

READ ON AND FIND OUT WHAT SHE SHOULD DO

KEEP A CUSHION AHEAD

It is always important to keep a solid cushion of space between your car and the vehicle in front of you. As we learned earlier in the course, "rear end" collisions are the most common type of collision. If you rear end the car in front of you, you are more than likely responsible for the collision. We have gathered the following tips on how to preserve your front space cushion.

- ***Don't try to squeeze into a gap that is too small. Leave yourself a big enough space cushion.***
- ***Watch for vehicles around you. Use your mirrors and turn signals. Turn your head to look quickly to the side before changing lanes. Leave three seconds of space between you and the vehicle ahead. Make sure you can stop safely if you must.***
- ***If you have to cross several lanes, take them one at a time. Filter through traffic slowly. If you stop to wait until all lanes are clear, you will tie up traffic and may cause a collision.***

Keep enough space between your car and the car ahead so that you will have "a bigger picture" of what lies down the road and steering will be easier. You can travel in the center of the lane instead of hugging one side or the other to let you see. Most rear end collisions are caused by following too closely. To avoid this, use the "three-second rule." When the vehicle ahead of you passes a certain point, such as a sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one - thousand-three." This takes about three seconds. If you pass the same point before you finish counting, you are following too closely. At faster speeds the distance should be greater. Sometimes you will need more than a "three-second" cushion. Give yourself a "four-second or more" cushion.

KEEP A SPACE CUSHION ON EACH SIDE OF YOUR CAR

- ***Don't drive in the blind spot of another driver. The other driver may not see your car and could change lanes and hit you.***
- ***Avoid driving alongside other cars on multilane streets. Someone may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and pull into you. Move ahead of the other car or drop back.***
- ***Keep as much space as you can between yourself and oncoming traffic. On multilane streets, stay out of the lane next to the center line, if you can. That way you will have more room to avoid an oncoming car that suddenly swerves toward you. This is very***

important at intersections where another driver could turn left without giving a signal.

- ***If possible, make room for vehicles entering freeways even though you have the right-of-way.***
- ***At freeway exits, don't drive alongside other cars. A driver on the freeway may pull off suddenly or a driver leaving may swerve back on.***
- ***Keep a space between yourself and parked cars. Some one may step out from between them. A car door may open. A car may start to pull out suddenly.***
- ***Be careful when riding near bicycles. A bicycle rider could be seriously hurt in a collision. Always leave plenty of room between your car and any bicycle. Watch carefully for bicycles before turning.***

KEEP A CUSHION BEHIND

Watch for tailgaters! If one is following you, be careful! Brake slowly before stopping. Tap your brake lightly a few times to warn the tailgater before you slow down. "Lose" the tailgater as soon as you can by changing lanes. If you can't change lanes, slow down enough to encourage the tailgater to go around you. If this does not work, pull off the road when it is safe and let the tailgater pass.

Here are some examples of when to leave a cushion behind your while driving:

- ***When you are crowded by a tailgater: You should allow extra room between your car and the car ahead. Then, if you need to slow down you can do so gradually. You will be able to avoid braking suddenly and being hit from behind by the tailgater!***
- ***On slippery roads: If the car ahead should slow or stop, you will need more distance to stop your car.***
- ***When following motorcycles: If the motorcycle falls, you'll have to avoid hitting the rider. Motorcycles fall more often on wet or icy roads, on metal surfaces such as bridge gratings or railroad tracks, and on gravel.***

- ***When the driver behind you wants to pass: Slow down to allow room in front of your car so the driver will have space to move into.***
- ***When you are pulling a trailer or carrying a heavy load: The extra weight makes it harder to stop.***
- ***When following large vehicles that block your view ahead: You need the extra room to see around the vehicle and to the sides.***
- ***When you are stopped in traffic on a hill: The vehicle ahead may roll back into your car when it starts up.***

NEVER ASSUME ANOTHER DRIVER WILL SHARE SPACE

LEAVE SPACE TO CROSS OR ENTER

Whenever you cross or enter traffic from a full stop, you will need a large enough gap (from cars approaching in either direction) to get moving from a full stop or to get up to the speed of other vehicles. You need a gap that is:

- ***About half a block on city streets.***
- ***About a full block on the highway.***

When you cross through traffic, you need enough room to get all the way across. Stopping halfway across is only safe when there is a median (center) divider large enough to hold your car. If you are crossing lanes or turning, make sure there are no cars or people blocking the path ahead or the path to the side. You don't want to be caught in an intersection with traffic coming at you.

Even if you have the green light, don't start across if there are cars blocking your way. It is against the law to enter an intersection unless there is space to get completely across it. You can receive a citation if you block other traffic.

ANTI-GRIDLOCK LAW: This law was enacted in 1987, and says "a driver shall not enter an intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or marked crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle without obstructing through passage of vehicles from either side." This means a motorist is in violation if he/she pulls forward without room on the other side, and subsequently gets stuck in the intersection when the light changes. When this occurs, it adds to the traffic problem because opposing vehicles cannot get through the intersection. Be patient and do not block the intersection.

