in addition to the application fee when they are eligible to apply for a license. Vision and knowledge tests will be required following a revocation.

Reinstatement Fees are as Follows (Must Apply in Person):
First DWI - $100; second DWI - $150; third and subsequent DWI's - $200; 2nd reckless driving conviction in one year - $125; eluding a police officer - $125; vehicular battery - $225; vehicular homicide - $225; all other types of revocations - $75

Suspension: The loss of a driver license and/or privilege to drive or apply for a license.

Reinstatement from a Suspension: Following suspension, no testing will be required unless the license has expired. An application fee and a $50 reinstatement fee will be required.

Applicants may reinstate from a suspension online at https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/renew-and-duplicate/renew-online.

Instruction and Restricted Minor's Permit
If the Department receives record of a conviction for a traffic violation or a violation of the Instruction Permit, Restricted Permit or Driver License for a minor under 16 years of age, the driving privileges shall be suspended for a period of thirty days or as otherwise required by law.

If convicted of a second traffic violation, a violation of a Restricted Permit, or a Felony/Class 1 Misdemeanor while driving on an Instruction or Restricted Minor's Permit, the suspension period will be 180 days or the driver's 16*th* birthday, whichever is longer.

Receipt of a conviction for a Class 1 Misdemeanor or Felony will result in a suspension of the license for 180 days or their 16*th* birthday, whichever is longer or as required by law. A $50 reinstatement fee and license fee will be required to reapply if violation is a Class 1 Misdemeanor or Felony offense.

Anyone that is under the age of 18 that receives a violation and **DOES NOT** have an Instruction Permit, Restricted Minor's Permit, or Operator License, will receive a like suspension as descried in the paragraphs above. For a second traffic offense, second violation of a Restricted Minor's Permit, or a Felony/Class 1 Misdemeanor, the suspension will be 180 days or until the driver's 16*th* birthday, whichever is longer.

A person who has a learner permit or restricted permit suspended for a first traffic conviction (or violation of the permit restrictions) need not pay the $50 reinstatement fee and application fee unless the suspension is for a conviction of a moving traffic offense and assessed six or more points. They may, however, apply for a duplicate license.

Vehicle Registration and Titles

All motor vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers owned by South Dakota residents and operated on public highways must be registered with the County Treasurer of the applicants' residence. You have 90 days to register a vehicle brought in from another state. Registration renewals are determined on a staggered registration renewal system based on the first letter in your last name. See chart below:

January	A, B	February	C, D, E	March	F, G, J
May	H, I, O	June	K, L	July	M, N
August	P, Q, R	September	S	November	T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

A Certificate of Title is required to sell or transfer any vehicle. The Title should be kept in a safe place, not in the vehicle. The registration certificate must always be carried in the vehicle.

For further information on Vehicle Registration & Titles, contact the South Dakota Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles, at 605-773-3541 or https://dor.sd.gov/.

Financial Responsibility

Any operator who has had their driver license revoked or suspended following a *JUDGMENT* (resulting from an uninsured auto accident), a conviction for *NO INSURANCE, VEHICULAR HOMICIDE, DWI*, or two convictions of *RECKLESS DRIVING* (within a one-year period) must establish proof of financial responsibility for the future before they may drive or reregister any vehicle in this state. Most motorists provide proof of financial responsibility for the future by having their auto insurance company file an SR22 form with the Driver Licensing Program. The SR22 forms must be received at the central administrative office (the driver exam stations are unable to accept SR22 forms). The forms must come directly from the insurance company.

Are you Insured?

South Dakota state law SDCL 32-35-113 requires the owner of any motor vehicle that is required to be registered, maintain in force one of the following forms of financial responsibility:

1. Owner's policy of liability insurance
2. The bond of a surety company
3. Certificate of Deposit or Securities in the amount of $50,000 deposited with the State Treasurer
4. Certificate of Self-Insurance (minimum 26 vehicles)

Written evidence of your financial responsibility must be carried in the vehicle covered and presented to any Law Enforcement Officer upon request. Acceptable written evidence is an insurance policy or identification card identifying the name of the company, policy number, effective date of coverage and the date of expiration. A Certificate of Deposit issued by the State Treasurer or Certificate of Self-Insurance are also acceptable.

Penalty - A conviction for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility is a Class 2 Misdemeanor (30 days imprisonment in a county jail, $100 fine or both), driver license suspension for a period of not less than 30 days or more than one year and filing proof of insurance (SR22) with the State of South Dakota for 3 years from the date of eligibility. Failure to file proof will result in suspension of vehicle registration, license plates and driver license.

South Dakota Point System

Any operator who accumulates 15 points in any 12 consecutive months, or 22 points in any 24 consecutive months, is subject to a driver license suspension.

When multiple offenses arise out of a single incident, points will be assessed on the offense carrying the highest point value. No points will be assessed for speeding, standing, parking, equipment, size or weight violations, including speed limits set by the Department of Transportation for control of size and weight related damage to highways.

Points are assessed on out-of-state convictions just as if they were committed in South Dakota. Upon operator's request, a hearing is provided before suspension.

Periods of Suspension:

First Suspension	60 days
Second Suspension	6 months
Subsequent Suspension	1 year

Points are assessed as follows:

Conviction	Points
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI/DUI)	10*
Reckless Driving	8
Eluding/Attempting to Elude	6
Drag Racing	6
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	4
Improper Passing	4
Driving on the Wrong Side of the Roadway	4
Stop Sign/Light Violation	3
Other Moving Violation	2

*State law requires a mandatory revocation of driver license for Driving While Intoxicated convictions.

Every three to four minutes, someone in the United States is diagnosed with a blood cancer.[1]

Thousands of patients with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma or other diseases like sickle cell need a blood stem cell transplant to survive. Most patients don't have a fully matched donor in their family—and that's when they turn to NMDPSM.

When you swab your cheeks and join the NMDP Registry℠, your genetic type will be included in the search process for every patient in need of a blood stem cell donor.

We need registry members who are committed to helping save a life. That means being willing to donate to any patient, keeping your contact information up to date and responding quickly if you're called as a potential match.

Things to know before you join the registry:
- It costs you nothing to join or donate.
- You're committing to donating to any patient in the world, even if you're joining on behalf of a specific person.
- There are two ways to donate (see more information on the back). You could be asked to donate either way.

75% of patients needing a blood stem cell transplant don't have a fully matched donor in their family. [2]

Every year, 12,000 patients' best or only cure is a blood stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor. [3]

You can join the NMDP Registry if you're:
- Between the ages of 18–40
- A resident of the U.S. or one of its territories or freely associated states
- Able to meet our medical guidelines

Scan the QR code to join the NMDP Registry today!

How to Become an Organ Donor

If you are renewing or applying for your driver's license or ID card, you can become an organ donor by marking the appropriate box on the application form. If you choose to be shown as an organ donor on the card, you will be required to certify on the application that you have read the donor information provided to you.

If you're not ready to renew your license, you can become an organ donor at any time by registering online at https://www.donatelifemidwest.org/sd/ or completing and mailing the Donor and Tissue Registry Form. Once the form is returned to our office, we'll send you an organ donor sticker to place on your license or ID card.

If you're under 18 years of age, have a parent complete a Parental Consent Form for organ donor designation.

What if I change my mind and no longer want to be an organ donor?

You can change your decision at any time by:

- Removing the organ donor designation by marking the appropriate box or writing "remove" in the appropriate place on your driver license application; or
- Using the Organ Donor Status Update form to remove your name; or
- Indicating your refusal to be an organ donor in a signed record (if you are physically unable to sign, have a record signed by another individual at your direction and witnessed by at least two adults, one of whom must be a disinterested witness).

Remember to share your decision with your family so they know your wishes. If you have questions, call 1-888-5-DONATE. For questions about eye and tissue donation, please contact LifeSource or Dakota Lions Sight and Health.

Be in Shape to Drive

Driving is one of the riskiest tasks that anybody will do during their lifetime. The ability to drive safely depends on good health and making correct decisions.

Vision

Good vision is important for safe driving. If you cannot see clearly, you will have trouble identifying traffic and roadway conditions, spotting potential trouble, and responding to problems in a timely manner.

Vision is so important that South Dakota requires that you pass a vision test before you get a driver license. To qualify for a driver license without restrictions, an applicant must score 20/40 or better with both eyes, but no worse than 20/50 in either eye.

Other important aspects of vision are:

- *Side vision* - You need to see "out of the corner of your eye." This lets you spot vehicles and other potential trouble on either side of you while you look ahead. Because you cannot focus on things to the side, you also must use your side mirrors and glance to the side if necessary.
- *Judging distances and speeds* - Even if you can see clearly, you still may not be able to judge distances or speeds very well. In fact, you are not alone. Many people have problems judging distances and speeds. It takes a lot of practice to be able to judge both. It is especially important in knowing how far you are from other vehicles and judging safe gaps when merging and when passing on two lane roads, or when judging the speed of a train before crossing tracks safely.
- *Night vision* - Many people who can see clearly in the daytime have trouble seeing at night. It is difficult for everyone to see at night than in the daytime. Some drivers have problems with glare while driving at night, especially with the glare of oncoming headlights. If you have problems seeing at night, don't drive more than necessary and be very careful when you do.

Because seeing well is so important to safe driving, you should have your eyes checked regularly by an eye doctor. If you are required to wear corrective lenses:

- Always wear them while driving. If your driver license says you must wear corrective lenses and you are not wearing them, you could get a ticket if stopped.
- Avoid using dark or tinted corrective lenses at night. They cut down the light that you need to see clearly.
- Try to keep an extra pair of glasses in your vehicle. If your regular glasses are broken or lost, use the spare pair to drive safely. This also can be helpful if you do not wear glasses all the time as it is easy to misplace them.

Hearing

Hearing can be helpful for safe driving. The sound of horns, sirens, or screeching tires can warn you of danger. Hearing problems, like bad eyesight, can come on so slowly that you do not notice it. Drivers who know they are deaf or have hearing problems can adjust and be safe drivers. These drivers learn to rely more on their vision and tend to stay more alert. Studies have shown that the driving records of hearing-impaired drivers are just as good as those drivers with good hearing.

Fatigue

Fatigue is physical or mental tiredness that can be caused by physical or mental strain, repetitive tasks, illness, or lack of sleep. Fatigue can affect vision and increase the time to make decisions. Avoid driving if tired or fatigued. You do not want to fall asleep while driving.

Before a Trip, Do the Following:

- Get adequate sleep – most people need 7 to 9 hours to maintain proper alertness during the day.
- Plan to stop about every 100 miles or 2 hours.

- Arrange for a travel companion – someone to watch your driving.
- Check the labels of medications and be aware if they cause drowsiness.
- Do not use alcohol or drugs when driving.

Ways to Avoid Fatigue

- If you start feeling tired, stop driving and 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 consuming caffeine before taking a short nap to get the benefits of both.
- Try not to drive late at night.
- The best way to avoid fatigue is to get plenty of rest.

Driver Distractions

A distraction is anything that takes your attention away from driving. Distracted driving can cause crashes, resulting in injury, death, or property damage. Taking your eyes off the road or hands off the steering wheel presents obvious driving risks. Mental activities that take your mind away from driving are just as dangerous.



When driving:

- Texting, reading texts, and social networking is prohibited by state law.
- 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.

Instruction and Restricted permit holders may not use any type of wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle. You must pay attention to the driving task. You are responsible for operating your vehicle in a safe manner.

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving occurs when an individual intentionally commits an action that 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, and so on).

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

Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Driving

Alcohol and other impairing drugs are involved in approximately 40% of all traffic crashes in which someone is killed every year. If you drink alcohol or use other impairing drugs and drive, even a little, your chances of being in a crash are much greater than if you did not drink any alcohol or use any other drugs.

No one can drink alcohol and drive safely, even if you have been driving for many years. New drivers are more affected by alcohol than experienced drivers because they are still learning to drive. Small amounts of alcohol are likely to increase the number of errors dramatically.

Because drinking alcohol and driving is so dangerous, the penalties are tough. People who drive after drinking risk heavy fines, higher insurance rates, loss of license, and even jail sentences.

If Under 21

If under the age of 21, it is illegal to purchase, possess, or drink alcoholic beverages. Alcohol and other impairing drugs affect a person's ability to perceive their surroundings, react to emergencies, and skillfully operate a motor vehicle. For new drivers learning complex skills, the effects of alcohol and other impairing drugs is greater. All states have "zero tolerance" laws (no alcohol in the circulatory system) or similar laws for drivers under the age of 21.

If you have physical control of a vehicle (you don't have to be driving) you can be arrested if your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is over the legal limit. If you are arrested for drinking and driving, the penalties are severe. If you are placed under arrest for DWI or, if under 21, for Zero Tolerance (0.02% to 0.08% BAC) by the police, you may be asked to take a chemical test to determine your BAC. You give your consent for a chemical test whenever you drive on a public highway. A Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.08% (0.02% if under 21 years of age) or more is evidence that you were driving under the influence of alcohol. UPON CONVICTION OF DWI, YOU MUST PRESENT AN SR22 "INSURANCE FILING" TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND MAINTAIN THIS INSURANCE FOR 3 YEARS FROM THE ELIGIBILITY DATE.

Effects of Alcohol and Other Impairing Drugs

Alcohol and other impairing drugs reduce:

- *Judgment:* Judgment is a brain-centered activity that stores all experiences and knowledge so it can be used quickly when facing a new problem.
- *Vision:* They blur vision, slows the ability to focus, cause double vision, and reduce the ability to judge distance, speed, and the movement of other vehicles. Vision is impacted at 0.02% blood alcohol content (BAC) for all drivers. The most important sense used while driving is vision.
- *Color distinction:* This reduces the ability to distinguish colors.
- *Reaction time:* This slows the ability to process information and respond to the driving task.

The best advice is not to drive a vehicle of any kind if you have consumed alcohol or other drugs. 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 is visibly 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.

Alcohol and the Law

If you are over 0.08% BAC, you are in violation of the law. If you are arrested for drinking and driving, the penalties are severe. If you have a BAC of 0.08% or more, your driver's license and/or driving privileges may be revoked for a minimum of 30 days, and you may be subject to criminal penalties. In South Dakota, if you are under 21, you can also be arrested for alcohol impairment at 0.02%. A BAC is the percentage of alcohol in relation to the amount of blood in your body. Even under 0.08%, you are still impaired. Under state law, you can still be convicted for driving impaired.

An alcohol concentration test measures how much alcohol is in your system and is usually determined by a breath, blood, or urine test. You are required to take a BAC test if asked to do so by a police officer due to South Dakota's implied consent law. South Dakota's implied consent law is based on the principle that when you get your driver's license, you have implicitly consented to a lawfully requested test to determine the alcohol content of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substance if suspected of impaired driving. You can lose your driver's license for one year if you refuse to take a BAC test.

Although implied consent laws vary by state, the law applies to the state where you were arrested, not the state where you got your license. That is, if you have a license in a state with no implied consent laws and you are arrested in a state that does have implied consent laws, you are subject to that state's implied consent laws.

If you are found guilty of an alcohol violation and it is your first conviction, you may be fined from $300 to $1,000 plus court costs. You could also be sentenced to 15 to 365 days in jail, and your license could be suspended or revoked for 90 to 365 days. For second and subsequent convictions, the penalties are much worse.

PENALTIES:

Zero Tolerance (Under 21, 0.02% or more BAC)

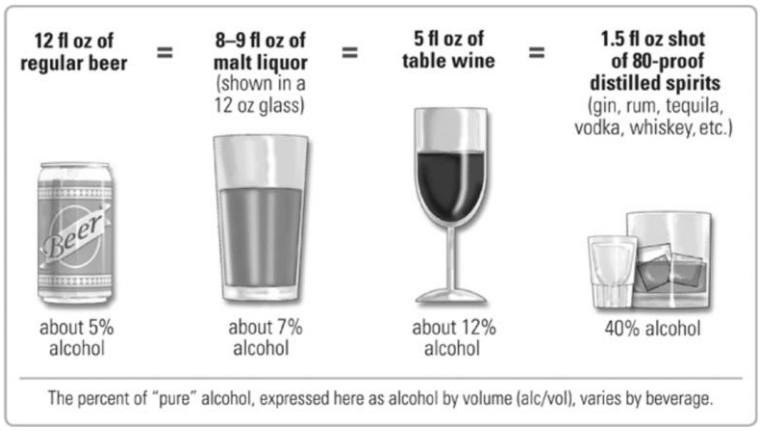
- First offense is a Class 2 misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine and a 30-day loss of driver license.
- Second or Subsequent offense is a Class 2 misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine and a 180-day loss of driver license.

DWI (0.08% or more BAC)

- First offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine, imprisonment up to one year, or both. You will also lose your driver license for a minimum of 30 days.
- Second offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine, imprisonment up to one year, or both, and loss of driver license for a minimum of one year. If such person is convicted of driving without a license during that period, they shall be sentenced to the county jail for not less than three days, which may not be suspended.

- Third offense is a Class 6 felony which is punishable by a fine, imprisonment up to two years, and loss of driver license for no less than one year (after release from incarceration). If such person is convicted of driving without a license during that period, they shall be sentenced to the county jail for not less than ten days, which may not be suspended.

ALCOHOL AFFECTS THE INEXPERIENCED DRIVER MORE THAN EXPERIENCED DRIVER. Many people think that drunkenness is determined by outward signs. They have in mind individuals who stagger, slobber, or put lamp shades on their heads. These acts may reflect drunkenness, but there are individuals who regularly drink to relatively high BAC's and do not show any of the outward signs. Even though they compensate and cover up their drunkenness, they increase their chances of being in a crash if they drive with a BAC of 0.05% or higher. AS A PERSON'S BAC RISES, THEIR ABILITY TO JUDGE AND MAKE ACCURATE DECISIONS IN TRAFFIC BECOMES MORE AND MORE IMPAIRED.



Along South Dakota's Roadsides



Loss of life from a motor vehicle crash leaves a lasting and devastating impact on families and friends of the victim. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety recognizes this, and in partnership with the Department of Transportation, established the "THINK" sign program in 1979. This program is to provide a memorial to the victim and to also remind motorists of dangerous behaviors such as driving under the influence, not wearing seat belts, speeding, and distracted driving.

One sign is erected on the state highway for each person killed in the crash, with each sign mounted on a separate post near the edge of the right-of-way.

These signs remain in place until:

- An immediate family member of the crash victim objects to the sign, at which time the sign will be expeditiously removed.
- The sign is no longer in a satisfactory condition because of damage or deterioration.
- The section of the roadway is reconstructed to new standards, at which time all "Think" signs on that segment of roadway are removed.

Once removed, these signs are not replaced unless a request is made from an immediate family member of the crash victim to do so. This also applies to signs that may have been removed by others.