Here are other times when vehicles shall not block intersections:

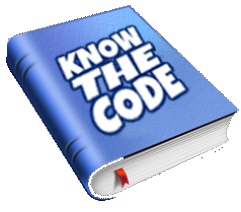
- **When making a turn at an intersection and the traffic signal light is a steady circular yellow signal or yellow arrow signal**
- **At a railroad or rail transit crossing**

Never assume another driver will share space with you. Don't turn just because an approaching car has a turn signal on. The driver may plan to turn just beyond you. The signal may have been left on from an earlier turn. This is particularly true of motorcycles. Their signal lights don't always turn off by themselves. Wait until the other driver actually starts to turn before you continue.



HIGHWAY DRIVING

The freeway and highway systems require certain skills. Speeds are often high, and perception, reaction, and stopping times and distances are often increased. It is best to plan your time of travel to avoid unfamiliar or congested traffic situations. Remember, guide signs are placed to help inform you of upcoming choices and most indicate distance and route direction. It is best to prepare and be familiar with alternate exits and routes.



21651. Divided Highways

ENTERING A FREEWAY

When entering a freeway from an on-ramp, remember that freeway traffic has the right-of-way. Also remember to increase your speed to help avoid existing traffic slowing down. Drivers should adjust the timing of their entry to enter without disrupting the flow of traffic.

If there are no acceleration lanes available, watch for "yield" or "merge" signs. Drivers should accelerate while they are on the on-ramp, then look over their shoulder, find a sufficiently longer gap in the traffic, and accelerate to blend into the traffic.

Some common mistakes when entering the freeway are: 1) driving too slow, which causes the vehicles entering the freeway behind you to be in danger, as well as any cars that are already driving in the slow lane since they must adjust their speed to compensate for yours. 2) Driving too fast, this will also cause any vehicles driving in the slow lane to change their speed. The proper way to enter onto the freeway is to "blend" into traffic simply by matching the speed of the vehicles already on the freeway.

Remember that the maximum speed allowed is 65 mph on most freeways. A driver should watch for vehicles ahead and for congested traffic that can cause sudden stops in traffic. Changing speeds abruptly on the freeway is a frequent cause of collisions.

MERGING WITH TRAFFIC

When merging into traffic, extend your normal 3 second space cushion into a 4 second gap between you and the other vehicles. That will give both the driver ahead and the car behind a two-second following distance. As a driver, you need a 4 second gap whenever you change lanes, enter a freeway from an entrance lane, or merge with another road.

When changing lanes, a driver should watch for other cars around his or her vehicle. A driver should use the vehicle's mirrors and signal at least 5 seconds in advance. The driver should check his or her mirrors, turn his or her head to look quickly to the side before changing lanes while checking for cars in the blind spots. When the driver has determined it is safe to do so, they should slowly ease into the new lane (without changing speed) and then turn off their signal once they have completed the change.

CHOOSING LANES OF TRAVEL if you block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic by driving too slowly, you may receive a ticket. Sometimes, of course, you may have to go slowly. If you are going slower than other traffic, do not drive in the "fast" lane. If you are in the left (or fast) lane, move to the right when another driver is close behind you and wishes to drive faster. If you are driving on a freeway with three or more lanes, the middle lanes are used for through traffic, the far left is used for passing, and the far right lane is used for cars exiting and entering the freeway.

When you are driving a school bus with at least one pupil aboard, towing a vehicle or driving a large truck, you will usually be traveling slower than other vehicles. If on a freeway with four or more lanes, you must drive in the two right hand lanes. On a three or two lane freeway, you may only use the right hand lane, except to pass another vehicle in the adjacent lane.

HELPING OTHER DRIVERS ENTER OR EXIT THE FREEWAY *If you see a driver trying to get into the deceleration lane ahead, it is more than likely that he or she is attempting to exit the freeway, slow down and yield him the right-of-way by opening up a gap for them to use.*

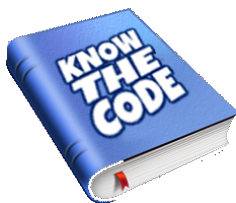
Watch for MERGING SIGNS, these signs warn drivers that other vehicles are entering the freeway and that they might be traveling at different speeds. If you are in the slow lane and see another vehicle entering the freeway beside you, slow down and yield him the right-of-way by opening up a gap for them to use.

Both of these are considered a common courtesy and will definitely help prevent collisions.

SPECIAL FREEWAY PROBLEMS

*When traveling on a freeway, a driver may lose track of how fast he or she is going. This unconscious state is called, "**VELOCITATION**". Be alert and frequently look down at your speedometer to ensure you are traveling at a safe speed. If you are speeding, remember that at high speeds it takes longer to slow down. Allow time to readjust to slower speeds.*

*A major problem for long, unbroken stretches of highway is "**HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS**". This type of unfocused concentration leads to many collisions in an otherwise unthreatening situation. Stay alert and try not to let your concentration fade.*



[21660](#). Approaching Vehicles

FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

If a roadway is blocked by a stalled car or an object in one of the lanes, you will have to steer around it. Watch what other drivers are doing ahead of you to avoid this and proceed with caution. Since you are traveling at high speeds on the freeway, there is increased danger in everything you do.