Other Impairing Drugs and Driving

Besides alcohol, many other drugs can affect the ability to drive safely. These drugs can have effects like those of alcohol or even worse. This is true of many prescription drugs and even many of the drugs bought 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 you drowsy and affect your driving. Pep pills, "uppers," and diet pills can make you feel nervous, dizzy, unable to concentrate, and they can affect your vision. Check the label on the product before taking an over-the-counter drug for warnings about its effect. If unsure whether it is safe to take the drug and drive, ask your doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Prescription Drugs

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

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs can impact driving and can affect reflexes, judgment, vision, and alertness in ways like alcohol. Studies have shown that people who use marijuana make more mistakes, have more trouble adjusting to glare, and get arrested for traffic violations more than other drivers.

Combining Alcohol and Other Impairing Drugs

Never drink alcohol while taking other drugs. These drugs could multiply the effects of alcohol or have additional effects of their own. You cannot drink alcohol or use other impairing drugs and operate a vehicle safely.

Emotions

Emotions can have a great effect on the ability to drive safely. They can increase the risk by interfering with your ability to think, creating a lack of attention and interrupting your ability to process information. You may not be able to drive well if overly worried, excited, afraid, angry or depressed.

If angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. If necessary, take a short walk, but stay off the road until you have calmed down. If you are worried, “down”, or upset about something, try to keep your mind on your driving. Some people find listening to the radio helps. You always have the option of having somebody else drive too.

If you are impatient (road rage), allow extra time for the driving trip. Leave a few minutes early. If you have plenty of time, you will not tend to speed or do other things that can result in a traffic ticket or cause a crash. Don’t be impatient about waiting for a train to cross in front of you. Driving around lowered gates or trying to beat the train can be fatal.

Health

Many health problems can affect driving — a bad cold, infection, or virus. Even little problems like a stiff neck, a cough, or a sore leg can affect your driving. If you are not feeling well and need to go somewhere, let someone else drive.

Some conditions can be very dangerous:

- **Epilepsy** – So long as it is under medical control, epilepsy generally is not dangerous.
- **Diabetes** — Diabetics who take insulin should not drive when there is any chance of an insulin reaction, blackout, convulsion or shock. Such a situation could result from skipping a meal or snack or from taking the wrong amount of insulin. It also might be a good idea to have someone else drive for you during times when your doctor is adjusting your insulin dosage. If you have diabetes, you also should have your eyes checked regularly for possible night blindness or other vision problems.
- **Heart condition** — People with heart diseases, high blood pressure, circulation problems, or those in danger of a blackout, fainting, or a heart attack should not get behind the wheel. If you are being treated by a doctor for a heart condition, ask if the condition could affect your driving ability.

Before You Drive

Your safety and that of the public depends a lot on what you do before driving, including adjusting the seat and mirrors, using seatbelts, checking your vehicle, maintaining a clear view and securing items in and on the vehicle.

Inspecting Your Vehicle

When it comes to road safety, you cannot control other drivers or road conditions, but one thing you can control is proper maintenance of your vehicle and tires.



Crashes 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.

Check Tire Pressure with a Pressure Gauge Monthly



- Buy a tire pressure gauge if you do not have one already.
- Open your car door and on the inside jamb, you should see a sticker. Write down or take a picture of the number that says “PSI” (this is the measurement for tire pressure).
- Remove the cap from the valve stem and use the pressure gauge to check the tire pressure (make sure you check when they are cold).
- Compare the number on the gauge with the number written down. If the number is too high, let air out of the tire. If the number is too low, inflate your tire until the numbers match.

Check Tread Depth with a Penny



- Hold a penny with Abraham Lincoln’s body between your thumb and forefinger.
- Place Lincolns headfirst into the deepest-looking groove.
- Can you see all his head? If yes, your tires are too worn—do not drive on them, and make sure to get them replaced.

Vehicle Maintenance

How safely you can drive starts with the vehicle you are driving. It is the duty of drivers to make certain that the vehicles they drive are safe to operate. A vehicle that is in bad shape is unsafe and costs more to run than one that is maintained. It can break down or cause a collision. If a vehicle is in bad shape, you might not be able to get out of an emergency. A vehicle in good shape can give you an extra safety margin when you need it, and you never know when you will need it.

You should follow your vehicle owner’s manual for routine maintenance. Some you can do yourself and some must be done by a qualified mechanic. A few simple checks will help prevent trouble on the road.

Braking system - Only your brakes can stop your vehicle. It is very dangerous if they are not working properly. If they do not seem to be working properly, are making a lot of noise, smell funny, or the brake pedal goes to the floor, have a mechanic check them out.

Lights - Make sure that turn signals, brake lights, taillights and headlights are operating properly. These should be checked from the outside of the vehicle. Brake lights tell other road users that you are stopping and turn signals tell them you are turning.

An out-of-line headlight can shine where it does not help you and may blind other drivers. If you are having trouble seeing at night or if other drivers are constantly flashing their headlights at you, have a mechanic check out the headlights.

Windshield and wipers - Damaged glass can break more easily in a minor collision or when something hits the windshield. Have a damaged windshield replaced.

Windshield wipers keep the rain and snow off the windshield. Some vehicles also have wipers for rear windows and headlights. Make sure all wipers are in good operating condition. If the blades are not clearing water well, replace them.

Tires - Worn or bald tires can increase the stopping distance and make turning more difficult when the road is wet. Unbalanced tires and low pressure cause faster tire wear, reduce fuel economy, and make the vehicle harder to steer or stop. If the vehicle bounces, the steering wheel shakes, or the vehicle pulls to one side, have a mechanic check it out.

Worn tires can cause “hydroplaning” and increase the chance of having a flat tire.

Tire Pressure- Prior to entering a vehicle, check tire pressures using the recommended PSI (pounds per square inch) located in the vehicle owner’s manual or the driver side door jamb of the vehicle. Use a tire pressure gauge to check the PSI. If the PSI is above the number listed on the door jamb, let air out until it matches. If it’s below, add air (or have a tire professional help you) until it reaches the proper number.

Check the tread with a penny. Stick the penny into the tread "head" first. If the tread does not come at least to Abe's head, the tire is unsafe, and you need to replace it.

Steering system - If the steering is not working properly, it is difficult to control the direction you want the vehicle to go. If the vehicle is hard to turn or does not turn when the steering wheel is first turned, have the steering checked out by a mechanic.

Suspension system - The suspension helps you control the vehicle and provides a comfortable ride over varying road surfaces. If the vehicle bounces a lot after a bump or a stop, or is hard to control, you may need new shocks or other suspension parts. Have a mechanic check it out.

Exhaust system - The exhaust system helps reduce the noise from the engine, helps cool the hot gases coming from running the engine, and moves these gases to the rear of the vehicle. Gases from a leaky exhaust can cause death inside of a vehicle in a very short time. Never run the motor in a closed garage. If sitting in a vehicle with the motor running for a long period of time, open a window. Some exhaust leaks are easily heard but many are not. Therefore, it is important to have the exhaust system checked periodically.

Engine - A poorly running engine may lose power that is needed for normal driving and emergencies, may not start, gets poor fuel economy, pollutes the air, and could die when driving on the road. This causes you and traffic a problem. Follow the procedures recommended in the owner's manual for maintenance.

Windshield & Windows

It is important to clearly see through the windows, windshield and mirrors. Here are some things you can do to help.

Windshields, side wings or side windows forward of, either side of, or adjacent to the operator’s seat, may not be covered with one-way glass, adhesive film, or other application that reduces the light transmittance to a level below 35%. No motor vehicle may be equipped with one-way glass, adhesive film, or other glaze in the rear windows that reduces light transmission below 20%, with an enforcement tolerance of 9%. No sun screening devices may be place on or affixed to a windshield so as to obstruct or reduce the driver’s clear view through the windshield. No film may be extended downward beyond the AS-1 line or more than the lowest point of the sun visor of the motor vehicle. (SDCL 32-15-2.4, 2.5, 2.9)

- Keep the windshield clean. Bright sun or headlights on a dirty windshield make it hard to see. Carry liquid cleaner and a paper or cloth towel so you can clean your windshield whenever it is necessary.
- Keep the window washer bottle full. Use antifreeze wash when the temperature could fall below freezing.
- Keep the inside of the windows clean, especially if anyone has been smoking in the vehicle. Smoking causes a film to build up on the inside glass.
- Clear snow, ice, or frost from all windows before driving. Make sure to clean the front, sides and back of the vehicle.
- Do not hang things from the mirror or clutter up the windshield with decals. They could block your view.
- Keep the headlights, backup, brake and taillights clean. Dirt on the lenses can reduce the light by 50%.

Adjusting Your Seat

You should be seated upright with your back against the seat and feet on the floor. Improper seating positions, such as slouching, can result in reduced effectiveness of the vehicle's restraint system. Adjust the seat and mirrors before you start to drive so you can see clearly and have full control of the vehicle's foot pedals and steering wheel with appropriate space for airbag deployment.



- Your foot should be able to pivot smoothly from brake to accelerator while your heel is kept on the floor.
- The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the top of your shoulders and below chin level.
- There should be 10 inches between your chest and the steering wheel. Do not move the seat so far forward that you cannot easily steer and do not recline the seat.
- Head restraints are designed to prevent whiplash. Head restraints should be adjusted so the head restraint contacts the back of your head and not below the level of your ears.

Adjusting Your Mirrors

The inside mirror is the primary mirror for view to the rear of the vehicle. Adjust the rearview mirror so that it frames the rear window. You should be able to see traffic flow to the rear of the vehicle with the rearview mirror. If you have a day/night mirror, make sure it is set for the time of day you are driving.

Outside mirrors should be adjusted to reduce blind spots and to provide maximum visibility to the sides and rear on both sides of the vehicle. To reduce blind spots, you are encouraged to use this method for adjusting the outside mirrors.



- To set the left side mirror, the driver must rest his or her head against the closed window and set the mirror to barely show the edge of the vehicle.
- To set the right-side mirror, the driver should lean to the right so his or her head is directly below the rearview mirror or above the center console. The mirror should be adjusted the same way as the left side, so that the edge of the right side of your vehicle can barely be seen.
- The driver will not see the left and right sides of the vehicle when glancing in the outside mirrors; however, this adjustment adds 12 to 16 degrees of additional viewing area to each side of the vehicle.

Using Seatbelts

Always fasten your seatbelt and make sure all passengers are using seatbelts or child restraints. Studies have shown that if you are in a crash while using seatbelts, your chances of injury or death are greatly reduced. Seatbelts keep you from being thrown from the vehicle and help you keep control. In South Dakota, it is illegal to drive or to be a front-seat passenger without wearing seatbelts.





It is important to wear the seatbelt correctly.

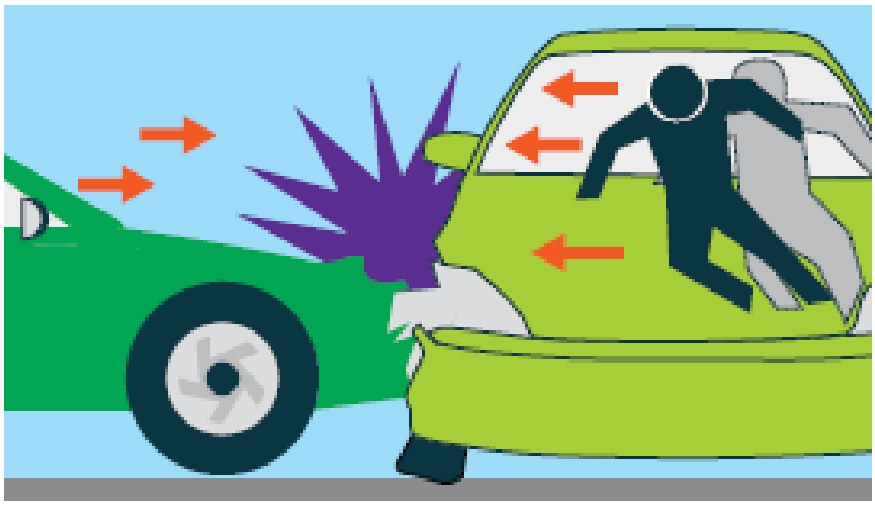
- Shoulder harness is worn across the shoulder and chest with minimal, if any, slack. The shoulder harness should not be worn under the arm or behind the back. Wearing the harness, the wrong way could cause serious internal injuries in a crash.
- The lap belt should be adjusted so that it is snug and lies low across your hips after fastening. Otherwise, in a crash, you could slide out of the belt, resulting in injury or death.

Seatbelts should be worn even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. While air bags are good protection against hitting the steering wheel, dashboard, or windshield, they do not protect you if you are hit from the side or rear or if the vehicle rolls over. Besides, an air bag will not keep you behind the wheel in these situations.

Front Seat Seatbelt Use Requirements

The law requires that all operators, front seat passengers and children under the age of 18 wear appropriate safety restraints while the vehicle is in motion. Small children should be secured in the rear seat. Never secure a child in the front passenger seat, especially if your vehicle has an air bag. If you are in a crash and the bag deploys, your child could be severely injured. Several organizations will loan you a child safety device if you are unable to afford one.

South Dakota Codified Law 32-38-1: Use required--Public highways--Front seat passenger. Except as provided in chapter 32-37 and § 32-38-3, every operator and front seat passenger of a passenger vehicle operated on a public highway in this state shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seatbelt system, required to be installed in the passenger vehicle when manufactured pursuant to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 208 (49 C.F.R. 571.208) in effect January 1, 1989, at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion. The driver of the passenger vehicle shall secure or cause to be secured a properly adjusted and fastened safety seatbelt system on any passenger in the front seat who is at least five years of age but younger than eighteen years of age. Any violation of this section is not a moving traffic offense under the provisions of § 32-12-49.1.



Air Bags

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

Read your vehicle owner's manual for specific information about the air bags in your vehicle.

Child Passenger Safety Laws

If using a child safety seat, make sure it is installed properly in the vehicle and used correctly. Check to be sure that all children age 12 or younger are properly restrained in the back seat and that a rear-facing child safety seat is never placed in front of an active passenger air bag.

- Children age 12 and younger should sit in the rear seat of the vehicle to avoid injury from an air bag in the event of a crash.
- Read the vehicle's owner manual and child restraint directions for more specific information on child restraint systems.

What is an infant car carrier?

It's a reclining seat specially engineered to give babies the best possible protection. The child rides facing backwards with its entire head and body cushioned by impact-absorbing materials. The carrier is securely attached to the vehicle's seat by the lap belt, while the built-in harness holds the baby firmly in place. Thousands of parents have found that babies can ride happily and safely in car carriers.

Do not confuse infant car carriers with baby seats. Baby seats may be useful in the house but are not made to protect a baby in the vehicle and should not be used there. Use the carrier from birth until the child can sit well alone, at about 9 months of age. Many models can then be converted into upright, forward facing safety seats for toddlers.

- An adult's arms are not safe. Ordinarily, a parent's arms are a very secure place for a child, but this is not so in a vehicle. Even if you are wearing a lap and shoulder belt yourself, the child would be torn from your grasp by the violent forces of a collision. Never put a belt around you and a child on your lap. Your own weight greatly increased by collision forces would press the belt deeply into the child's body; this could lead to serious or even fatal injuries.
- Beginning with the very first ride–the drive home from the hospital–the baby should be carried in an approved safety restraint.
- As a rule, the back seat is safer than the front, and the center of the vehicle is safer than the sides. But bear in mind that a driver who must turn around frequently to check on children in the back may get into an accident situation. Insist that every passenger buckle up. Apart from the risk of themselves, unrestrained passengers often injure others who are belted in.

South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 32-37 Child Passenger Restraint System

32-37-1. Use of system required – Violations as petty offense.
32-37-1.1. Operator to assure that passengers between ages five and eighteen wear seatbelts.
32-37-1.2. Certain operators required to wear seatbelts.
32-37-1.3. Passengers between ages fourteen and eighteen required to wear seatbelts.
32-37-2. Exemptions.
32-37-4. Violation not considered negligence or assumption of risk-evidence inadmissible.

32-37-1. Use of system required – Violations as petty offense. Any operator of any passenger vehicle transporting a child under five years of age on the streets and highways of this state shall properly secure the child in a child passenger restraint system according to its manufacturer's instructions. The child passenger restraint system shall meet Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 as in effect January 1, 1981. The requirements of this section are met if the child is under five years of age and is at least forty pounds in weight by securing the child in a seatbelt. An operator who violates this section commits a petty offense.

32-37-1.2. Certain operators required to wear seatbelts. Any operator of any passenger vehicle operated on a public street or highway in this state, who is at least fourteen years of age and under eighteen years of age, shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seatbelt system, required to be installed in the passenger vehicle if manufactured pursuant to Federal Motor Vehicle

Safety Standard Number 208 (49 C.F.R. 571.208) in effect January 1, 1989, always when the vehicle is in motion. A violation of this section is a petty offense.

32-37-2. Exemptions. The provisions of 32-37-1, 32-37-1.1, 32-37-1.2, and 32-37-1.3 do not apply in passenger cars manufactured before 1966 that have not been equipped with seatbelts.

32-37-4. Violation not considered negligence or assumption of risk-evidence inadmissible. Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter is not considered as contributory negligence, comparative negligence or assumption of the risk and is not admissible as evidence in the trial of any civil action.

Car Seat Guide

Infant Seats
•For children up to 20 pounds
•Always face rearward
•Recline 30 degrees

Toddler/Convertible Car Seats
•For infants and children up to 40 pounds
•For infants, recline and face rearwards
•For toddlers, upright and forward facing

Booster Seats
•For toddlers at least 30 pounds
•Must be used with a tethered harness or shoulder straps if it doesn't have a shield
•Can be used with just a lap belt if it has a shield



A Car Seat is Used Incorrectly if:
•Not secured to the automobile with a seatbelt
•The harness straps are not used or are very loose
•An infant is facing forward
•A top tether strap is present but not used

Some people still have “bad information” about using seatbelts. For example:

- “Seatbelts can trap you inside a car.” It takes less than a second to undo a seatbelt. Crashes where a vehicle catches fire or sinks in deep water, and you are "trapped," seldom happen. Even if an accident such as this were to happen, a seatbelt may keep you from being “knocked out.” Your chance to escape will be better if you are conscious.
- “Seatbelts are good on long trips, but I do not need them if I am driving around town.” Over half of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Many of them occur on roads posted at less than 45 mph.
- “Some people are thrown clear in a crash and walk away with hardly a scratch.” Your chances of not being killed in an accident are much better if you stay inside the vehicle. Seatbelts can keep you from being thrown out of your vehicle, into the path of another vehicle.
- “If I get hit from the side, I am better off being thrown across the car; away from the crash point.” When a vehicle is struck from the side, it will move sideways. Everything in the vehicle that is not fastened down, including the passengers, will slide toward the point of crash, not away from it.
- “At slow speeds, I can brace myself." Even at 25 mph, the force of a head-on crash is the same as pedaling a bicycle full-speed into a brick wall or diving off a three-story building onto the sidewalk. No one can “brace” for that.