Should you have to pull off to the shoulder of the freeway for any reason, (say you have a blow out or are out of gas) do so with extreme caution. Signal first then check your mirrors and look over your right shoulder. When it is safe, ease your way over to the right shoulder of the freeway and when you stop, be sure your car is positioned in such a way it does NOT block traffic. You should then warn approaching traffic by turning on your hazard lights. If you have flares or other warning devices, use them with EXTREME caution.

There are certain rules you need to follow for re-entering the freeway. The first step is to turn on your signal. This will help alert traffic that you are attempting to re-enter the freeway. Begin acceleration while remaining on the shoulder until you are approximately the same speed as traffic to the left. Look for an adequate gap and blend into traffic while checking for hazards.

LEAVING THE FREEWAY

Leaving the freeway requires the same logic as when entering. As a driver, you should not require freeway traffic to adjust their speed to accommodate your leaving the freeway. You must maintain your rate

of speed and then not slow down until you have entered the off-ramp.

Deceleration or exit lanes are designed to allow drivers to reduce their speed before exiting without endangering traffic to the rear. Sometimes, there are multiple deceleration lanes from which to exit, for example at interchanges. These will be clearly marked by road signs or pavement markings to help avoid merging conflicts.

When you plan to exit the freeway, make sure to give yourself plenty of time. You should know the freeway exit you want as well as the one that comes before it.

To exit safely, you should:

- *Change lanes one at a time until you are in the proper lane for either a right-hand or left-hand exit from the freeway.*
- *Signal your intention to exit approximately five seconds before.*

Be sure you are at the proper speed (check posted limit) for leaving the traffic lane, not too fast (so you won't lose control) and not too slow (so the flow of traffic can still move freely). Look ahead to see the shape of the off-ramp, as some of the off-ramps have extreme curves.

If drivers miss their exit, they should not stop or back up on the freeway. The best method is simply to take the next exit and backtrack.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Timed Entrance: (metering) lights control many freeway on-ramps. These lights usually allow one vehicle per green light. This is to prevent too many cars from getting onto the freeway at the same time, which in turn, causes traffic jams.

Double Merge Lanes: These are provided to give slower-moving vehicles more time to get up to the speed of freeway traffic.

Diamond Entrance Lanes: These lanes are designed to provide multi-passenger (carpool) vehicles faster access to the freeway. If you are the only person in the car, do not use these lanes.



Approaching a Tollbooth: If there is a tollbooth ahead, a driver will be warned by "distance ahead" pavement markings and posted speed signs. He or she should slow down and be ready to stop. Usually, special lanes are designated for special vehicles, such as trucks, those with exact change, and quick pay card-scanning systems.

LEAVE SPACE TO EXIT When you plan to exit the freeway, make sure to give yourself plenty of time. You should know the freeway exit you want as well as the one that comes before it. To exit safely, you should:

Change lanes one at a time until you are in the proper lane for either a right hand or left hand exit from the freeway. Signal your intention to exit approximately five seconds.

Be sure you are at the proper speed for leaving the traffic lane not too fast (so you won't lose control) and not too slow (so the flow of traffic can still move freely).

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MERGING AND PASSING

SPACE TO PASS Avoid passing other cars on two-lane roads. It is dangerous. Every time you pass, you increase your chances of having a collision. Ask yourself if the risk is worth the few minutes you will gain. Remember, whenever you pass another car on a two-lane road you must enter a lane that belongs to oncoming cars.

At highway speeds of 50 to 55 mph, you need a 10 to 12 second gap in oncoming traffic to pass safely. You must judge whether or not you have enough room to pass whenever you approach:

- ***An oncoming car.***
- ***A hill or a curve.***
- ***An intersection.***
- ***A road obstruction***

PASSING IN AN INTERSECTION intersections are extremely dangerous areas to pass other vehicles. It is dangerous to pass another vehicle where someone is likely to enter or cross the road. Such places include crossroads, railroad crossings, and shopping center entrances. While you are passing, your view of people, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, or a train is blocked by the car you are passing. Also, a driver turning onto the road into the left lane won't expect to find you in his lane. Avoid passing in an intersection.

WHEN DRIVING ON LEFT PROHIBITED

21752. No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

(a) When approaching or upon the crest of a grade or a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposition direction.

(b) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of

any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

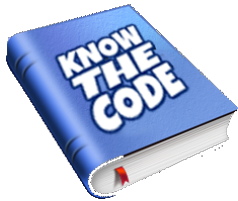
(c) When approaching within 100 feet of or when traversing any railroad grade crossing.

(d) When approaching within 100 feet of or when traversing any intersection.