Secure Your 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 and jail time 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.

To secure your load in your vehicle or trailer:
- Tie it down with rope, netting, or straps
- Tie large objects directly to your vehicle or trailer
- Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting
- Do not overload your vehicle or trailer
- Always double check your load to make sure it is secure
- Don’t forget that animals should also be properly secured

Trip Planning

There are ways you can help reduce your driving costs. First, determine your overall transportation needs. For each trip, determine if it is necessary. If so, there may be times you do not need to drive yourself. You might ride with someone else or you could take public transportation if it is available.

The best way to prolong the life of your car and save on fuel is to use it as little as possible. Trip planning can make your life easier and help cut down on your driving.

- Take public transportation when it is available.
- Avoid driving during heavy traffic. It causes extra wear and tear on you and the vehicle.
- Use carpools or share rides whenever possible.
- Plan, and then combine your trips. Make a list of the things you need and the places you need to go. Go to as many places as possible on any one trip. Try to reduce the number of places you need to go. This will cut down on the number of trips you need to take.
- Call ahead to make sure that they have what you need or that what you are picking up is ready.

Basic Driving

Starting the Engine

Check the vehicle owner's manual for how to start the vehicle. To start the engine, place your right foot on the brake pedal and check the gear selector lever for park. Place the key in the ignition and turn the ignition switch to the on position. Check indicator lights and gauges (fuel level, ABS, air bags, and so on). Make sure the parking brake is on before you start the vehicle. If the vehicle has a manual transmission, it must not be in gear and in some vehicles the clutch must be depressed.

Moving the Vehicle

Move the gear selector lever to "D" (drive). Check ahead for a safe path and check for traffic to the sides and behind the vehicle. Signal and if safe, move your foot to the accelerator and press gently. Accelerate gradually and smoothly with the top of your foot on the pedal and the heel of your foot on the floor. Trying to start too fast can cause the drive wheels to spin, particularly on slippery surfaces, and cause the vehicle to slide. With a manual-shift vehicle, practice using the clutch and accelerator so that the engine does not over-rev or stall when shifting between gears.

Stopping the Vehicle

Check your mirrors for traffic to the rear of the vehicle. Move your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. Press with steady pressure until the vehicle comes to a stop.

Be alert so that you know when you will have to stop well ahead of time. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and usually points to a driver who was not paying attention. When you brake quickly, you could skid and lose control of your vehicle. You also make it harder for drivers behind you to stop without hitting you.

Try to avoid panic stops by seeing events well in advance. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all and if you do, you can make a more gradual and safer stop.

Steering



The steering wheel is always turned in the direction you want the vehicle to move, whether moving forward or in reverse. Look well down the road and on both sides of the road, not at the road just in front of your vehicle. Look for traffic situations where you will need to steer before you get to them. This way, you have time to steer smoothly and safely.

Hand Position

Both hands should be placed on the outside of the steering wheel on opposite sides, at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions, to maintain control of the vehicle. Placing your hands at the 2 and 10 o'clock positions is no longer recommended because it can be dangerous in a vehicle equipped with air bags. This position is comfortable and on high-speed roads it allows turns without taking the hands off the wheel. Your grip on the steering wheel should be firm but gentle. Use your fingers instead of the palms of your hands and keep your thumbs up along the face of the steering wheel. Never turn the wheel while gripping it from the inside of the steering wheel.

When turning sharp corners, turn the steering wheel using the "hand-over-hand" technique. When you complete a turn, straighten out the steering wheel by hand. Letting it slip through your fingers could be dangerous.

Note: Steering Wheel Locking Device – Never turn your vehicle's ignition to the "lock" position while it is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock if you try to turn the steering wheel and you will lose control of the vehicle.

Controlling Speed

The best way not to speed is to know how fast you are going. Check the speedometer often. People are not very good at judging how fast they are going. It is easy to be traveling much faster than you think. This is especially true when you leave high speed roads and are driving on much slower local roads. Follow the speed limit signs. They are there for safety.

Backing Up



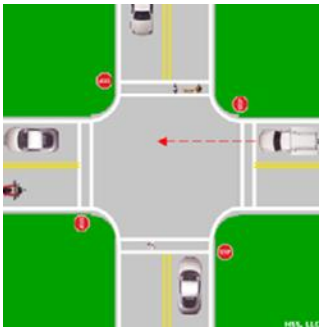


To safely back up the vehicle, you should:

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children and small objects cannot be seen from the driver's seat.
- Place your foot on the brake and shift to reverse. Grasp the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock position with your left hand. Place your right arm on the back of the passenger seat and look directly through the rear window. Use your mirrors for backing up but keep in mind that these mirrors do not show the area immediately behind the vehicle.
- Accelerate gently and smoothly, keeping your speed slow. The vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing up. Steer slightly in the direction the rear of the vehicle should move. If backing up while turning, make quick checks to the front and sides. Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.

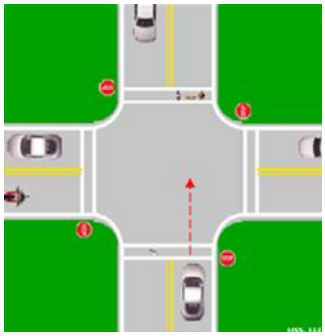
Rules of the Road

Yielding Right-of-Way



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 he or she automatically has the right-of-way. The situation and circumstances at the intersection must always be considered.



You should yield the right-of-way to:

- The driver who is at or arrives before you at the intersection
- Drivers in the opposing traffic lane when you are making a left turn
- The driver on your right at an all-way stop intersection if both of you arrive at the intersection at the same time
- Drivers on a public highway if you are entering the highway from a driveway or a private road
- Drivers already on a limited access or interstate highway if you are on the entrance or acceleration ramp
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are still in the intersection

Funeral Processions

Only the first vehicle in a funeral procession must obey traffic signs and signals. Vehicles in the procession must have headlights on. Do not cut into or interfere with a funeral procession.

Traffic Control Devices

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

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)

The pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy or higher-speed roadways at midblock crossings and uncontrolled intersections. The beacon head consists of two red lenses above a single yellow lens. The lenses remain "dark" until a pedestrian desiring to cross the street pushes the call button to activate the beacon. The signal then initiates a yellow to red lighting sequence consisting of steady and flashing lights that direct motorists to slow and come to a stop. The pedestrian signal then flashes a ‘WALK’ display to the pedestrian. Once the pedestrian has safely crossed, the hybrid beacon goes dark again.



Traffic Signals

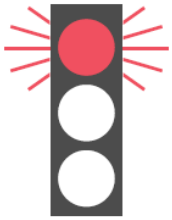
Traffic signals are lights that tell you when or where you should stop, slow down, and go. Traffic lights are usually at intersections and are red, yellow, and green from top to bottom. There are some intersections and other locations where there are single green, yellow, or red lights. In some metropolitan areas, traffic lights are horizontal, instead of vertical, and the red light is on the left, the yellow light is in the middle, and the green light is on the right.



RED



A steady **RED** traffic light means come to a complete stop. This device is to alert you of the red light and that you must stop. You must wait until the traffic light turns green and there is no crossing traffic before you may proceed. If you are turning right, you may turn after coming to a complete stop if it is safe to do so and if there is no sign prohibiting turning on a red light. Be careful of pedestrians crossing in front of the vehicle. When turning on red, stop first, yield to all traffic including pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars before proceeding safely and staying in your lane. A flashing **RED** traffic light means the same as a stop sign. You must come to a complete stop and then may go when it is safe to do so.



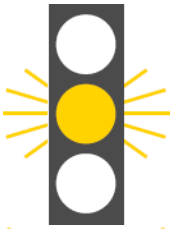


A **RED arrow** means you must stop and that you cannot go in the direction of the arrow. You may proceed when the red arrow goes out and a green arrow or light comes on.

YELLOW



A steady **YELLOW** traffic light means the traffic light is about to change to red. You must stop if it is safe to do so. If you are in the intersection when the yellow light comes on, do not stop but continue through the intersection. A flashing **YELLOW** traffic light means slow down and proceed with caution.



A **YELLOW** arrow means that the protection of a green arrow is ending. If you are turning in the direction of the arrow, you should prepare to stop and give the right-of-way to oncoming traffic before turning. If you are turning left, a **flashing YELLOW** arrow traffic light means you may cautiously enter the intersection to make the turn indicated by the arrow when it is safe to do so after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Oncoming traffic will have a green light.





GREEN

A steady **GREEN** traffic light means you can go through the intersection, but you must yield to emergency vehicles and others as required by law. If you are stopped and then the light turns green, you must allow crossing traffic to clear the intersection before you proceed. If turning left, a steady green traffic light means you may turn, but only when safe to do so. Oncoming traffic has the right-of-way. Be alert for signs that prohibit left turns. When turning right or left, watch for pedestrians crossing in front of the vehicle.



A **GREEN** arrow means you can safely turn in the direction of the arrow. There should be no oncoming or crossing traffic while the arrow is green



If a traffic control signal is out of operation or is not functioning properly, the vehicle facing a:

1. Green signal may proceed with caution as indicated in South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 32-28-2;
2. Yellow signal may proceed with caution as indicated in SDCL 32-28-3;
3. Red or completely unlighted traffic signal shall stop in the same manner as if the vehicle were at a stop sign.

Traffic Signs

Traffic signs tell about traffic rules, hazards, roadway locations, 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.

Warning Signs

These signs tell a driver of possible danger that may be ahead, such as warning to slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary or that a hazard or special situation is on the roadway ahead. These signs are usually yellow with black lettering or symbols and are diamond shaped. Some warning signs may be fluorescent yellow, such as school zones, school crossing, and pedestrian crossing. Some common warning signs are shown below.


Cross Road Ahead


Side Road Ahead


T-Intersection


Y-Intersection


Curvy Road


Right Curve


Divided Highway


Divided Highway


Lane Ends


Merging Traffic


Added Lane


Traffic Signal


Stop Sign Ahead


Sharp Curve



Advisory Speed Around Curve


School Crossing


Pedestrian Crossing



Share the Road with Bicycles


Bicycle Crossing


Slippery When Wet


Deer/Animal Crossing


Steep Hill



Roundabout



Low Clearance Ahead



Advisory Speed Plate

Railroad Crossing Warning Signs

Many railroad crossings have signs or signals to caution about highway-railroad grade crossings. Some common railroad crossing warning signs and signals are shown here.



A round yellow warning sign with an “X” symbol and black “RR” letters is placed along the road before a highway-railroad grade crossing. The sign cautions to slow down, look, and listen for a train or railroad vehicle, and to be prepared to stop if a train is approaching.



A white, X-shaped sign with “Railroad Crossing” printed on it is located at the highway-railroad grade crossing. When a train or railroad vehicle is approaching the intersection, you must stop behind the stop line or before the intersection is clear. These signs are also called a “cross-buck” sign.



At highway-railroad grade crossings with more than one train track, the number of tracks will be posted. These signs warn that there is more than one track and that there may be more than one train crossing. Not all highway-railroad grade crossings with more than one train track will have these signs though, so it is important to check for more than one track, train, or railroad vehicle at each highway-railroad grade crossing. Not all highway-railroad grade crossings have lights.



At some crossings, along with the cross-buck sign, you will see side-by-side lights that will flash alternately when a train is approaching. When the lights are flashing, you must stop. At some crossings there is also a crossing gate that will lower when a train is coming. Do not drive around the gate. Some crossings also have a bell or a horn that will sound. Do not cross until the bell or horn has stopped.

Railroad Emergency Notification System (ENS)

- Every crossing has an emergency dispatch phone number for contacting the railroad to report problems with the crossing, tracks or train.
- The ENS number is typically located on a blue sign on the railroad crossing sign or near the crossing (example of sign below).
- The sign also contains a DOT number that identifies the crossing's physical location so emergency crews or railroad personnel can respond.



This information is crucial for **ALL DRIVERS** to know. This is the best and most efficient way to contact the railroads if there is a problem at the crossing or if something is blocking the tracks. By providing the DOT numbers the dispatchers know exactly where the crossing is and can notify trains moving in that direction to either come to stop or be placed on a speed restriction.

Work Zone Signs

These are generally diamond or rectangular shaped and orange with black letters or symbols. These construction, maintenance, or emergency operation signs alert of work zones ahead and warn 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



One Lane Road



Detour


Drum


Cone


Tube


Baricade



Road Closed

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



Barriers, such as drums, cones, tubes (panels), and barricades are used to keep traffic out of hazardous work zones. Along with signs and road markings, they guide you 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. You may see a warning sign showing a symbol of a traffic signal. Stop at the white line, if present.

Give construction workers a "brake." Reduce your speed in work zones and be prepared to stop suddenly. Do not tailgate in work zones. Fines for speeding in a work zone may be doubled.

Regulatory Signs

These signs are square, rectangular, or have a special shape and are white with black, red, or green letters and/or symbols. These signs talk about specific laws that you must obey, 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 prohibits certain actions.

Some common types of regulatory signs are shown below:


No Left Turn


No Right Turn


No U-Turn


Straight


Left Turn Only


Straight or Turn



No Parking



Do Not Enter



Fines Double



Traffic Signal

Speed Limit Signs

These signs are black and white, and they indicate the maximum safe speed allowed or the minimum safe speed required. The maximum limit should be driven only in ideal driving conditions, and you must reduce your speed when conditions require it. For example, you should reduce your speed when the roadway is slippery, during rain, snow, icy conditions, or when it is foggy and difficult to see clearly down the road. Some high-speed roads have minimum speed limits, and you are required to travel at least this fast to not be a hazard to other drivers. If the minimum posted speed is too fast for you, you should use another road.





Stop Sign

A stop sign has eight sides and is red with white letters. You must stop behind the stop line or crosswalk, if one is present, or before the stop sign itself. Look for crossing vehicles and pedestrians in all directions and yield the right-of-way.

Yield Sign

A yield sign is a red and white downward-pointing triangle with red letters. It means you must slow down and yield the right-of-way to traffic in the intersection you are crossing or the roadway you are entering.



One-Way Street

These signs tell you that traffic flows only in the direction of the arrow. Do not turn in the opposite direction of the arrow. Never drive the wrong way on a one-way street.



No Passing Signs



These signs tell you where passing is not permitted. Passing areas are based on how far you can see ahead. They consider unseen hazards such as hills and curves, intersections, driveways and other places a vehicle may enter the roadway. These signs, along with pavement markings, indicate where you can pass another vehicle, the beginning and ending of a passing zone or where you may not pass. Where it is permitted to pass, you may do so only if it is safe. Be aware of road conditions and other vehicles.



Slow Moving Vehicle



A reflective orange triangle on the rear of a vehicle means it is travelling less than 25 mph. You may see this decal on construction equipment and in rural areas on farm vehicles or horse drawn wagons or carriages.

Guide Signs

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

Route Number Signs

The shape and color of route number signs indicate the type of roadway: interstate, U. S., state, city, county, or local road. When planning a trip, use a road map to determine the route. During the trip, follow the route signs to prevent getting lost in an unfamiliar area.



Service Signs

These signs are square or rectangular shaped and are blue with white letters or symbols. They show the location of various services such as rest areas, gas stations, campgrounds, or hospitals.



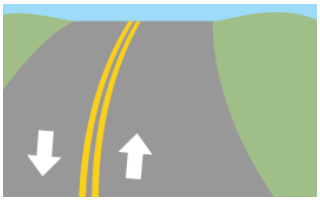
Destination Signs

These signs are square or rectangular shaped and are green or brown with white lettering. They show directions and distance to various locations such as cities, airports, state lines, or to special areas such as national parks, historical areas or museums.

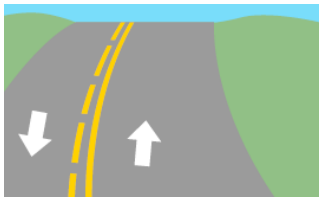


Pavement Markings

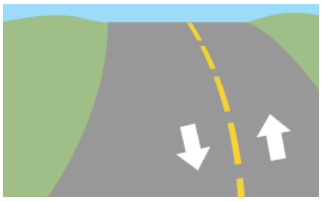
Pavement markings are lines, arrows, words, or symbols painted on the roadway to give you directions or warnings. They are used to divide lanes, tell you when you may pass other vehicles or change lanes, tell you which lanes to use for turns, define pedestrian walkways, and show where you must stop for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



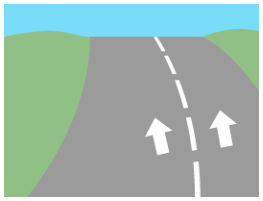
Two-direction roadway – indicated by a double yellow line - passing prohibited in both directions



Two-direction roadway – passing permitted when dashed yellow line is on your side



Two-direction roadway with dashed yellow line– passing permitted



One-direction roadway with white dashed line – passing permitted

Crosswalks and Stop Lines

Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians may cross the roadway. When required to stop because of a sign or signal, you must stop behind the stop line, crosswalk, stop sign, or traffic signal. You must yield to pedestrians entering or in a crosswalk. Not all crosswalks are marked. Be alert for pedestrians when crossing intersections. If crosswalks are not apparent, then you must stop before entering the intersection. If there is a stop line before the crosswalk, the stop line must be obeyed first.

The following are some of the most common types of crosswalk markings.

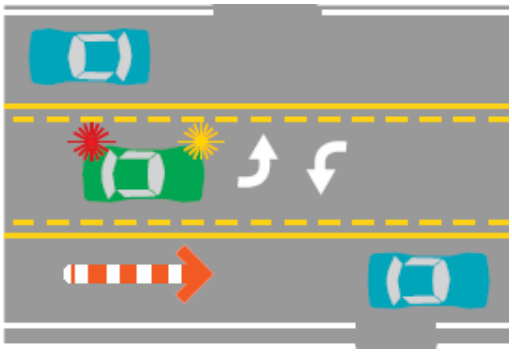


Other Lane Controls

Shared Center Lane



Shared center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) by vehicles traveling in either direction. On the pavement, left-turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left-turn arrows for traffic coming from the other direction. These lanes are marked on each side by solid yellow and dashed yellow lines. Be sure you enter the lane only if it is safe to do so.



General Driving

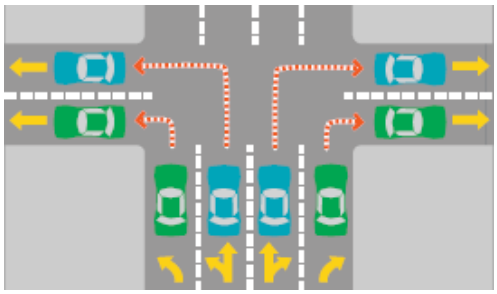
Turning and Turnabouts

When turning:

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

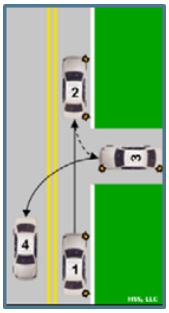


Left turns

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

Multiple lanes turning

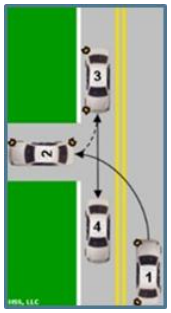
- Identify and enter the lane from which you will turn.
- Stay in that lane until the turn is completed.



Two-Point Turnabout

In this type of turn, a street, alley, or driveway is used to reverse the direction you are traveling when it is not practical or possible to drive around a block.

Reverse Two-Point Turnabout—Signal your 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 all the way to the right. As the vehicle enters the driveway, straighten the wheels and stop. Shift to drive and check both directions. If it is clear, signal and turn left into the proper lane and accelerate as appropriate.

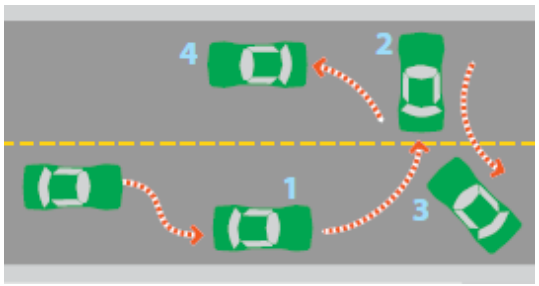


Forward Two-Point Turnabout—Check the mirrors and signal your intention to turn left. Move close to the center of the road and turn into the driveway or alley as near as possible to the right side. Stop as the rear of the vehicle clears the curb or edge of the driveway. Check in all directions for traffic,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

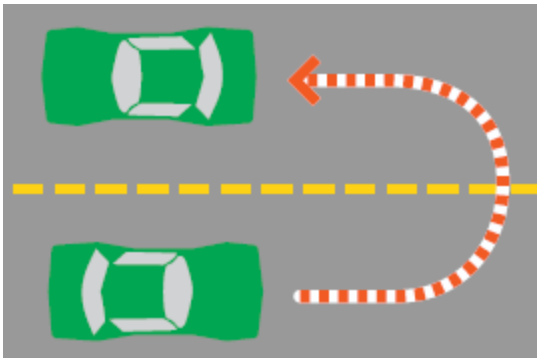
Three-Point Turnabout (Y-Turn)

Use this type of turnabout only when the road or street is too narrow to make a U-turn and it's not possible to go around the block. This type of turn should only be used on a two-lane roadway. To perform a three-point turnabout:

- Check the mirrors and activate the right turn signal to communicate your intention to pull off to the right side of the road. Stop on the right side of the road.
- Activate the left turn signal, check traffic, and check blind spots by looking over your left shoulder. When traffic is clear, turn hard left to the other side of the road and stop when you have reached the other side.
- Place the vehicle in reverse, check traffic, and check blind spots on both sides by looking over your shoulders. When traffic is clear, turn 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. Wen traffic is clear, turn 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.



U-Turns



A U-turn is a turn within the road, made in one smooth U-shaped motion, to end up traveling in the opposite direction.

Do not make a U-turn:

- At any intersection where a police officer is controlling traffic unless the officer instructs you to make a U-turn.
- Mid-block on any street in a business district or mid-block on a through (main) highway that is in a residential district. (except where the street or highway is divided, and the turn is made at a legal opening or crossover).
- At any place where signs prohibit such turns.
- Upon a curve or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade on any undivided highway where the vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of any other vehicle with 500 feet approaching from any direction.
- At any place where a U-turn cannot be made safely or without interfering with other traffic.

Intersections

Do not rely on other road users to obey traffic control signal devices or signs. Some road users may not yield the right-of-way. Be prepared to avoid a crash. At all intersections, reduce speed and search for:

- traffic control devices
- oncoming and cross traffic
- pedestrians and bicyclists
- the roadway conditions
- areas of limited visibility

Before moving after stopping at an intersection, take the extra time to check for crossing traffic and bicyclists. It is recommended that you look left, then right, and then 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 that there is no crossing traffic. You will need a large enough gap to get the vehicle across the roadway, enough space to turn into the appropriate lane, and to get up to speed. Never assume another driver will share space with your vehicle or give your vehicle any additional space. Do not turn into a lane 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 your vehicle or may have forgotten to turn the signal off from a prior turn.

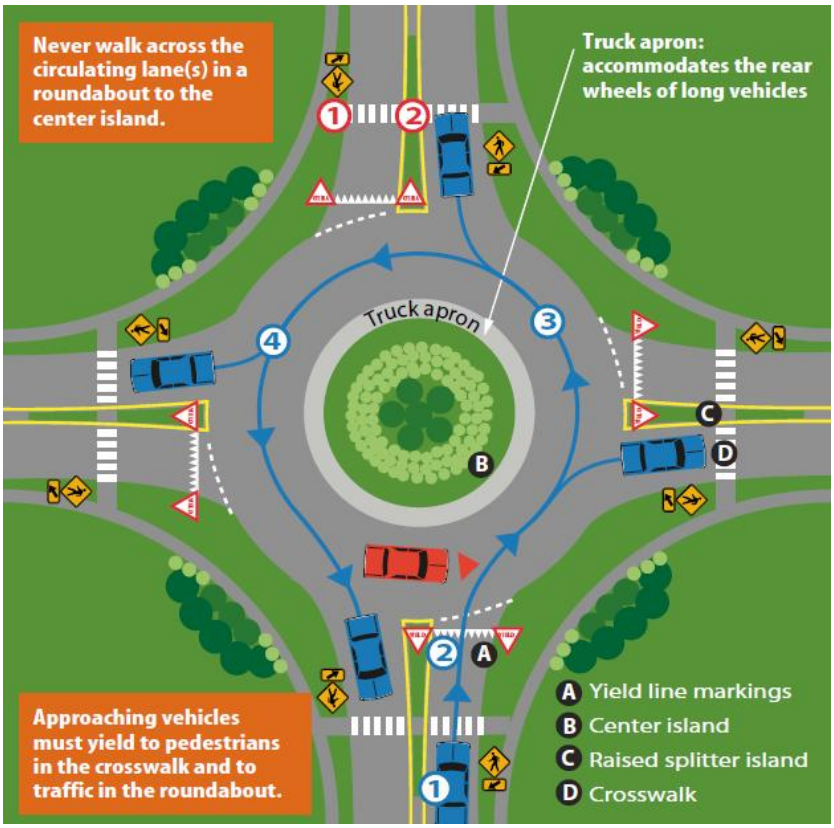
Roundabouts

Roundabouts are becoming more common in the U.S. because they provide safer and more efficient traffic flow than standard intersections. By keeping traffic moving one-way in a counterclockwise direction, there are fewer conflict points and traffic flows more smoothly.

Crash statistics show that roundabouts reduce fatal crashes about 90%, reduce injury crashes about 75%, and reduce overall crashes about 35%, when compared to other types of intersection controls. When driving a roundabout, the same general rules apply as for maneuvering through any other type of intersection.

Truck Apron

Large vehicles need more space when driving in a roundabout. A truck apron is a paved area on the inside of the roundabout for the rear wheels of large trucks to use when turning, sometimes referred to as off-tracking. Truck aprons are not to be used by cars, SUVs, or pickup trucks.



Steps for driving a roundabout

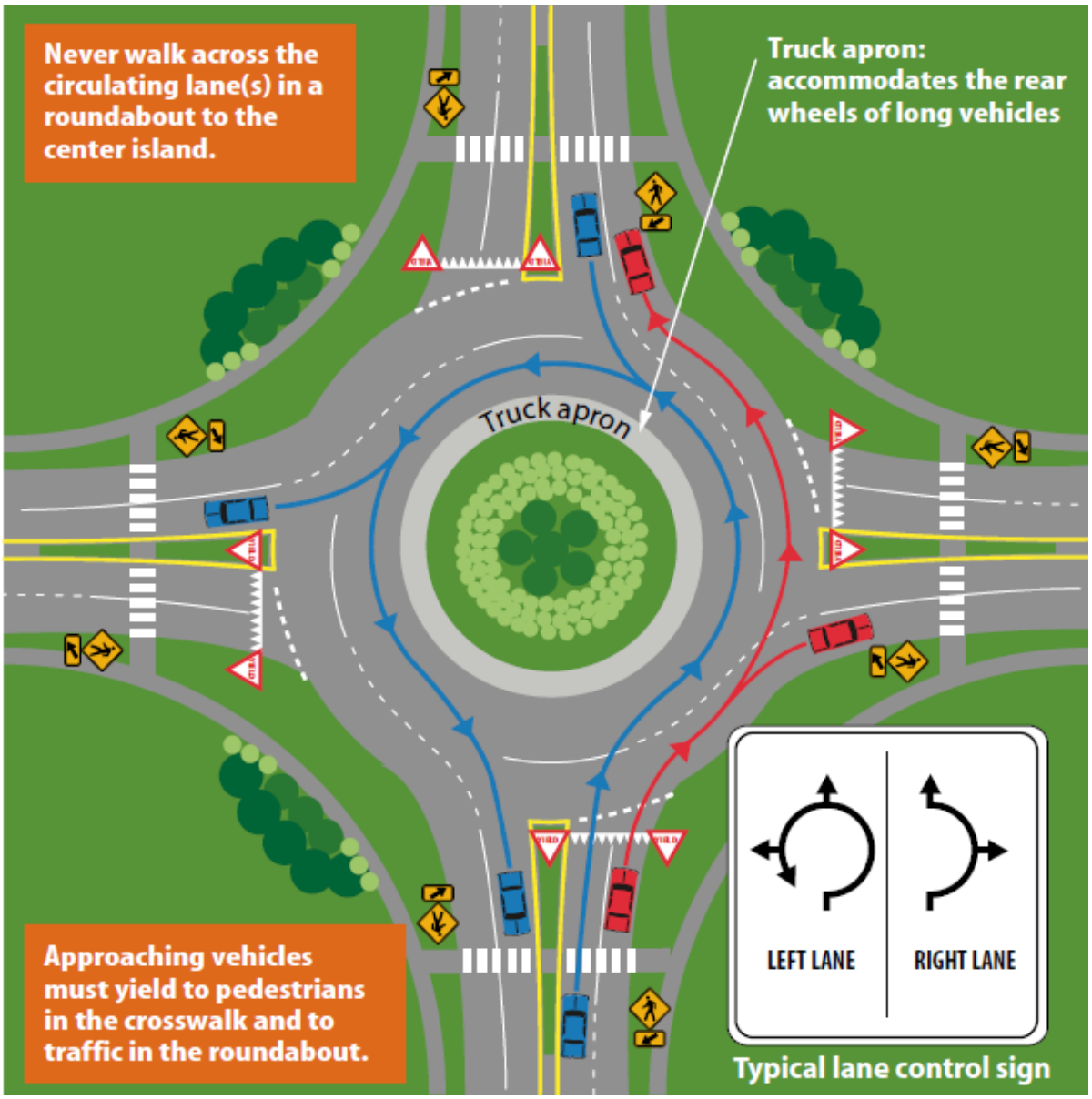
1. Slow down and obey traffic signs
2. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists
3. Yield to traffic on your left already in the roundabout
4. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic
5. Keep your speed low within the roundabout
6. As you approach the exit, turn on your right turn signal
7. Yield to pedestrians and bicycles when exiting

Emergency vehicles in a roundabout

- Always yield to emergency vehicles
- If you have not entered the roundabout, pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass
- If you have entered the roundabout, continue to your exit, then pull over and allow emergency vehicles to pass
- Avoid stopping in the roundabout

Driving a roundabout with two or more lanes

As you get closer to the roundabout entrance, it is very important to observe the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering a roundabout. Black and white signs on the side of the road and white arrows on the road will show the correct lane to use. In general, if you want to make a left turn, you should be in the left lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as left turn lanes. If you want to make a right turn, you should be in the right lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as right turn lanes. If you want to go straight, observe the signs and arrows to see which lane is correct.



Cloverleaf Interchanges

At cloverleaf interchanges, drivers should always be careful to pay attention to traffic trying to enter or exit the highway or interstate.



Picture of I-90 & I-29 Cloverleaf Interchange in Sioux Falls, SD

This was once the most popular type of interchange. It was once considered an efficient way to connect two highways seamlessly with minimal disruption of movement. Nowadays states tend to favor other types of interchange designs such as:

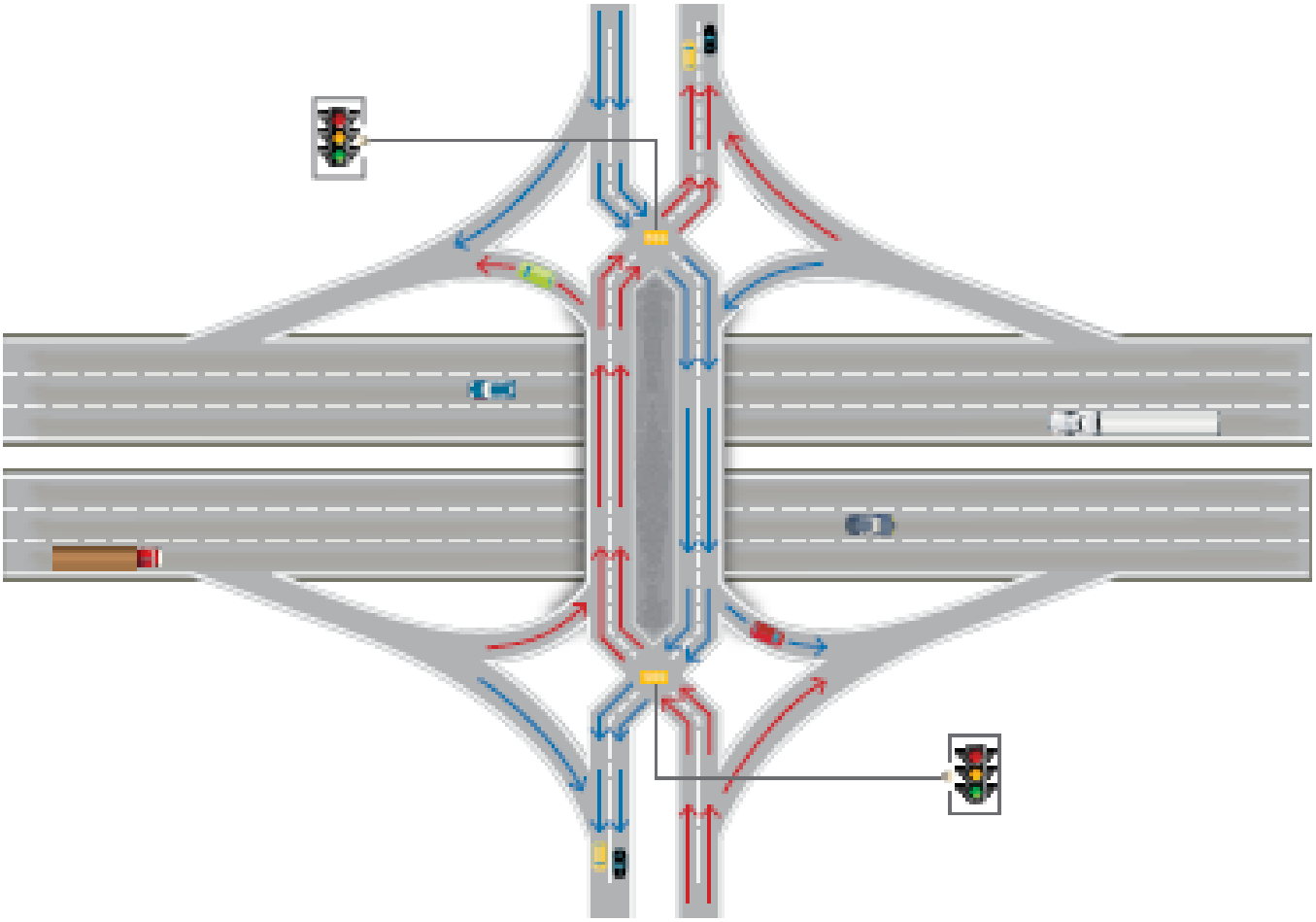
- Diamond Interchanges
- Diverging Diamond Interchanges
- Single Point Urban Interchanges

This is because of the issues that can occur in the weaving areas on a cloverleaf interchange with the short sections of freeway between the loop ramps. Here traffic is trying to enter the interstate lanes at the same time that other traffic is trying to exit. The ramp loops at these interchanges also often require a much lower speed to safely negotiate around the curves.

Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

A Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) is designed to intuitively guide motorists through the interchange. This type of interchange intersection has been shown to increase capacity and safety, decrease congestion, and minimize the cost of new infrastructure.

When driving a DDI, the same general rules apply as for maneuvering through any other type of intersection.



Navigating a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

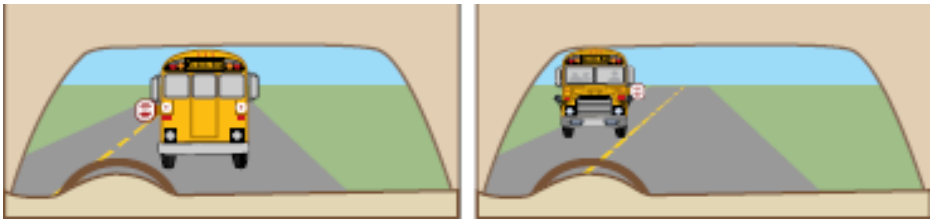
- Drivers follow the signs, signals, and pavement markings to cross through the intersection at the first set of traffic signals. Traffic appears as if on a one-way street.
- All left turns onto the freeway are free flow, meaning vehicles do not stop to access the ramp.
- Vehicles going straight simply proceed through a second set of traffic signals.
- Pedestrians travel on designated walkways and cross only at the crosswalks.
- Bicyclists may choose to use the bike lane or pedestrian walkways and crosswalks.

Proper Driving Techniques on the Interstate

- You must not cross the median of an interstate highway.
- If you miss your exit, go on to the next exit. Backing up on the interstate is prohibited under any circumstances.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changing. Stay in the right lane unless overtaking and passing another vehicle.
- Maintain steady speed. Keep pace with other traffic. Obey posted speed limits.

Rules for School Buses

You must always stop for a school bus that has its red lights flashing or its stop arm extended at all times unless the roadway is separated by a physical barrier. After the school bus's red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm is no longer visible, proceed slowly watching for children.