DANGERS OF PASSING *At 55 mph, you will travel over 800 feet in 10 to 12 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 one-third of a mile away. They don't seem to be coming as fast as they really are. A vehicle that is far enough away generally appears to be standing still. In fact, if you can really see it moving closer to you, it is probably too close for you to start to pass.*

LANES FOR PASSING *Never drive off the paved or main-traveled portion of the road or on the shoulder to pass. You will know the edge of the main-traveled portion of the road by the white line painted on the road surface. When you want to pass a vehicle or bicycle going in your direction, pass on the left. Passing on the right is dangerous and is legal only:*

- *If an open highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of vehicles moving in your direction of travel.*
- *If the driver of the other vehicle is making a left turn. Never drive off the road to pass to the right of a driver who is signaling a left turn. (Be careful. Sometimes drivers use the wrong turn signal.)*



21650. Right Side of Roadway

CURVING, MOUNTAIN DRIVING

Curving, winding two-lane roads in mountains are dangerous as well. Signaling distances are greater, the act of passing and being passed requires more space allowance between vehicles, and driving in general requires a different set of expectations. Turning can cause problems too. You will feel a strong push on your body as you wind around mountain turns. Be Alert.

Check the traction of the road. Rain, mud, snow, or gravel makes a slippery surface. You must lower your speed before entering the curve. Braking on a curve may cause a driver to skid. The driver should try to stay as far to the right as possible when approaching a curve. This is also a good way to prepare for an approaching vehicle that is traveling too fast and may end up in your lane.

DRIVING IN HILL COUNTRY ***You never know what is on the other side of a steep hill or a sharp curve. When you come to a hill or curve, slow down so you can stop for any hazard. You must drive slowly enough to stop.***

Any time your view is blocked by a hill or a curve, you should assume there is another vehicle ahead of you. Only pass the vehicle if a hill or curve is at least one-third of a mile away, because you need at least that much room to pass safely.

Do not drive on the left side of the road when coming to a curve or the top of a hill, because you cannot see far enough ahead to know if it is safe to pass.



Driving in the city requires you to be prepared to stop for unexpected actions of other drivers or pedestrians or possible emergencies. For instance, drivers should always cover their brake while driving next to parked cars; a car may pull out of a space, or someone might open the car door on the traffic side. Drivers should not press on the brake. This can reduce its effectiveness. They should just have their foot ready to press. They should do the same thing when they see brake lights of

other cars or when approaching signal lights. These are early warning signs for a driver to stop.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITH CITY DRIVING *Driving in the city can present different obstacles and different dangers. Parked vehicles are notorious for blocking the view of pedestrians and cross traffic. The lane a driver's car is in may be blocked for some reason: a detour, an accident, road repair, or the lane may be merging into one. A driver must be prepared to make a lane change. By looking far ahead, a driver will be prepared to handle this situation.*

When you must slow down suddenly, take a quick glance in your mirrors. You should also check your mirrors when you are preparing to turn into a side road or driveway, and when you are stopping to pull into a parking space.

LOOKING AHEAD OF TRAFFIC *If a driver looks ahead, he or she will be able to see important things that cannot be seen later; for example, signal changes, or someone getting into a parked car. In the city, 600 feet is about one block. When driving in city traffic, drivers should look at least one block ahead. He or she should look for changing traffic lights and beware if the light has been green for some time (**stale green light**), and must anticipate that it will be changing to red soon.*

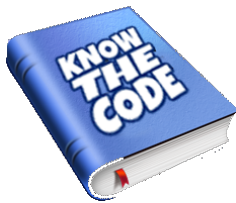
Leave enough space between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. When another motorist makes a mistake, a driver needs time to react. As a driver, you can give yourself this time by keeping enough space between your car and the vehicles around you. Keep a "space cushion" on all sides of your car. It will give you space to brake or maneuver if you need it. This also applies for driving on the freeway.

CHOOSING A LANE *Many roads have two or more lanes going in the same direction. Broken white lines separate these lanes. As a driver, you must choose which lane to use. Avoid jumping between lanes. Remember, changing lanes requires that you momentarily take your eyes off the road in front of you. This can create an unexpected hazard.*

If you can choose a lane on your side of the road, pick the smoothest lane. If you need to pass or turn left, use the left lane. When you are driving extra slowly or planning to turn off the road, stay in the right lane.