Parking

You are responsible for making sure that your vehicle is not a hazard when it is parked. Always make sure to park in a designated area. When parking along the roadway, park the vehicle as far away from the flow of traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park as close to it as possible.

No-Parking Zones

Whenever you park, be sure it is in a place far enough from any travel lane to avoid interfering with traffic and that the vehicle is visible to others approaching from either direction.



No Parking

- Park in a designated parking area if possible.
- Always set the parking brake when you park. Leave the vehicle in the lowest gear if it has a manual transmission, or in "park" if it has an automatic transmission.
- A possible exception to this is during cold weather when it is possible the parking brake could freeze in the "on" position. At such times, you may choose to leave the parking brake off. The vehicle should still be left in the lowest gear or in "park."
- If parked on a rural highway, there must be at least 15 feet of road width for other traffic to pass the vehicle. The vehicle must be visible for at least 500 feet in either direction. The parking lights and taillights must be on if it is dark outside.
- Get out of the vehicle on the curb side if possible. If it is not possible, use the street side. Be sure to check for traffic before opening the door. Shut the door as soon as possible after getting out.
- Never leave the ignition key in a parked vehicle. It is a good habit to lock the doors whenever exiting the vehicle.
- If parking on a roadway, park the vehicle as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park as close to it as possible.

Parking on a hill

1. Check for traffic in the mirrors and blind spots. Signal right and pull over as far to the right as possible and stop. Slow as you are moving out of traffic.
2. Turn the wheels sharply to the left if there is a curb and facing uphill.
3. Turn the wheels sharply to the right if there is no curb or if facing downhill. See the illustrations below. This way, if the vehicle starts to roll, it will roll away from traffic.
4. Set the emergency brake and place the vehicle in park. If the vehicle has a manual transmission, shift it into reverse if parking downhill or into the lowest gear if parking uphill.
5. To resume travel, put your turn signal on, check mirrors and blind spots. When safe to do so, pull out into the traffic lane.



Downhill with or without a curb



Uphill with curb



Uphill without curb

Perpendicular and Angle Parking



When entering a perpendicular or angle parking space:

- Identify the space in which you will park and check traffic
- Signal your intentions
- Move forward slowly, turning the steering wheel left or right as appropriate, until the vehicle reaches the middle of the space
- Center the vehicle in the space
- Move to the front of the parking space, stop, and secure the vehicle



When exiting a perpendicular or angle parking space:

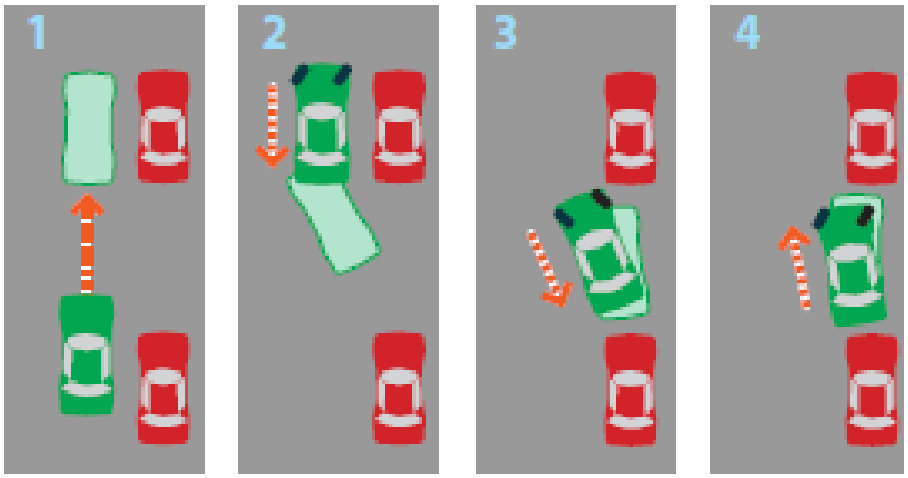
- Check for traffic in all directions
- Continue to check traffic and move straight back until the front bumper clears the vehicle parked beside you
- Turn the steering wheel sharply in the direction that the rear of the vehicle should move to
- When the vehicle clears the parking area space, stop and shift to drive
- Accelerate smoothly and steering as needed to straighten wheels

Parallel Parking

Observe other traffic, pedestrians, and fixed objects throughout the following steps.

1. Check traffic in rear-view mirrors as you slow. Put the appropriate turn signal on. Stop even with the vehicle in the parking space ahead and about 2 feet away from it.
2. Turn the wheels right and slowly back towards the vehicle in the parking space behind. As the front door passes the back bumper of the vehicle in the space ahead, straighten the wheels and continue to back straight.
3. When clear of the vehicle in the space ahead, turn the wheels sharply to the left and back slowly toward the vehicle in the space behind. Be looking towards the sidewalk area and towards the vehicle that is now behind you.
4. Turn the wheels to the right and pull toward the center of the parking space. Straighten the wheels (unless on a hill). When the maneuver is finished, the vehicle should be within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the road, and at least 2 feet away from the parked vehicles.

To resume travel, put the turn signal on and then check mirrors and blind spots. When safe to do so, pull out into the traffic lane.



Changing Lanes

When changing lanes:

- Check any mirrors
- Check any blind spots**
- Identify a gap in traffic, signal, and then look again in the direction of the lane change. Adjust speed and steer into lane.

****Blind spots** are areas around the vehicle where your view is obstructed. You cannot see pedestrians or other vehicles in the rearview or side mirrors when they are in these locations. The design of the vehicle and the position of the "pillars" that support the roof will determine the location of the blind spots. Factors such as dirty windshields and glaring lights can also create temporary blind spots. It is important to know the location of any blind spots. Before making lane changes or turns, quickly turn your head to look for any hidden pedestrians or vehicles. Avoid driving in other driver's blind spots. Be particularly conscious of blind spots when driving near commercial vehicles.

Adjusting to Traffic and Interstate Driving

On a roadway with multiple lanes going in the same direction, crashes involving two or more vehicles often happen when drivers go faster or slower than other vehicles.

Keep pace with traffic

If you are driving faster than other traffic, you will need to keep passing other drivers. Each time you pass someone, there is a greater chance of a collision. The vehicle you are passing may change lanes or, on a two-lane road, an oncoming vehicle may suddenly appear. Slow down and keep pace with other traffic. Speeding does not save more than a few minutes for each hour of driving.

Going much slower than other vehicles can be just as bad as speeding. It is dangerous and you can be ticketed for impeding traffic. It tends to make vehicles bunch up behind you and causes other traffic to pass you. If vehicles are lined up behind you, pull over when safe to do so and let them pass. You should either drive faster or consider using a road with slower posted speeds.

Entering traffic

When merging with traffic, try to enter at the same speed that traffic is currently moving. High-speed roadways generally have an acceleration lane with the entrance ramp to give time to build up speed. Use the lane to reach the speed of other vehicles before merging into traffic. Do not drive to the end of the lane and stop or there will not be enough room to get up to speed of traffic. Also, drivers behind you will not expect a sudden stop. If they are watching traffic on the main road, you may be hit from the rear. If you must wait for a space to enter the roadway, slow down on the ramp so you have some room to speed up before you must merge. You must yield to traffic already moving on the roadway.

Leaving traffic

Keep up with the speed of traffic if you are on the main road. If the road on which you are traveling has exit ramps, do not slow down until you move onto the exit ramp. When you turn from a high speed, two-lane roadway, try not to slow down too early if you have traffic following you. Tap the brakes quickly but safely and reduce speed.

Slow moving traffic

Some vehicles cannot travel very fast, or they have trouble keeping up with the speed of traffic. If you spot these vehicles early, you have time to change lanes or safely slow down. Slowing suddenly can cause a crash. Watch for large trucks and small cars on steep grades or when they are entering traffic. They can lose speed on long or steep uphill climbs, and it takes longer for them to get up to speed when they enter traffic.

Farm tractors, animal-drawn vehicles, and roadway maintenance vehicles usually go 25 mph or less. Generally, these vehicles should have a slow-moving vehicle sign on the back. Slow down when approaching a slow-moving vehicle and, if possible, move over to the left to pass it. Never pass on the right.

Bicyclists should have reflectors or lights on their bikes. However, some bikes may not have this equipment. Be especially careful and watchful for bikes and bicyclists.

Trouble spots
Wherever people gather or traffic is heavy, room to move is limited. You need to lower your speed to have time to react in a crowded space. Here are some of the places where you may need to slow down:

- Shopping centers, parking lots and downtown areas are busy areas with vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists stopping, starting, and moving in different directions.
- Rush hours often have heavy traffic and drivers may be in a hurry.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels force vehicles approaching from opposite sides closer together.
- Schools, playgrounds, and residential streets often have children present. Always watch for children crossing the street, running, or riding into the street without looking.
- Railroad crossings require you to make sure there are no trains coming and that you have enough room to cross. Some crossings are bumpy so you should slow down to cross safely.

Passing

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. When passing another vehicle, pass the vehicle as quickly and safely as possible. The longer your vehicle stays alongside the other vehicle, the longer you are in danger of the other vehicle moving toward your lane.

To pass:

- Check for oncoming traffic
- Check mirrors and over your shoulder for following or passing vehicles
- Signal your 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 vehicles is visible in the rearview mirror
- Signal your intention to return to the lane
- Steer smoothly into the lane, maintaining or adjusting speed as necessary

When being passed:

- Stay in your lane
- Maintain a constant speed to allow the driver to pass you

Do not attempt to pass when an oncoming vehicle is approaching, your view is blocked by a curve or a hill, at intersections, before a highway-railroad crossing, or before a bridge. When passing a bicyclist, slow down and allow as much space as possible and consider the bicyclist's speed when passing.

32-26-26.1. Overtaking bicycle--Minimum separation--Violation as misdemeanor. The driver of any motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall allow a minimum of a three-foot separation between the right side of the driver's vehicle, including any mirror or other projection, and the left side of the bicycle if the posted limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less and shall allow a minimum of six feet separation if the posted limit is greater than thirty-five miles per hour. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction may partially cross the highway centerline or the dividing line between two lanes of travel in the same direction if it can be performed safely. The driver of the motor vehicle shall maintain that separation until safely past the overtaken bicycle. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

What a Driver Should Do During an Enforcement Stop

Acknowledge the officer's presence by turning on your right turn signal. Activating your signal lets the officer know that you recognize their presence. An officer may become alarmed if you fail to recognize them and might perceive that you have a reason to avoid yielding or that you might be impaired.

Move your vehicle to the right shoulder of the road. The officer will guide you using their patrol vehicle. Do not move onto the center median. Do not stop in the center median of a freeway or on the opposite side of a two-lane roadway. This will place both the driver and the officer in danger of being hit by oncoming traffic.

On a freeway, move completely onto the right shoulder, even if you're in the carpool/HOV lane. Pull your vehicle as far off the roadway as possible. When it is dark look for locations that are well lit, such as areas with street or freeway lights, near restaurants, or service stations.

End your cell phone conversation and turn off your radio. The officer needs your full attention to communicate with you to complete the enforcement stop in the least amount of time needed.

Remain inside your vehicle unless otherwise directed by the officer. Never step out of your vehicle, unless an officer directs you to do so. During an enforcement stop, the officer's priorities are your safety, the safety of your passengers, the public and the officer's own personal safety. In most situations, the safest place for you and your passengers is inside your vehicle. Exiting your vehicle without first being directed by an officer can increase the risk of being struck by a passing vehicle and/or increase the officer's level of feeling threatened.

Place your hands in clear view, including all passengers' hands, such as on the steering wheel, on top of your lap, etc. During an enforcement stop, an officer's inability to see the hands of the driver and all occupants in the vehicle increases the officer's level of feeling threatened. Most violent criminal acts against a law enforcement officer occur through the use of a person's hands, such as the use of a firearm, sharp object, etc. If your windows are tinted, it is recommended that you roll down your windows after you have stopped your vehicle on the right shoulder of the roadway and before the officer makes contact with you.

Safe Driving Tips

Driving requires skills that can only be gained through practice and experience. The following section offers some driving tips that you can practice helping you become a safer and more skillful driver.

Visual Search

You must know what is happening around the vehicle. You must look ahead, to the sides, and behind the vehicle. You should develop a searching pattern that you can use every time when driving. Searching helps to see situations that could cause a problem and gives you time to change speed or roadway position. Avoid staring and keep your eyes moving and searching for possible problems.

Look ahead

Looking well down the planned path of travel will help you see the road, other road users, traffic conditions, and gives you time to adjust and plan your driving movements. This additional time will allow you to make better decisions and possibly avoid being forced to use emergency braking and steering. Ideally, you should try to look at what is occurring 20 to 30 seconds in front of the car.

How far you look down the road depends on where you are driving. In cities and urban areas, you may not be able to see as far as when driving on a highway. Avoid getting into situations that could limit how far you can see such as following too close to a larger vehicle. Adjust your speed and road position so you can see.

By looking well ahead you can save on fuel. Every time you must stop quickly, it takes time and fuel to get the vehicle back up to speed. Drivers who look ahead can slow down gradually or change lanes and avoid unnecessary braking that leads to lower miles-per-gallon.

Traffic would flow more smoothly if everyone looked well ahead. Making driving changes before the last moment gives drivers behind you more time to react. The earlier you act, the less often someone behind you must react quickly to your vehicle. By seeing needed driving changes early, you can drive more safely and that helps drivers behind you drive more safely too. It also keeps traffic moving at a steady pace.

Look to the sides

As other vehicles or pedestrians cross or enter your path, you should look to the sides to make sure that no one is coming. This is especially true at intersections and railroad crossings.

Intersections are any place where traffic merges or crosses. They include side streets, driveways, shopping centers or parking lot entrances. Before entering an intersection, look to both the left and right for approaching vehicles and/or crossing pedestrians. If stopped, look to both the left and right just before you start moving. Look across the intersection before you start to move to make sure the path is clear all the way through the intersection and that you will not block it if you must stop.

Before turning left across oncoming traffic, look for a safe gap in the traffic. Look to the street you are turning onto to make sure that no vehicles or pedestrians are in the path, leaving you stranded in the path of oncoming traffic. Look one more time in the direction of oncoming traffic before turning.

Before turning right, make sure that there is no traffic approaching from the left and no oncoming traffic turning left into your path. Do not begin the turn without checking for pedestrians crossing where you will be turning. You may turn right on red unless prohibited.

Do not rely on traffic signals or signs to tell you that no one will be crossing in front of you. Some drivers do not obey traffic signals or signs. At an intersection, look left and right, even if other traffic has a red light or a stop sign. This is especially important just after the light has turned green. This is when people on the cross street are most likely to hurry through the intersection before the light changes to red. Others who may not stop are individuals who have been drinking or other reckless drivers.

Make sure you can clearly see crossing traffic before entering an intersection. If you were stopped and your view of a cross street is blocked, edge forward slowly until you can see. By moving forward slowly, crossing drivers can see the front of your vehicle before you can see them. This gives them a chance to slow down and warn you if needed.

Look to the rear

You need to be aware of traffic behind the vehicle. Use the mirrors to check this traffic. It is very important to check traffic behind you when changing lanes, slowing down, stopping, or entering an intersection.

Besides watching traffic ahead of you, you must also check traffic behind you. You will need to check more often when traffic is heavy. This is the only way to know if someone is following too you closely or coming up too fast. Checking traffic behind you will give you time to do something about it. It is very important to look for vehicles behind you when you change lanes, slow down, back up or are driving down a long or steep hill.

When changing lanes

When changing lanes, you must check that there are no vehicles in the lane you want to enter. This means you must check for traffic to the side and behind your vehicle before you change lanes. Changing lanes includes changing from one lane to another, merging onto a roadway from an entrance ramp and entering the roadway from the curb or shoulder.

When changing lanes:

- Look in the rear-view and side mirrors. Make sure there are no vehicles in the lane you want to enter. Also make sure that nobody is about to pass you.
- Look over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move. Be sure no one is near the rear corners of the vehicle. These areas are called “blind spots” because you cannot see them through the mirrors. You must physically turn your head and look to see vehicles in your blind spots.
- All drivers must signal:
    - When turning or changing lanes
    - At least 100 feet from an intersection. (Signaling at least 4 to 5 seconds BEFORE you wish to turn is better at higher speeds)
    - The signal must be given with:
        - An electric signal light or
        - The left arm and hand



- Check quickly. Do not take your eyes off the road ahead for more than an instant. Traffic ahead could stop suddenly while you are checking traffic to the sides, rear, or over your shoulder. Also, use the mirrors to check traffic while you are preparing to change lanes, merge, or pull onto the roadway. This way you can keep an eye on vehicles ahead of you at the same time. Check over your shoulder just before you change lanes for traffic in your blind spot. Look several times if needed to so you’re not looking for too long of a period at any one time. You must keep track of what traffic is doing in front of you and in the lane, you are entering.
- Check for other road users. Remember that there are other road users such as motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians that are harder to see than cars and trucks. Be especially alert when entering the roadway from the curb or driveway.

When you slow down

When you slow down you must check behind the vehicle. This is very important when you slow down quickly or at points where a following driver would not expect you to slow down, such as private driveways or parking spaces.

When you back up

It is hard to see behind the vehicle. Try to do as little backing as possible. In a shopping center, try to find a parking space you can drive through, so you can drive forward when you leave. Where backing is necessary, here are some hints that will help you back the vehicle safely.

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects cannot be seen from the driver’s seat.
- Place your right arm on the back of the passenger seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window. Do not depend on the rearview or side mirrors.
- Back slowly. The vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing.
- Whenever possible use a person outside the vehicle to help you backup.

Going Downhill

When going down a long or steep hill check the mirrors. Vehicles often build up speed going down a steep grade. Be alert for large trucks and buses that may be going too fast.

Watch for Deer





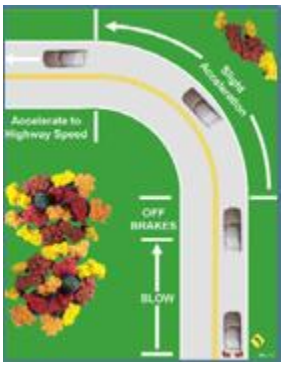
The number and severity of collisions between motor vehicles and deer continues to increase. In fact, deer are the second most commonly struck object in South Dakota, with intersection crashes topping the list and lane departures coming in third. However, there are some things you can do to reduce the risk of hitting a deer. Be especially alert for deer in October and November, the months with the highest number of car/deer crashes.

- Deer are most active in the dusk and dawn hours, so be especially alert while driving during these times. Scan the sides of the road to watch for the reflection of the vehicle headlights in the eyes of deer.
- If you see such a reflection on the side of the road, slow down. Blow the horn and be ready to stop. Always watch for more than one deer.
- While deer crossings typically occur in rural settings, deer sometimes wander into towns or even cities. Deer may cross anywhere and at any time.