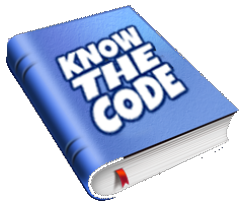
SIGNALING

- **Signal to let other drivers know your plans. Watch for other drivers' signals too.**
- **Always signal before pulling next to (or away from) the curb.**
- **Signal before turning or changing lanes. Use the signal lights on your car. If your vehicle is not required to be and is not equipped with turn signals or if your signals become inoperable while driving, then you must use arm signals. On sunny days, signal lights may be hard to see. If the sun is bright, use arm signals as well as signal lights. Even though you signal, do not automatically assume that the space you wish to occupy is clear. Look over your shoulder to check your blind spot before making a lane change.**



22108. Duration of Signal

- **Signal during the last 100 feet before turning. On the freeway, it is best to signal at least five seconds before changing lanes.**
- **Always signal when you change direction. Signal even when you don't see any cars around. A car you don't see might hit you.**
- **If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, don't signal until you are actually in the intersection. If you signal too early, another driver may think you will turn before you reach him or her and might pull into your path.**
- **If you plan to turn at an intersection which is close to a business driveway, for example, be especially careful. People leaving that business may think you are turning into the driveway when you really intend to turn at the intersection. These drivers may pull out right in front of you. In a case like this, it might be better to signal after the driveway but before the intersection.**



22109. Signal When Stopping

- **Check your signal after turning. Turn it off if it hasn't clicked off by itself.**
- **If your turn signals are NOT operating correctly, OR you feel as though another driver is not paying attention, you should use your hand-and-arm signals also.**



LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



SLOW OR STOP

VEHICULAR POSITION *It is important to keep up with the flow of traffic. A driver should be sure to stay within the posted speed limits. Traveling too fast can make a car a hazard on the roadway as does traveling too slowly. A driver should always try to avoid traveling in the blind spots of other vehicles. It is always important to be careful in the city. It is likely that others will be traveling in blind spots creating "bunches," which is dangerous. As a driver, you should always give yourself an out if an emergency should arise.*

CHOOSING A SAFE ROUTE *Drivers should try to plan a route before driving in the city. They should avoid trying to drive in the morning and late afternoon rush hours unless it is necessary. They should know their area, stay off the main streets, and use side streets. **One-way streets** are safer and faster to drive on than two-way streets because usually traffic on a one-way street flows much more smoothly (but keep your eye out for vehicles turning onto the street going the wrong way, this happens more than one would think). Street signs identify one-way streets, the direction and the speed of that street.*

REDUCING SPEED *Reduce Speed. There are four advantages to driving at reduced speed:*

- ***A driver will have more time to see signs and markings and be able to interpret their meaning. This will prevent you from making erratic turns, lane changes, or stops.***
- ***There are many distractions in the city. By reducing speed, a driver will have more time to analyze the information and predict what might happen.***
- ***After a driver sees a sign or danger, he or she needs a certain amount of reaction time. Again, by reducing speed, the driver will be given that important second or two.***
- ***Having that additional second or two makes it possible to carry out well-thought-out decisions, such as taking an evasive action, making a lane change, or making a safe stop.***

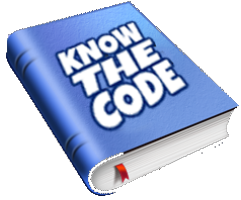
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LANES FOR THROUGH TRAFFIC

Many roads have two or more lanes going in your direction. These lanes are separated by broken white lines. You must choose which lane to use. Drive in the lane that has the smoothest flow of traffic. You will save fuel.

- ***If you can choose among three lanes on your side of the road, pick the middle lane for the smoothest driving. If you want to go faster, pass, or turn left, use the left lane. When you drive slowly, enter, or turn off the road, use the right lane.***
- ***If only two lanes go in your direction, pick the right lane for the smoothest driving.***

Don't weave, stay in one traffic lane as much as possible. Before changing lanes, check your mirrors for vehicles that may be ready to pass you; also turn your head and CHECK BESIDE YOUR VEHICLE to see if any vehicle, such as a motorcycle, is in your blind spot and to be sure there is enough room for your vehicle in the next lane.

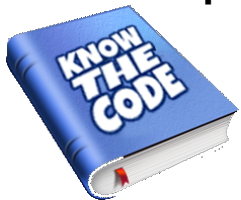


21658. Laned Roadways

Once you start through an intersection, keep going. If you start to make a turn, follow through. Last second changes may cause collisions. If you missed a turn, continue to the next intersection and work your way back to where you want to go.



Special "turnout" areas are sometimes marked on two-lane roads. Pull to the side in these areas and allow cars behind you to pass. If you are driving a slow-moving vehicle, including a passenger vehicle, on a two-lane highway or road where passing is unsafe because of traffic in the opposite direction or other conditions, and five or more vehicles are formed in a line following you, use the turnout or an area with sufficient space to turnout so to let the vehicles pass.



21656. Turning Out of Slow-Moving Vehicles



DEMANDS OF DRIVING ON AN OPEN HIGHWAY *Open road driving can be very dangerous. A driver must pay attention to oncoming cars. If there is a long line of cars coming from the other direction, he or she has to be aware of drivers from that line who may want to pass a vehicle. If the other driver ends up in the opposing lane, the first driver must slow down and warn the other driver by flashing the headlights or sounding the horn. He or she must then give the other driver room to merge back. A driver should be prepared to brake and move onto the right shoulder of the road.*

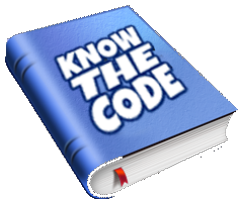
The same applies for vehicles that drift into the opposing lane of travel while approaching a car. If you, as a driver, end up behind a long line of cars, avoid passing them. You are risking a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle. Be extra careful at night. Using your high beams can cause oncoming traffic to be blinded. When you see oncoming headlights, be sure to switch your high beams to low beams.

If the road is too narrow to drive entirely to the right of the center, the driver should honk his or her horn upon approaching any curve where the view is obstructed within a distance of 200 feet.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLES

Some vehicles have trouble keeping up with the speed of traffic. Look for these vehicles and adjust your speed before you reach them.

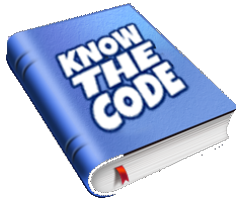
Farm tractors, animal-drawn carts, and road maintenance vehicles usually travel 25 mph or less. Slow moving vehicles may have an orange triangle on the back.



21654. Slow-Moving Vehicles

Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching vehicle. A large tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed because of its large size. Many passenger vehicle/large truck collisions take place at intersections because the passenger vehicle driver did not realize how close the truck was or how quickly it was traveling.

ON A ONE LANE MOUNTAIN ROAD When two vehicles meet on a steep road where neither can pass, the vehicle facing downhill must back up until the vehicle going uphill can pass. (The driver going downhill has the greater amount of control when backing up.)



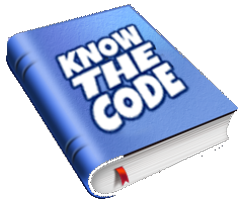
21662. Mountain Driving

CARPOOL LANES AND ON-RAMPS

Carpooling and bus riding are useful ways to save fuel and reduce the number of vehicles using highways in heavy commuter traffic. Some freeways have special lanes and on-ramps for carpools. Using a CARPOOL lane requires a minimum of 2 or 3 people in a vehicle, including the driver. Signs at the on-ramp or along the freeway tell you the size of the carpool (number of people) needed to use that lane and the days and hours that the requirement applies. The pavement of these lanes is marked with the diamond symbol and the words "CARPOOL LANE." Do not cross over the double parallel solid lines to enter or exit any carpool lane except at designated entry or exit places.

Some freeways may have a special lane for buses only, or buses and carpools. This lane is also marked by the diamond symbol.

NEW LAWS FOR 2011 *High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes* Prior law that permitted certain fuel-efficient, low-emission vehicles to display stickers allowing them to be operated in HOV lanes with a single occupant was to expire on January 1, 2011. The new law extends the "sunset" date for the yellow stickers for hybrid vehicles until July 1, 2011; the white stickers issued to fully-electric and compressed natural gas vehicles until January 1, 2015; and creates a third sticker, for plug-in hybrid vehicles, to be issued and valid from January 1, 2012 until January 1, 2015.



21661. *Narrow Roadways*

21655. *Designated Lanes for Certain Vehicles*

52055. *High Occupancy Lanes (HOV lanes, diamond lanes, etc)*



In high-density traffic areas, you may sometimes see an entire street, or a few traffic lanes on a street, marked with cones. The cones indicate that a lane or street is being used differently. For instance, to help relieve congestion at a sports or cultural event, entire streets or a few lanes will be used for traffic going in the opposite direction from what is "normal" until the traffic congestion is cleared.

BICYCLE LANES *A bicycle lane is shown by a solid white line along either side of the street, four or more feet from the curb. This line will usually be a broken line near the corner. The words "BIKE LANE" are painted at various locations in this lane. Don't drive in a bike lane unless you are making a right turn at a corner or other*

entrance, such as a driveway. Then drive your vehicle into the bike lane no more than 200 feet from the entrance or corner before your turn. Watch for bikes before entering the bike lane. You may park in the bike lane unless signs say "NO PARKING".

Pedestrians are not allowed in bike lanes when there are sidewalks. Drivers of motorized bicycles should use bike lanes carefully to avoid accidents with bicycle riders.

SAFETY ZONES *Don't drive through a safety zone. This is a space set aside for pedestrians. It is marked by raised buttons or markers on the road. You will most often see safety zones in areas where there are streetcars or trolleys using the same streets as vehicle traffic, such as in San Francisco.*

SIDEWALKS *Never drive on a sidewalk unless you are crossing a sidewalk to enter or leave a driveway or alley. When crossing a sidewalk, stop for any pedestrian.*

BE ON THE LOOKOUT *there are certain people you should give a lot of room to. Here are some of them.*

- **Drivers who cannot see you. Someone who cannot see you may enter your path without knowing you are there. People who have trouble seeing you include:**
 - **Drivers at intersections or driveways, whose view is blocked by buildings, trees, or other cars.**
 - **Drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces; drivers whose windows are covered with snow or ice; people with umbrellas in front of their faces or hats pulled down over their eyes.**
- **People who are distracted. Even when others can see you, allow extra room if you think they may be distracted. People who may be distracted include:**
 - **Delivery persons.**
 - **Construction workers.**
 - **Children, who often run into the street without looking.**
 - **Drivers or people who are talking to each other, taking care of children, or looking at maps.**