Speed Management

Driving safely means adjusting the vehicle speed for roadway and traffic conditions, providing an adequate following interval, and obeying the appropriate speed limits.

Adjusting to Roadway Conditions



Curves—Always reduce speed before entering the curve to a safe speed (a speed that allows you to apply slight and constant acceleration through the curve). Reduce speed more when traction is poor, when following other vehicles, and when you cannot see the end of the curve. 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, the tires do not grip as well. It will take longer to stop, and it will be harder to turn without skidding. Always reduce your speed if the road is wet or covered with snow and/or ice.

Hydroplaning—Hydroplaning occurs when the steering tires start to ride up on any pooled water, like 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.

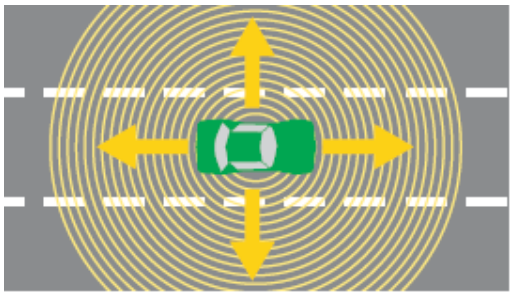
Flooded roadways—Do not drive through large bodies of standing water on a road. If you see a flooded roadway, find another route to get to your destination.

Stopping Distance

Total stopping distance is the distance the vehicle travels, in ideal conditions, from the time you realize you must stop until the vehicle stops. Several things may affect stopping distance:

- *Speed*—The faster you are traveling; the more time and distance is needed to stop.
- *Your perception time*—This is the time and distance it takes you to recognize you must stop. The average perception time for an alert driver is ¾ second to 1 second.
- *Your reaction time*—This is the time and distance it takes for you to react and move your 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*—This is the time and distance it takes for the brakes to slow and stop the vehicle. At 50 mph on dry pavement with good brakes, it can take about 158 feet.

Cushion of Space (Space Management)

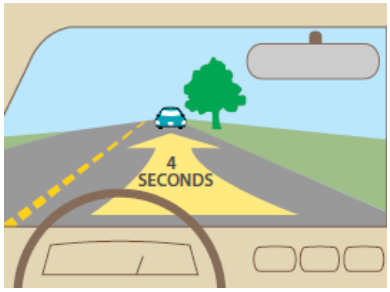


Providing an Adequate Following Distance

You will share the road with a variety of other roadway users. You will need time and space to adjust and react to these other road users. The more space you allow between your vehicle and other roadway users, the more time you must react. This space is usually referred to as a space cushion. Always try to maintain a safe space cushion around the vehicle.

Space in Front

Following the vehicle in front of you closely limits your vision of the road and does not allow enough time to react to avoid a crash. Always try to keep a minimum following distance of 4 seconds between your car and the vehicle in front.



To determine the following distance:

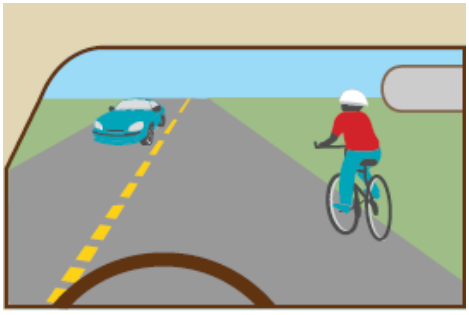
- Watch when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes a sign, pole, or any other stationary point.
- Count the seconds it takes to reach the same sign, pole, or any other stationary point ("One thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, one thousand four").
- You are following too closely if you 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. Repeat until you are following no closer than "four seconds."
- After practicing, guess how many seconds away you are from an object and then count the seconds it takes to reach the object to see how accurate you are.

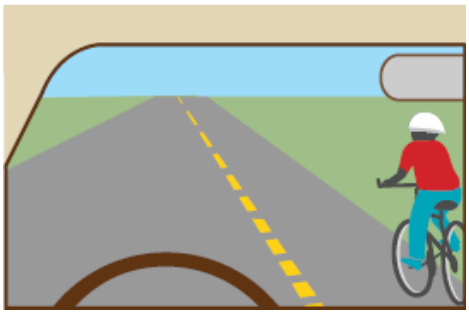


There are certain situations when you would need more space in front of the vehicle. Increase following distance:

- **On slippery roads.** Because you need more distance to stop the vehicle on slippery roads, you must leave more space in front of you. If the vehicle ahead suddenly stops, you will need the extra distance to stop safely.
- **When the driver behind wants to pass.** Slow down to allow room in front of the vehicle. Slowing will also allow the pass to be completed sooner.
- **When following motorcycles or bicyclists.** If the cycle should fall, you need extra distance to avoid hitting the rider. The chances of a fall are greatest on wet roads, icy roads, gravel roads, metal surfaces such as bridges, gratings, or railroad tracks.
- **When following drivers who cannot see you.** The drivers of trucks, buses, vans or vehicles pulling campers or trailers may not be able to see you when directly behind them. This "blind spot" to the rear of large trucks can extend for 200 feet! They could stop suddenly without knowing you are there. Large vehicles also block the view of the road ahead. Falling back allows more room to see ahead.
- **When hauling a heavy load or pulling a trailer.** The extra weight increases the stopping distance.
- **When it is hard to see because of darkness or bad weather.** You need to increase the following distance so you can see ahead or have time to stop if it's necessary.
- **When being followed closely.** Allow extra room so you will be able to stop without being hit from behind.
- **When following emergency vehicles.** Police vehicles, ambulances, and fire trucks need more room to operate.
- **When approaching railroad crossings.** Leave extra room for vehicles required to come to a stop at railroad crossings, including transit buses, school buses, or vehicles carrying hazardous materials (gasoline tankers, etc.)
- **When stopped on a hill or incline.** Leave extra space because the vehicle ahead may roll back when it starts moving.

Space to the Side

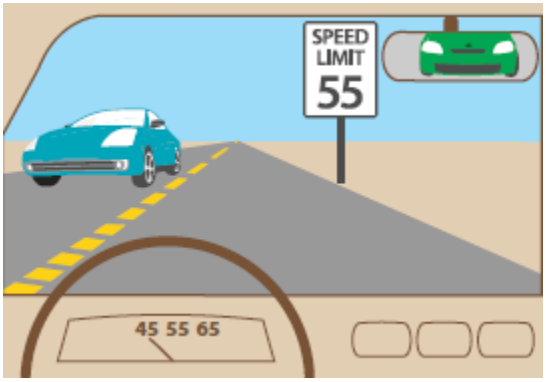




A space cushion on the sides of the vehicle allows movement to the right or left.

- Avoid driving next to other vehicles for long periods of time. You may be in their blind spot, and it reduces the space you may need to avoid a crash.
- Avoid crowding the center line marking. Try to keep as much space as possible between you and oncoming traffic.
- Make space for vehicles entering a multi-lane or limited access roadway by moving over a lane or adjusting your speed.
- Give extra space to bicyclists and pedestrians, especially children. They can move into your path quickly and without warning. Do not drive alongside a pedestrian or bicyclist. Wait until it is safe to pass in the adjoining lane.
- When a passing vehicle is a tractor trailer or a large vehicle, leave a little more space by moving to the outside portion of the lane space away from the tractor trailer as it passes.
- Avoid driving next to other vehicles on multi-lane roads. Someone may crowd the lane or try to change lanes and pull into you. Move ahead or drop back of the other vehicle.
- Keep extra space between the vehicle and parked cars. Someone could step out from a parked vehicle, from between vehicles, or a parked vehicle could pull out.
- "Split the difference." Split the difference between two hazards. For example, steer a middle course between oncoming and parked vehicles. However, if one is more dangerous than the other, leave a little more space on the dangerous side. In this example, if the oncoming vehicle is a large vehicle, leave a little more room on the side that the truck will pass.
- When possible, take potential hazards one at a time. For example, if overtaking a bicycle and an oncoming vehicle is approaching, slow down and let the vehicle pass first so that you can give extra room to the bicycle.

Space Behind



It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind the vehicle. However, you can help a driver behind maintain a safe distance by keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance when you must slow down or turn.

Try to find a safe place out of traffic if you need to stop to pick up or let off passengers.

If wanting to parallel park and there is traffic coming from behind, put on the turn signal, pull next to the space, and allow vehicles behind to pass before parking.

If driving more slowly than other traffic on a multi-lane road, drive in the right most travel lane. When you must drive so slowly that you slow down other vehicles, pull to the side of the road when safe to do so and let them pass. There are "turnout" areas on some two-lane roads you can use. Other two-lane roads sometimes have "passing lanes."

Every now and then you may find yourself being followed too closely or being "tailgated" by another driver. If you are being followed too closely and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until the road ahead is clear and passing is legal, then slowly reduce speed. This will encourage the tailgater to pass. Never slow down quickly to discourage a tailgater. All that does is increase the risk of being hit from behind.

The increased risk of being hit from behind is especially true if being followed by a large truck or bus, neither of which can stop as quickly as a car. Give large vehicles extra room to move.

Space to Pass

Whenever signs or road markings permit passing, judge whether you have enough room to safely pass or not. Do not count on having enough time to pass several vehicles at once. Be safe. As a rule, **pass only one vehicle at a time** and **pass on the left** side. Do not linger in the passing lane. Get around the vehicles as quickly as possible and move safely back into your lane.

Oncoming vehicles–At a speed of 55 mph, you need about 10 seconds to pass. That means you need a 10 second gap in oncoming traffic and sight-distance to pass. You must judge whether you will have enough space to pass safely. At 55 mph you will travel over 800 feet in 10 seconds. So will an oncoming vehicle. That means you need over 1600 feet or about one-third of a mile to pass safely. It is hard to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles at this distance. They do not seem to be coming as fast as they really are. A vehicle that is far away generally appears to be standing still. In fact, if you can see that it is coming closer, it may be too close for you to pass. If unsure, wait to pass until you are sure that there is enough space.

Hills and curves–You must be able to see at least one-third of a mile or about 10 seconds ahead. Anytime the view is blocked by a curve or a hill, assume that there is an oncoming vehicle just out of sight. Therefore, treat a curve or a hill as you would an oncoming vehicle. This means you should not start to pass if you are within one-third of a mile of a hill or curve.

Intersections–It is dangerous and unlawful to pass where a vehicle is likely to enter or cross the road. Such places include intersections, railroad crossings, and shopping center entrances. While passing, your view of people, vehicles, or trains can be blocked by the vehicle you are passing. Also, drivers turning right into the approaching lane will not expect to find you approaching in their lane. They may not even look your way before turning.

Passing large trucks–A typical car is 15 feet long. A multiple-trailer truck can be 75 feet long or longer. It can take much longer to pass a truck than it would have to pass a car. Therefore, you must have a clear road ahead before you can safely pass.

Lane restrictions–Before passing, look ahead for road conditions and traffic that may cause other vehicles to move into your lane. You might lose space for passing because of:

- people or bicyclists near the road
- a narrow bridge or other situation that causes reduced lane width
- patch of ice, pothole, or something on the road

Space to return–Do not pass unless you have enough space to return to the driving lane. Do not count on other drivers to make room for you.

Railroad grade crossing–Do not pass if there is a railroad grade crossing ahead.

Before you return to the driving lane, be sure to leave enough room between yourself and the vehicle you have passed. When you can see both headlights of the vehicle you have just passed in your rearview mirror, it is safe to return to the driving lane.

Space for Dangerous Situations

There are certain drivers and other road users you should give extra room to. Some are listed here.

Those who cannot see you–Anyone who cannot see you may enter your path without knowing you are there. Those who could have trouble seeing you include:

- Drivers at intersections or driveways whose view is blocked by buildings, trees, or other vehicles
- Drivers backing into the roadway or backing into/pulling out of parking spaces
- Drivers whose windows are covered with snow/ice or are steamed-up
- Pedestrians with umbrellas in front of their faces or with their hats pulled down
- Pedestrians with white canes and/or dog guides

People who are distracted–Even when others can see you, allow extra room or be extra cautious if you think they may be distracted. People who may be distracted include:

- Delivery persons
- Construction workers
- Children
- Drivers who are not paying attention to their driving

People who may be confused – People who are confused may cause an unsafe situation. People who may be confused include:

- Persons driving cars with out of state plates (especially at complicated intersection)
- Tourists
- Drivers who slow down for what seems like no reason
- Drivers looking for street signs or house numbers
- Pedestrians who have been drinking

Large vehicles and wide loads – Large trucks and buses cannot accelerate, stop, or change direction as quickly as smaller vehicles. Give large vehicles extra room to move on the road, including in roundabouts where they are making turns or going through the roundabout. Sometimes extra-wide loads are transported on highways. Give vehicles transporting wide loads as much room as possible.

Drivers in trouble – If another driver makes a mistake, do not make it worse. An example would be drivers who pass when they do not have enough room. Slow down and let them return to the driving lane safely. If another driver needs to suddenly change lanes, slow down and let them merge. These gestures will keep traffic moving smoothly and safely.

Separate Risks

Another defensive driving technique is to separate risks. Take risks one at a time whenever possible. For example, suppose that you see some joggers running on the edge of the road and an oncoming truck. You predict that you, the oncoming vehicle, and the joggers will all meet at about the same time. To separate risks, decide to speed up or slowdown in order to pass the joggers before or after the truck. Finally, perform your decision and pass the truck and the joggers one at a time. You controlled the space to the sides by separating the risks. This gives space to move in case of an emergency.

Compromise Space

A final defensive driving technique is compromise. When you cannot separate risks and must deal with two or more at the same time, compromise by giving the most room to the worst danger. For example, suppose you are on a two-lane street and there are oncoming cars to the left and a child riding a bike to the right. Since the child is more likely to move suddenly than the oncoming cars, the child is the greater danger, and you need a larger space cushion to the right. Move closer to the center line and the oncoming cars to create a bigger space cushion to the right. Although if traffic permits, the safest action would be to pass the bicyclist after the oncoming car passes the bicyclist.

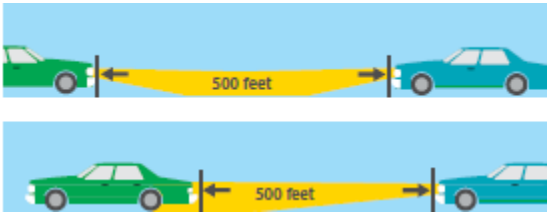
Communicating

It is important to let other roadway users know where you are and what you plan to do.

Letting Others Know You Are There

It is your responsibility to make sure the vehicle is visible to other roadway users.

Use headlights—Besides helping to see at night, headlights help other people see you at any time. Remember to turn on the headlights whenever you have trouble seeing others. If you have trouble seeing them, they will have trouble seeing you.



On rainy, snowy, or foggy days it is sometimes hard for other drivers to see other vehicles. In these conditions, headlights make vehicles easier to see. A good rule to follow is if you turn on the wipers, turn on the headlights.
Turn on the headlights when it begins to get dark. Even if you turn them on a little early, it will help other drivers to see you.

Whenever it's necessary to drive with the lights on, use the headlights. Parking lights are for parked vehicles only.
When driving away from a rising or setting sun, turn on the headlights. Drivers coming toward you may have trouble seeing the vehicle because of the glare. The headlights will help them to see you.

It is much harder to see at night. Here are some things to do that will help you see better:

- Use high beams whenever there are no oncoming vehicles. High beams let you see twice as far as low beams. It is important to use high beams on unfamiliar roads, in construction areas, or where there may be people along the side of the road.
- Dim the high beams whenever you come within 500 feet (about a one block distance) of an oncoming vehicle.
- Use the low beams when you are closer than 500 feet behind another vehicle or when in heavy traffic.
- Use the low beams in fog, when it is snowing, or when it is raining hard. Light from high beams will reflect, causing glare and making it more difficult to see ahead. Some vehicles have fog lights that should also be used under these conditions.
- Do not drive at any time with only the parking lights on. Parking lights are for parking only.
- If a driver approaching fails to dim their headlights, flash the high beams to let them know. If they still don't dim the lights, look toward the right side of the road. This will keep you from being blinded by the other vehicle's headlights and will allow you to see enough of the edge of the road to stay on course until the other vehicle has passed.

Daytime running lights—Some newer vehicles have headlights that are on anytime the vehicle is running. They are called daytime running lights. These lights make it easier for others to see the vehicle, even in daylight. It helps to reduce the chance of a crash. However, daytime running lights are not meant to replace the use of headlights for night driving or when it is foggy, raining or snowing. If the vehicle does not have daytime running lights, you can get the same effect by manually turning the headlights on. Just remember to turn them off when turning the engine off.

Using the horn—People cannot see you unless they are looking your way. The horn can get their attention. Use it whenever it will help prevent a crash. If there is no immediate danger, a light tap on the horn should be all that's needed. Give the horn a light tap:

- When a person on foot or on a bicycle appears to be moving into your lane of travel. However, pedestrians and bicyclists crossing at an intersection have the right-of-way. Do not use the horn in these instances but do yield the right-of-way.
- When passing a driver who starts to turn into your lane.
- When a driver is not paying attention or may have trouble seeing you.
- When coming to a place where you cannot see what is ahead: a steep hill, a sharp curve, or exiting a narrow alley.

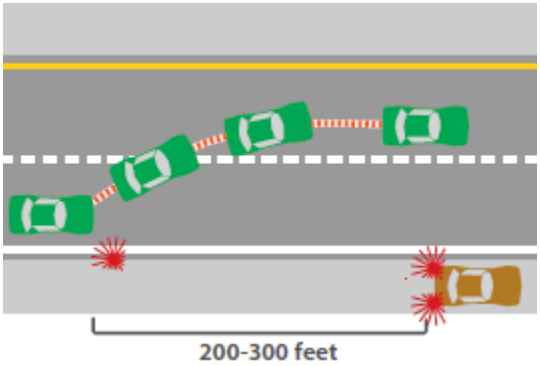
If there is danger, do not be afraid to sound a *SHARP BLAST* on the horn. Give the horn a SHARP BLAST:

- When another vehicle is in danger of hitting you
- When you have lost control of the vehicle and are moving toward someone

Not using the horn—You should only use the horn when you need to communicate with other road users. Using the horn inappropriately could scare or anger another road user. Do not use the horn in the following circumstances:

- Encouraging someone to drive faster or get out of the way
- Informing other drivers of an error
- Greeting a friend
- Around blind pedestrians
- Around animal-drawn vehicles or animals being herded on the roadway

Use emergency signals—If the vehicle breaks down on a highway, make sure other drivers can see it. All too often, crashes occur because a driver did not see a stalled vehicle until it was too late to stop.