- **People who may be confused. A person who is confused is very likely to make a move without looking. People who may be confused include:**
 - **Tourists, often at complicated intersections.**
 - **Drivers who slow down for what seems to be no apparent reason.**
 - **Drivers looking for a house number.**
- **Drivers in trouble. If another driver makes a mistake, do what you can to help him or her out. Drivers who need help include:**
 - **Drivers who pass you as you approach a curve or an oncoming car.**
 - **A driver who is about to be forced into your lane by a vehicle, a pedestrian, a bicyclist, an obstruction, or fewer lanes ahead.**

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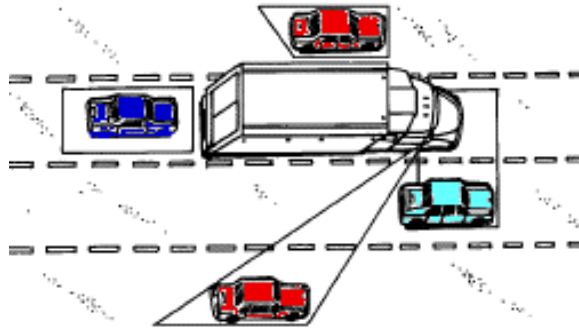
Trucks are designed to transport products and they are not as maneuverable as passenger vehicles. Large trucks have longer stopping and starting distances. They take more space for turns and they weigh more. On multi-lane highways and freeways, large trucks usually stay in the center portion of the lane to help the flow of traffic.

This also increases the trucker's options in case he or she must change lanes to avoid a hazard. Here are some of the most common mistakes passenger vehicle drivers must avoid when driving around large trucks. (This can also be applied to RV's)

- ***Cutting off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.*** Cutting into the open space in front of a truck is dangerous. Trying to beat a truck to a single-lane construction zone, for example, removes the truck driver's cushion of safety and places you in danger also. Slow down and take your turn entering the construction zone. Don't speed up to pass a truck so you can exit the roadway. Take a moment to slow down and exit behind a truck it will only take you a few extra seconds.
- ***Lingering alongside a truck when passing.*** Always pass a large truck on the left side and after you have passed the truck move ahead of it. If you linger beside the truck, you make it very difficult, if not impossible, for the trucker to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead.
- ***Following too closely or tailgating.*** When you follow behind a truck and you cannot see the truck driver's rearview mirrors, the trucker has no way of knowing you are there. Tailgating a truck, or any vehicle, is dangerous because you take away your own cushion of safety. Where will you go when the vehicle in front of you stops quickly?



Passenger vehicle drivers falsely assume that a trucker can see the road better because they are higher off the road. While truckers do have a better forward view and bigger mirrors, they still have serious blind spots. Your vehicle can get lost in those blind spots. If you stay in those blind spots you block the trucker's ability to take evasive action to avoid a dangerous situation. Generally speaking, if you can't see the truck driver in his or her side mirror, he or she can't see you. These blind spots are often called the "NO ZONE."



BRAKING

Large trucks take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger vehicle traveling at 55 mph can stop within 400 feet. However, a large truck traveling at the same speed can take almost 800 feet to stop. Don't pull in front of a large truck and suddenly slow down or stop. The trucker will not be able to stop quickly enough to avoid crashing into you.

TURNING

For all turning vehicles, the rear wheels follow a shorter path than the front wheels. The longer the vehicle, the greater the difference. This is why big rig drivers must often swing out to the left as the first step in making a right turn . When you follow a big rig, look at its turn signals before you start to pass. If you think the truck is turning left wait a second and check the turn signals again. The driver may actually be turning right.

SCHOOL BUSES

You may come upon a school bus which is stopped and flashing yellow lights. This is a

warning for you to prepare to stop because the children are preparing to leave the bus.



When you come upon a school bus stopped on either side of the road with flashing red lights, you must stop immediately before passing the bus. The flashing red lights are located at the top front and top back of the bus. Schoolchildren will be crossing the road to or from the school bus. Remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing. You may be fined a minimum of \$150 for the first offense and up to \$1000 with your driving privilege suspended for one year after the third offense.

You need not stop if the bus is on the other side of a multiple-lane or divided highway.



22454. Schoolbus: Meeting and Passing

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

You must yield the right-of-way to a police car, fire engine, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle(s) using a siren and red light. Pull as close to the right edge of the road as possible and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed. However, don't stop in an intersection. Continue through the intersection and then pull to the right as soon as you can. Sometimes emergency vehicles will use the wrong side of the street to continue on their way. They sometimes use a loud speaker to talk to drivers blocking their path.

It is against the law to follow within 300 feet of any emergency vehicle which is answering an emergency call. You may be arrested if you drive for sightseeing purposes to the scene of a fire, collision, or other disaster. You could interfere with the essential services of police, fire fighter, ambulance crews, or other rescue or emergency personnel. You must not drive over unprotected fire hoses.