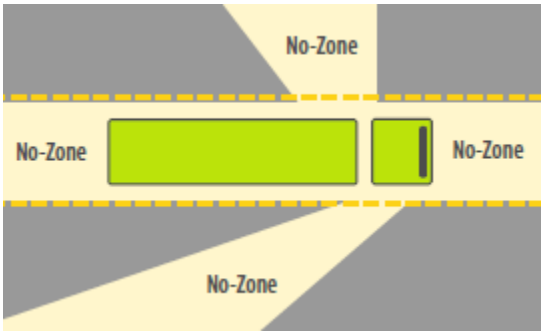


Try to warn other road users that your vehicle is there. Place emergency flares or triangles behind it. This allows other drivers to change lanes if necessary. If available, use a cellphone to notify authorities that the vehicle or some else's vehicle has broken down.

If having vehicle trouble and you must stop:

- Get the vehicle off the road and away from traffic if possible.
- Turn on the (4-way) emergency flashers to show you are having trouble.
- Try to stop where other drivers have a clear view of the vehicle if you cannot get completely off the road. (Do not stop just over a hill or just around a curve.)
- Stand off the road where you are safe from traffic. Use emergency flares or other warning devices if you have them.
- Never stand in the roadway. Do not try to change a tire if it means you will be in a traffic lane.
- Raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the antenna, side mirror, or door handle to signal an emergency.

Stay out of blind spots—Drive the vehicle where others can see you. Do not drive in another vehicle's blind spot. Try to avoid driving in the area on either side of and slightly to the rear of another vehicle where you will be in their blind spot. Either speed up or drop back so the other driver can see your vehicle more easily. When passing another vehicle, get through the other driver's blind spot as quickly as possible. The longer you stay in a blind spot, the longer you are in danger because they may not see you.



Never stay alongside or right behind a large vehicle such as a truck or bus. Many drivers think truck drivers can see the road better because they sit twice as high as the driver of a car. While truckers can see ahead better, and trucks have bigger mirrors, they have very serious blind spots. A car can disappear from their view while it is up to 20 feet in front of the cab, on either side of the truck (especially alongside the cab), and up to 200 feet behind! These areas are all part of what is called the "No Zone". Drivers who travel in the "No Zone" restrict a trucker's ability to act to avoid a dangerous situation—and the possibility of a crash is increased. A good rule of thumb for drivers sharing the road with a truck or bus is, if you can't see the truck or bus driver in their side mirror, they can't see you.

Signaling Movements

Generally other drivers expect you to keep doing what you are doing. You must warn them when you are going to change direction or slow down. This will give them time to react, if needed, or at least to not be surprised by what you do.

Signal before changing direction—Signaling gives other drivers time to react to your moves. You should use turn signals before you change lanes, turn right or left, merge into traffic, or park. Get into the habit of signaling every time you change direction. This includes signaling before beginning to pass another vehicle, and before completing the pass. Signal even when you do not see anyone else around. It is easy to miss someone who needs to know what you are doing.

Signal 100 feet before the intended turn. Be careful that you do not signal too early though. If there are streets, driveways, or entrances between you and where you want to turn, wait until you have passed them to signal. If another vehicle is about to enter the street between you and where you plan to turn, wait until you have passed it to signal your turn. If you signal earlier, the other driver may think you plan to turn where they are, and they could pull into your path.

After you have made a turn or lane change, make sure the turn signal shuts off. If you don't, others might think you plan to turn again.

Signal when reducing speeds—Brake lights let people know that you are slowing down. Always slow down as early as it is safe to do so. If you are going to stop or slow down at a place where another driver may not expect it, quickly tap the brake pedal 3 or 4 times to let those behind you know you are about to slow down.

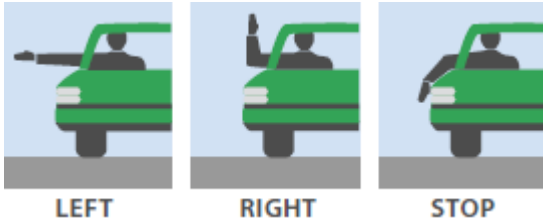
Signal when you slow down:

- To turn off a roadway which does not have separate turn or exit lanes.
- To park or turn just before an intersection. Traffic following you may expect you to continue to the intersection.
- To avoid something in the road, or for stopped or slowing traffic that a driver behind you cannot see.

Hand signals—Sometimes, in addition to using turn signals, hand and arm signals may be used. An example would be when bright sunlight can make it hard for other drivers to see flashing turn signals, or when driving an antique vehicle (one manufactured before July 1, 1958) that may not be equipped with turn signals.

When using hand and arm signals, these are the standard positions:

- *Left turn*: Hand pointing straight out.
- *Right turn*: Hand pointing up.
- *Stop or slow down*: Hand pointing down.



Emergency Situations and Avoiding Crashes

Emergencies and Avoiding Crashes

All drivers eventually will find themselves in an emergency. As careful as you are, there are situations that could cause a problem. If you are prepared, you may be able to prevent any serious outcomes. All drivers have the responsibility to prevent crashes. There are three options to avoid a crash or to reduce its impact. These options are braking, steering, or accelerating.

Braking

The first reaction for most drivers to avoid a crash is to stop the vehicle. Most new vehicles are equipped with ABS (anti-lock braking system). The ABS will allow you 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. The general guidelines for using ABS are:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep applying pressure.
- ABS will work only if you keep the pressure on the brake pedal. You may feel the pedal vibrate, and you may hear a clicking noise. This is normal.
- You can still steer the vehicle.

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

Steering

You may be able to avoid a crash by quickly steering around a problem. This is sometimes referred to as "swerving." To quickly steer around a problem:

- Make sure to have a good grip with both hands on the steering wheel.
- Steer in the direction you want to go but try to avoid other traffic.
- When you have cleared the problem, steer in the opposite direction to straighten out the vehicle, gain control, and start slowing.

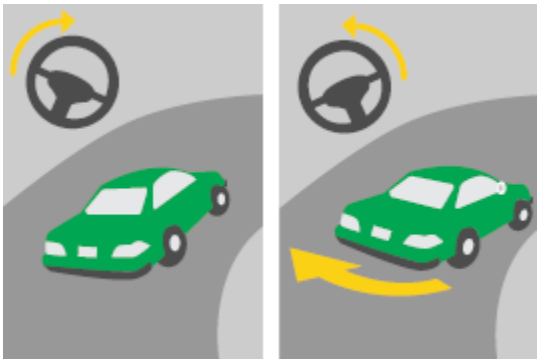
Accelerating

It may be necessary to accelerate to avoid a crash. This may happen when another vehicle is about to hit you from behind or on the side.

Dealing with Skids

Skids are caused when you are traveling too fast for conditions, when you stop too suddenly, or when the tires can no longer grip the roadway. When you begin to skid, you have little control of the vehicle. If the vehicle begins to skid:

- Release pressure from the brake or accelerator.
- Look where you want to go.



Uneven Surface Drop-Offs

Uneven surface drop-offs can cause serious crashes if you react improperly. Avoid panic steering in which you try to return to the pavement as soon as the wheels leave the pavement. If the vehicle leaves the paved road surface, slow down gradually, when safe to do so, and turn back onto the pavement.

Vehicle Malfunctions

There is always a chance of a vehicle problem while driving. You 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

It is important to check warning lights to be sure the vehicle works correctly. A brake warning light will tell you the brakes are not working properly. Do not drive if you see this warning light, however, if the brakes stop working while driving:

- Use the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle in the center console or push the parking brake foot pedal slowly so you will not lock the rear wheels and cause a skid. Be ready to release the brake if the vehicle does start to skid.
- If that does not work, turn off the engine and look for a safe place to slow to a stop. Make sure the vehicle is off the roadway. Do not continue to drive the vehicle without working brakes.

Tire Blowout

Tire blowout is a rapid deflation of air from the tire. 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:

- Grip the steering wheel firmly and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow down gradually. Take your foot off the accelerator pedal.
- Do not brake. Allow the vehicle to slow by itself or brake gently if necessary.
- Do not stop on the road if possible. Pull off the road in a safe place and turn on emergency flashers.
- Have the tire changed and replaced.

Power Failure

If the engine shuts off while you are driving:

- Keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. Be aware that the steering wheel may be difficult to turn, but you can still turn it.
- Look for an escape path. Do not brake hard. Instead, brake with steady pressure on the pedal to slow down, and then pull off the roadway.
- Stop and try to restart the engine. If unsuccessful, raise the hood and turn on the emergency flashers. Call for help.

Stuck Accelerator

If the vehicle is accelerating out of control:

- Turn off the engine.
- Shift to neutral and search for an escape path.
- Steer smoothly, brake gently, and pull off the roadway.
- Have the pedal repaired at a service center before driving again.

Vehicle Breakdown

If the vehicle breaks down on the highway, make sure that other roadway users can see the disabled vehicle. All too often, crashes occur because a driver did not see a disabled vehicle until it was too late to stop.

If available, use a cell phone or other device to notify authorities that the vehicle or another vehicle has broken down. Many roadways have signs indicating the telephone number to call in an emergency. If you are having vehicle trouble and must stop:

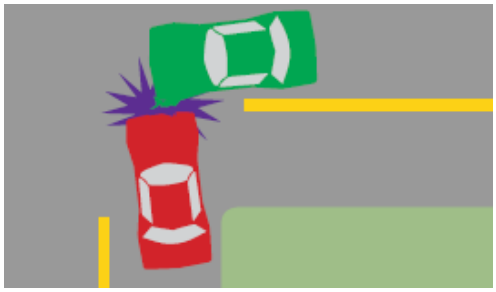
- Get the vehicle off the road and away from traffic.
- Turn on the emergency flashers to show the vehicle is disabled.
- Try to warn other roadway users that the vehicle is there. Place emergency flares about 200 to 300 feet behind the vehicle, giving other drivers some time to change lanes if necessary.

Headlight Failure

If the headlights suddenly go out:

- Try the headlight switch a few times.
- If that does not work, put on the emergency flashers, turn signals, or fog lights if possible.
- Pull off the road as soon as possible.

Crashes



Do not stop at an accident unless you are involved or if emergency help has not yet arrived. Keep your attention on driving and keep moving, watching for people who might be in or near the road. Never drive to the scene of an accident, fire, or other disaster just to look. You may block the way for police, firefighters, ambulances, tow trucks, and other rescue vehicles.

No matter how good of a driver you are, there may be a time when you are involved in a crash. If you are involved in an accident, you must stop. If you are involved in an accident with a parked vehicle, you must try to locate the owner. If any person is injured or killed, the police must be notified. It is a crime for you to leave a crash site where your vehicle was involved if there is an injury or death before police have talked to you and gotten all the information they need about the crash.

You may want to carry a basic vehicle emergency kit. These kits have emergency flares, first aid supplies, and basic tools.

Protect Yourself in Collisions

You may not always be able to avoid a collision. Try everything you can to keep from getting hit. If nothing works, try to lessen any injuries that could result from the crash. The most important thing you can do is to use the lap and shoulder belts. Besides the seatbelts, there are a couple of other things that could help prevent more serious injuries.

Hit from the Rear—If the vehicle is hit from the rear, your body will be thrown backwards. Press yourself against the back of the seat and put your head against the head restraint. Be ready to apply the brakes so that you will not be pushed into another vehicle.

Hit from the Side—If the vehicle is hit from the side, your body will be thrown towards the side that is hit. Front air bags will not help in this situation. The lap and shoulder belts are needed to help keep you behind the wheel. Get ready to steer or brake to prevent the vehicle from hitting something else.

Hit from the Front—If the vehicle is about to be hit from the front, it is important to try and have a "glancing blow" rather than being struck head on. This means that if a collision is going to happen, try to turn the vehicle. At worse, you hit with a glancing blow. You might miss it. If the vehicle has an air bag, it will inflate. It also will deflate following the crash, so be ready to prevent the vehicle from hitting something else. You must use the lap and shoulder belts to keep you behind the wheel and to protect you if the vehicle has a second crash.

At the Accident Scene

- Stop the vehicle at or near the accident site. If the vehicle can move, get it off the road so that it does not block traffic or cause another crash.
- Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes. You could be struck by another vehicle.
- Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicles. Do not smoke around wrecked vehicles. Fuel could have spilled, and fire is a real danger.
- If there are power lines down with wires in or on the road, do not go near them.
- Make sure that other traffic will not be involved in the crash. Use flares or other warning devices to alert traffic of the accident.

If someone is injured

- Get help. Make sure the police and emergency medical or rescue squad have been called. If there is a fire, tell this to the police when they are called.
- Do not move the injured unless they are in a burning vehicle or in other immediate danger of being hit by another vehicle. Moving a person can make their injuries worse.
- First help anyone who is not already walking and talking. Check for breathing then check for bleeding.
- If there is bleeding, apply pressure directly on the wound with your hand or with a cloth. Even severe bleeding can almost always be stopped or slowed by putting pressure on the wound.
- Do not give injured persons anything to drink, not even water.
- To help prevent an injured person from going into shock, cover them with a blanket or coat to keep them warm.

Report the Accident

- Get the names and addresses of all people involved in the accident, and any witnesses, including injured persons.
- Exchange information with other drivers involved in the crash. [Name, address, driver license number, vehicle information (license plate, make, model, and year of vehicle), and insurance company and policy number if available.]
- Record any damage to the vehicles involved in the crash.
- Provide information to the police or other emergency officials if requested.
- Should the accident involve a parked vehicle, try to find the owner. If you cannot, leave a note in a place where it can be seen with information on how the owner can reach you and the date and time of the accident.
- You must contact the police if there is an injury or a death. The law requires you to give the police information on the accident at the time of the accident. Notify your own insurance company as soon as possible. If you are injured and unable to complete the report, someone may file it for you.

Damaging Unattended Vehicles

If you damage an unattended vehicle or other property and you cannot locate the owner, contact the nearest law enforcement agency, and leave the following information on a piece of paper where the owner can find it.

- Your name, address, and phone number
- Driver license number
- License plate number
- Date and time of accident
- Damage to the vehicle

You should wait for law enforcement to arrive at the scene. It is against the law to leave the scene of an accident.

Injury and Fatal Accidents

In the table below are the top 10 violations ranked in order that were the cause of injury accidents and fatality accidents in South Dakota.

Rank	Violation
1	Careless Driving
2	Following Too Closely
3	Driving Under the Influence
4	Failure to Stop at Sign or Signal
5	Improper Turn
6	Disobey Traffic Control Device
7	Overdriving the Road Conditions
8	Reckless Driving
9	Emerging from Alley
10	Failure to Report an Accident

Sharing the Road

Everybody has a right to the roadway. Remember to be courteous and communicate your presence and intentions to avoid crashes.

Pedestrians



Mid-Block Crosswalk



Pedestrians are difficult to see, and it is difficult to determine their intentions. As a driver:

- Always be prepared to yield to pedestrians even if they are not in a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians crossing at intersections, even when a crosswalk is not marked.
- Always yield the right-of-way to persons who are visually impaired. When a pedestrian is crossing a street guided by a dog or carrying a white cane, come to a complete stop.
- Yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians in the intersection even if the traffic light is green.
- When making a right or left turn on red, be prepared to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- When driving next to parked or stopped vehicles, pedestrians can walk out between these vehicles. Slow down and do not pass until you are sure there are no pedestrians crossing in front of it.
- Check for pedestrians in your path before backing, especially in parking lots or places where there are many pedestrians.
- Be careful in playground and residential areas where children could run out from between parked vehicles. It is a good idea to drive slower than the speed limit in these areas and be prepared to stop quickly.
- In a school zone when lights are flashing or children are present, obey a slower speed limit. At a school crossing where there is traffic patrol, stop and yield if signaled to do so.

Bicyclists

Bicycles are considered vehicles when on roadways. Bicyclists are required and expected to follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. As a motorist, know that a bicyclist has the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as you. Respect for each other will aid in the smooth flow of traffic.

Bicyclists may not be easily seen in traffic. Be alert for bicyclists and be extra careful when approaching them. Just as motorists have different levels of skill, bicyclists also have varying levels of skills. A skillful bicyclist rides predictably and holds a steady line. An unskillful bicyclist may swerve unpredictably, ignore traffic signs and signals, and ride without a light at night. If you see an unskillful bicyclist, be ready for any sudden movements.

As a driver:

- Yield to bicyclists in intersections as you would for pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Yield the 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 entering or leaving an alley or driveway, performing official duties, directed by a police officer, or an emergency 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 the 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 the horn close to bicyclists unless there is a chance of a crash. Sounding the horn to alert your presence may startle bicyclists and cause them to steer into your path and crash.
- Watch carefully for bicyclists entering the 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 bicyclists 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 so than vehicles.

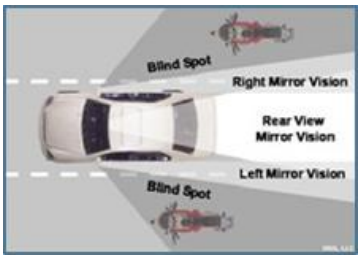


- Cooperate with bicyclists. They are required to use hand signals when turning and stopping. However, keep in mind that bicyclists may be unable to signal if road or traffic conditions require them to keep both hands on the handlebars. Look for other clues of a bicyclist's intent, such as turning his or her head or looking over his or her shoulder before changing lane position.
- When parked on the street, check to the sides and rear for bicyclists before opening the vehicle door.
- Check for bicyclists in the path before backing. Be especially cautious near schools or residential areas where bicyclists may be present.

When passing or overtaking a bicyclist, make sure to leave them plenty of room.

32-26-26.1. Overtaking bicycle--Minimum separation--Violation as misdemeanor. The driver of any motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall allow a minimum of a three foot separation between the right side of the driver's vehicle, including any mirror or other projection, and the left side of the bicycle if the posted limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less and shall allow a minimum of six feet separation if the posted limit is greater than thirty-five miles per hour. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction may partially cross the highway centerline or the dividing line between two lanes of travel in the same direction if it can be performed safely. The driver of the motor vehicle shall maintain that separation until safely past the overtaken bicycle. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Motorcyclists



Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other drivers. However, it may be more difficult to see them. There are special situations and conditions we need to be aware of so we can safely share the road with motorcycles:

- Allow a motorcyclist a full lane width. Do not share the lane. The motorcycle needs space for the motorcyclist to react to other traffic.
- Motorcycles are small and therefore more difficult to see. Be aware that motorcycles can be part of the traffic mix. Always check mirrors and blind spots for them.
- Before turning left, be alert for motorcycles by looking carefully to the front and sides of the vehicle.
- Do not assume a motorcycle is turning when you see its turn signal flashing. Motorcycle turn signals may not self-cancel, and the motorcyclist may have forgotten to turn them off. Wait to be sure the rider is going to turn before proceeding.
- When following a motorcyclist, allow for a minimum 4-second following distance or more in wet conditions, otherwise you may not have enough time or space to avoid a crash. Motorcycle riders may suddenly need to change lane position to avoid hazards such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement, which can be deadly to a motorcyclist.
- Keep in mind that scooters and mopeds travel at much lower speeds than motorcycles.



Large Trucks and Buses

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

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



Due to their size, large trucks and buses present unique problems to motorists who share the highway with them. A loaded truck with good tires and properly adjusted brakes traveling at 55 miles per hour on a clear, dry roadway requires a minimum of 290 feet to come to a complete stop. Buses may require a minimum of 300 feet to come to a complete stop.

Trucks and buses require more room than automobiles to execute turns, make lane changes, and for other driving maneuvers.

Trucks and buses have blind spots called No-Zones. No-Zones are the areas around trucks and buses where cars (1) "disappear" into blind spots or (2) are so close that they restrict the truck or bus driver's ability to stop or maneuver safely. Both types of No-Zones greatly increase the potential for a crash. Know the NO-ZONE.

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.

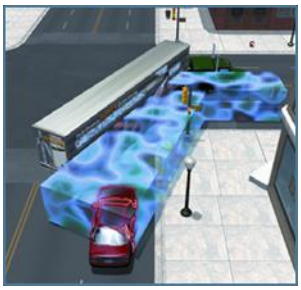
Side No-Zones—Large trucks and buses have big No-Zones on both sides. They are much larger than your vehicle's blind spots. Trucks have a larger blind spot on their right side starting behind the cab and extending up to the length of the truck. If you cannot see the driver's face in the side view mirror, they cannot see you. Avoid driving alongside a large vehicle for any longer than required under any circumstances. If the driver needs to swerve or change lanes, the chances of a crash 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 you are too close, the large vehicle cannot see the car, and you cannot see what is ahead of you. If the large vehicle brakes or stops suddenly, you have no place to go and could run into the vehicle. To prevent this, pay close attention when following a large vehicle. Avoid following the vehicle too closely and position your vehicle so the driver can see it in their side mirrors. When traveling up or down steep hills, large vehicles must drive slowly, approximately 35 mph, and therefore 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, you will reduce the possibility of a crash with a large vehicle.

Turning



Pay close attention to large vehicles turn signals and give them plenty of room to maneuver. When a truck or bus needs to make a right turn, the driver will sometimes swing the vehicle wide to the left 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 you try to get in between the truck or bus and the curb, you will be squeezed in between the vehicle and could suffer a serious crash. To avoid a crash, do not turn until the truck or bus has completed its turn.

Keep in mind:

- When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far as possible to the right side of the roadway to avoid a side-swipe crash and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles, which pushes the vehicles apart.
- Many crashes 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 faster than you think and it takes longer for the truck or bus to stop than a car.
- Many intersections are marked with stop lines to show where you must come to a complete stop. These stop lines help to set you 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, turn, or to beat a truck into a single-lane construction zone. The few seconds that might be saved are not worth a life.

Merging

Merging traffic should keep moving and enter highways at the same speed as the existing traffic flow. Do not merge in front of a truck or bus and then slow down. Remember, trucks and buses are unable to slow down as quickly as automobiles.

Trucks and buses do not accelerate at the same rate as automobiles. If a truck or bus must stop on an acceleration lane when entering a freeway, it requires a long distance for the truck or bus to reach merging speed. Automobile drivers can assist the truck and bus drivers who are entering a freeway (interstate) by maintaining the proper speed for the flow of traffic. This enables trucks and buses to smoothly enter the freeway. The truck or bus driver can then maintain speed and avoid having to stop. This would also assist other drivers who are merging, and not just the larger vehicles.

Runaway Truck Ramps

Occasionally, trucks and buses lose their ability to brake. This is especially dangerous in mountainous terrain. In order to prevent serious accidents from occurring due to out-of-control vehicles, runaway truck ramps have been built. Never park on the ramp or even in the entrance. Not only is this illegal, it is inviting disaster. You may be depriving a driver of the chance to survive by denying them access to the runaway ramp. One indication of a runaway truck or bus is smoke coming from the brakes. So, if you see a truck or bus with smoke coming from their brakes, get out of the way and/or do not get in front of the vehicle.

Construction Areas

Exercise extreme caution and courtesy in construction areas. Under normal conditions, highways are sign posted and the lanes are clearly marked. In construction areas, these items may not exist. Do not suddenly pull in front of a truck or bus and stop abruptly. The truck or bus driver may not see you or may not be able to stop in time.

Bus Related Issues

Inter-city buses make frequent stops. If you do not want to get caught behind a bus when they make a stop, then "Read the Road" ahead. If you see a bus ahead of you, move to another lane of traffic before the bus stops. Additionally, if you are passing a parked bus, do so with care as the bus may start to move out into the lane of traffic.

Another important consideration is to remember that as with school buses, children have been known to run in front of inter-city buses and in front of oncoming traffic. Drivers should also be alert for pedestrians running to catch a bus. In summary, be cautious when passing a parked bus and be on the lookout for pedestrians running in front of the vehicle.

Articulated buses present an additional hazard due to tail swing, where the rear of the bus "swings" out into traffic. The swing on articulated buses is approximately 3 feet. Allow enough room between the vehicle and the rear of articulated bus to accommodate the tail swing.

The bigger they are:

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

Remember, the smaller the vehicle being driven, the harder it is for truck and bus drivers to see you.

Let's share the road safely with large trucks and buses. Don't hang out in the No-Zone. Exercise courtesy and common sense when driving.

Emergency Vehicles

Emergency vehicles will be equipped with sirens, flashing lights, and special horns to help them move through traffic.



As a driver you must yield right-of-way to an emergency vehicle when the flashing lights and sirens are on by pulling over to the edge of the road so the emergency vehicle(s) may pass. Avoid blocking intersections.

Police and Traffic Stops

If pulled over by law enforcement:

- Move as safely and quickly off the travel portion of the road to the right side of the roadway and make sure the spot selected will not interfere with the other vehicles on the road.
- Remain in the vehicle unless requested to get out.
- Turn off the engine. 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. Roll down the window so that you and the officer can communicate.
- Remain calm and keep your seatbelt fastened. Ask any passenger(s) to do so as well. Keep your hands on the steering wheel and limit movements so the officer does not think you are hiding or searching for something.

- When requested, locate and provide your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. If the officer asks for these documents, tell the officer where they are located and reach for them slowly with one hand on the wheel. Remain in the vehicle unless requested to get out.
- Answer the officer's questions fully and clearly.
- Never try to run from law enforcement. It is very dangerous, and many fatal crashes occur from police chases. The consequences of running from law enforcement are more severe than the initial traffic citation.

Slow-Moving Vehicles



Be alert for slow-moving vehicles, especially in rural areas. 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. Use caution when approaching a slow-moving vehicle and be sure it is safe before you pass.



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 that the operator of the farm machinery cannot hear approaching vehicles.



Animal-drawn vehicles and horseback riders—In some rural areas, you 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. They are subject to heavy damage and injury to the occupants if hit by a vehicle. Pass with caution and do not use the horn or "rev" the engine because this may scare the horse and cause a crash. To avoid other possible crashes, anticipate left turns made by animal-drawn vehicles into fields and driveways. Warning signs will be posted in areas where you are likely to find animal-drawn vehicles and horseback riders, so be alert.



Special Driving Situations

Night Driving

Driving at night is more difficult and hazardous than daytime driving. The distance you can see to the front is limited by light provided by the headlights. Here are some things that will help when driving at night:

- Use high beams whenever there are no oncoming vehicles. High beams let you see twice as far as low beams.
- Dim the high beams for approaching traffic. If a vehicle comes toward you 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 low beams when following another vehicle.
- In fog, rain, or snow, use low beams. Light from high beams may cause glare and make it more difficult to see ahead. Some vehicles have fog lights that can be used in fog, snow, or rain.
- Avoid looking directly into any oncoming headlights. Keep your eyes searching the road in front of the vehicle.
- Try to search well ahead of the headlight beams, looking for dark shapes on the roadway.
- 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.
- Do not wear sunglasses or colored lenses when driving at night or on an overcast day. Tinted or colored lenses reduce vision.
- 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.

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. Approximately 40,000 people per year are injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.

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 your speed in a work zone, even if there are no workers present. The narrower lanes and rough pavement can create a hazardous condition.

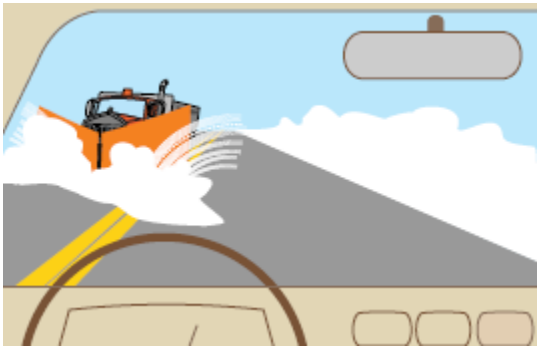
Speed limits may be reduced in work zones for the safety of the traveling public and workers. Pay attention to the speed limits shown in work zones. Fines for speeding in a work zone may be doubled.

In addition to the standard signs in work zones, there may be digital signs and messages displayed to drivers. These may warn of changing conditions ahead or what to look out for, such as slow or stopped traffic ahead. Some of the new technologies with these can detect traffic speeds and send a message to digital signs alerting drivers of any situations ahead. It is important to pay attention to all types of signs and messages in work zones.

As a driver in a work zone:

- Reduce your speed and increase the following distance.
- Watch the traffic around you 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 until you see “End Road Work.”
- Expect delays, plan for them, and leave early to reach the destination on time.
- When you can, use alternate routes and avoid work zones.

Winter Driving Safety Tips



Each year numerous snowstorms drop several inches of snow in South Dakota. Winter driving calls for special precautions.

First is worst. In the first storm of the season, most drivers have forgotten their safe winter driving skills. They'll drive too fast and try to stop too quickly. Go slowly. Increase following distances. Drive defensively. Relearn your skills.

Go slowly. Drive well below the posted speed limit. Posted limits are intended for summer months on dry pavement. Avoid sudden, sharp turns. Use light braking by gently pumping the brakes.

Plan ahead. Plan on trips taking extra time. Leave earlier. Consider an alternate route. STAY HOME if conditions are too bad.

Use your head, use your feet. Never use cruise control on slippery roads.

Lighten up. Turn on the headlights. To prevent glare, avoid using high beams during a night storm.

Wear your seatbelt!

Give snowplows room. Snowplows are wide. They often need to operate very close to the center line. Sometimes they throw up clouds of snow, which affects vision. Slow down and give them as much room as possible. On roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or more, the law requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a snowplow when its red or amber lights are on.

Pay attention to closed roads. If travelling on a closed road and you get stuck, emergency services may not be able to reach you immediately, especially in a snowstorm. Not only will they have a hard time getting to you, but you could also be given a ticket and be held accountable for any costs related to rescuing yourself, any passengers, or the vehicle.

Rural Road Driving

Driving on rural highways 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 you may experience on rural roads.

Gravel or dirt—Traction can be reduced on gravel or dirt roads. Reduce your speed and increase the following distance. Also, realize you may skid when trying to stop the vehicle.

Narrow roads—Rural roads are generally narrower and may have ditches or drop offs instead of shoulders. Reduce speed, center the vehicle in the lane, and watch for oncoming traffic that may attempt to share the lane.

Narrow and single-lane bridges—Look for warning signs identifying narrow or single-lane bridges. Take turns crossing the bridge. Generally, the first driver to the bridge has the right-of-way.

Open bridge gratings or steel bridges—These can reduce traction. Reduce speed and increase the following distance. Also, 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 you 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 you do not approach them with caution. When approaching an uncontrolled rural intersection, slow down and be prepared to stop for crossing or oncoming traffic.

Test Your Knowledge

Select the choice (a, b or c) that best answers the question.

1. Alcohol and other impairing drugs:
    a. reduce your judgment.
    b. decrease your reaction time.
    c. improve your ability to focus.

2. A yellow dashed line on your side of the roadway only means:
    a. passing is prohibited on both sides.
    b. passing is permitted on both sides.
    c. passing is permitted on your side.

3. If you arrive at a four-way intersection controlled by stop signs at the same time as another driver, you should:
    a. continue through the intersection.
    b. yield the right-of-way to the driver on your right.
    c. let the driver on your left go first.

4. Which sign warns a divided highway begins?



5. This road sign means:
    a. right curve.
    b. curvy road ahead.
    c. sharp curve ahead.



6. Regulatory signs are:
    a. Green.
    b. Yellow.
    c. White.

7. If a pedestrian is crossing in the middle of the street, not at a crosswalk, even if it is illegal, you:
    a. must stop for them.
    b. do not have to stop for them.
    c. should honk your horn at them.

8. Motorcycle operators have the right to:
    a. use a complete traffic lane.
    b. share a traffic lane with a vehicle.
    c. use the shoulder of a roadway.

9. When approaching or passing a bicyclist, you should:
    a. slow down and allow as much space as possible.
    b. sound your horn to alert your presence.
    c. speed up and quickly pass the bicyclist.

10. When driving at night use your high beams when:
    a. fog, rain, or snow is present.
    b. following another vehicle.
    c. there is no oncoming traffic approaching.

Correct Answers:
1. a; 2. c; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c; 6. c; 7. a; 8. a; 9. a; 10. c

Tips for Driver License/ID Card Renewal

- Make sure to bring all the required documents with you to the exam station.
- Take advantage of the renewal period (20-year old's must wait until their 21st birthday and have an additional 30 days to renew).
- Avoid peak busy times at the exam station such as over the noon hour, after 3 p.m. each weekday, when schools are not in session, Fridays, and the day before or after a holiday.
- Applications cannot be accepted during the last hour the exam station is open. Make sure you are at the exam station early enough to complete the application and submit it to the driver license examiners at least an hour before closing.
- No drive tests are given from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or within an hour of closing, so please plan accordingly.
- As of the date this manual was printed, you must schedule an appointment to renew your driver license or ID card at all driver license locations. You may schedule a renewal online at www.dps.sd.gov or by phone at 605-773-6883.

The following stations are county/city issue stations. You must contact them to determine the dates and times they are open. There is no first time CDL testing available at these locations. You may also not convert an out-of-state CDL to a South Dakota CDL at these locations. In addition, non-citizen applicants with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration documents cannot be served at these sites. If you fall into any of these categories, you must apply at a state exam station listed on the next page.

Bison (Perkins County) 100 East Main Street (Courthouse) 605-244-5624	Highmore (Hyde County) 412 Commercial Street (Courthouse) 605-852-2510	Onida (Sully County) 700 Ash Ave (Courthouse) 605-258-2444
Buffalo (Harding County) 410 Ramsland (Courthouse) 605-375-3542	Ipswich (Edmunds County) 210 2nd Ave (Courthouse) 605-426-6762	Philip (Haakon County) 140 S Howard (Courthouse) 605-859-2612
Burke (Gregory County) 221 E 8th St (Courthouse) 605-775-2605	Kadoka (Jackson County) 1 Main Street (Courthouse) 605-837-2420	Plankinton (Aurora County) 401 North Main Street (Courthouse) 605-942-7161
Clear Lake (Deuel County) 400 4th Street W (Sherriff's Office) 605-8748212	Kennebec (Lyman County) 300 Main Street (Courthouse) 605-869-2295	Redfield (Spink County) 210 E 7th Ave, Suite 5 (Courthouse) 605-472-4580
Dupree (Ziebach County) South Main Street (Courthouse) 605-365-5173	Lemmon (Perkins County) 303 1st Ave West (City Hall) 605-374-5681	Timber Lake (Dewey County) 710 C Street (Courthouse) 605-865-3661
Faulkton (Faulk County) 110 9th Ave South (Courthouse) 605-598-6232	Leola (McPherson County) 706 Main Street (Courthouse) 605-439-3151	Wessington Springs (Jerauld County) 205 Wallace Ave S (Courthouse) 605-539-1241
Freeman (Hutchinson County) 322 S Main St (Library) 605-925-7003	McIntosh (Corson County) 108 1st Street East (Courthouse) 605-273-4552	White River (Mellette County) 321 East 4th Street (Courthouse) 605-259-3371
Gettysburg (Potter County) 205 W Commercial NE (County Ext. Office) 605-765-9414	Miller (Hand County) 415 West 1st Ave (Courthouse) 605-853-3512	Woonsocket (Sanborn County) 604 West 6th Street (Courthouse) 605-796-4512
Hayti (Hamlin County) 300 4th Street (Courthouse) 605-783-3206	Mound City (Campbell County) 111 2nd Street NE (Courthouse) 605-955-3388	

State Driver Exam Station Locations

Driver Exam stations are closed on state holidays. Please check your local newspaper, our website at www.dps.sd.gov, email us at DPSDL@state.sd.us, or call 605-773-6883 to check on holiday closures or schedule updates.

Exam Station	Address
Aberdeen	2729 W Highway 12
Armour	706 Braddock St (Courthouse)
Belle Fourche	511 6th Ave (City Hall)
Brookings	1012 22nd Ave South
Chamberlain	300 S Courtland St (Courthouse)
Custer	447 Crook St
Elk Point	106 W Pleasant St (City Hall)
Hot Springs	206 S Chicago St (Senior Center)
Huron	289 Dakota Ave S, Suite 5
Madison	1000 S Egan Ave (4-H Building)
Martin	202 Main St (Courthouse)
Milbank	1001 E. 4th Ave (City Hall/Visitor Center)
Mitchell	1315 North Main St, Suite 100
Mobridge	1213 Lakefront Driver (National Guard Armory)
N Sioux City	205 Sodrac Dr (Community Center)
Pierre	420 S Garfield Ave, Suite 700
Pine Ridge	Airport Access Road, Highway 18 East
Rapid City	1301 E Catron Blvd
Rosebud	2431 Legion Ave, Tribal Bldg Annex
Sioux Falls Express	6010 S Minnesota Ave, Suite 101
Sioux Falls	2501 W Russell St
Sisseton	406 2nd Ave W
Spearfish	222 W Hudson, Room C (Hudson Hall)
Sturgis	1401 Lazelle St (Community Center)
Vermillion	11 E Cherry St (Hallmark Square)
Wagner	60 Main Ave SE (City Hall)
Watertown	2001 9th Ave SW, Suite 100
Webster	711 W 1st St, Suite 107 (Courthouse)
Winner	200 E 3rd St (Courthouse)
Yankton	3113 Spruce St, Suite 109 (Human Services Center, Kanner Bldg)

Department of

Public Safety

Driver Licensing

118 W Capitol Ave

Pierre SD 57501

Book Rate