CVC Section 21706.5 and 21809

Extends California's "Slow and Move Over" law to stationary, marked Department of Transportation Vehicles displaying flashing amber warning lights.

Requires drivers to take specific precautionary actions on a freeway when passing within 500 feet of a stopped emergency vehicle or tow truck when the emergency lights are activated. Drivers are directed to proceed with caution and to make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle or tow truck if practicable and not prohibited by law. If the driver cannot make a safe lane change, they are to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing conditions.

MOTORCYCLES

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. While everyone must follow the same traffic laws, motorcyclists face additional dangers because motorcycles require exceptional handling ability and are harder to see. Therefore, many motorcycles keep their headlight on even during daylight hours.

From ahead or behind, a motorcycle's outline is much smaller than a passenger vehicle's outline, and most drivers expect to see larger vehicles on the road and are not looking for motorcycles.

Motorcyclists can do many things to make it easier for others to recognize them and increase their chances of being seen.

- ***Wear a bright-colored jacket, vest, and a helmet.***
- ***Wear reflective material on helmets and clothes.***
- ***Use turn signals when planning to change lanes or turn.***
- ***Flash their brake lights before slowing down to help others notice the motorcycle.***

Follow these rules to respect the right-of-way and safely share the road with motorcyclists:

- ***When you change lanes or enter a major thoroughfare, make a visual check for motorcycles. Also use your mirrors. Motorcycles are small, and they can easily disappear into a vehicle's blind spots.***
- ***Allow a four-second following distance. You will need this space to avoid hitting the motorcyclist, if he or she brakes suddenly or falls off the motorcycle. Motorcycles generally can stop faster than passenger vehicles.***
- ***Allow the motorcycle a full lane width. Although it is not illegal to share lanes with motorcycles, it is unsafe.***
- ***Never try to pass a motorcycle in the same lane you are sharing with the motorcycle.***
- ***When you make a turn, check for motorcyclists and gauge their speed before turning.***
- ***Look carefully for motorcyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic or before turning right.***
- ***Motorcycles may travel faster than traffic during congested road conditions and can legally travel in the unused space between***

two lines of moving or stationary vehicles, which is commonly called "lane splitting."

- **Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to you pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement can cause motorcyclists to change speed or direction suddenly. If you are aware of the effect of these conditions and drive with care and attention, you can help reduce motorcyclist injuries and fatalities.**

All types of motor vehicles require licensing and registration. (Certain exceptions as per the CVC). All must meet requirements of equipment as specified by law.

A Class M license is required for motorcycles and scooters that can go over 30 mph. Mopeds also require a license. Also covered are electrically powered vehicles that weigh no more than 2500 pds. and reach a top speed of no more than 45 mph.

Auto drivers must be alert for motorcycles. The saddest and most common plea is "but I didn't see him!" Though some cyclists bring on their own problem, figures show that 75% of all the collisions involving a motorcycle and a car are the fault of the car. Do NOT cut off a bike. Avoid left turns in front of them. Be careful, courteous, and considerate. They have a right to the road, too.

If you ride a motorcycle, there are precautions you can take to protect yourself:

Wear a helmet with a face shield that meets **DOT standards. Riders and passengers must wear helmets. Wear proper clothing: All professionals wear protective gear; boots that cover the ankles; full-length leather or other sturdy pants or chaps; leather or other sturdy jackets or sturdy, long-sleeved shirts; gloves; bright colors and reflective tape.**

Ride defensively. Use extreme caution in rounding curves and in times of low visibility. Stay out of car and truck blind spots. (Extremely important if you are "lane-splitting" on a freeway and vital if autos and trucks on the freeway are caught in heavy stop-and-go traffic. Drivers, lulled by their own slow speed, might not be as alert for a motorcycle "between lanes" moving appreciably faster than they are. A frustrated automobile driver lurching from one lane to another to gain a car length advantage can be in mistake for not noticing a motorcycle off his rear fender, but it's the cyclist who will wind up on the asphalt.

Drive with extreme caution. Always ride as if no one else on the road can see you. You may be good, but you're not the only driver out there.

Passing. Ride in the left portion of your lane at a safe following distance to increase your line of sight and make you more visible. Signal and check for oncoming traffic. Use your mirrors and turn your head to look for traffic behind. When safe, move into the left lane and accelerate. Select a lane position that doesn't crowd the car you are passing and provides space to avoid hazards in your lane. Ride through the driver's blind spot as quickly as possible. Signal again and complete mirror and head checks before returning to your original lane. Then cancel your turn signal. Remember, passing must be completed within posted speed limits, and only where permitted.

Motorcycles must have lights on at all times which adds to visibility. Oscillating beam headlights are legal in daylight driving.

New riders under 18 must complete an approved motorcycle course. More experienced and older riders may also want to take a course, which teaches advanced riding skills and strategies, and which may secure discounts on insurance.

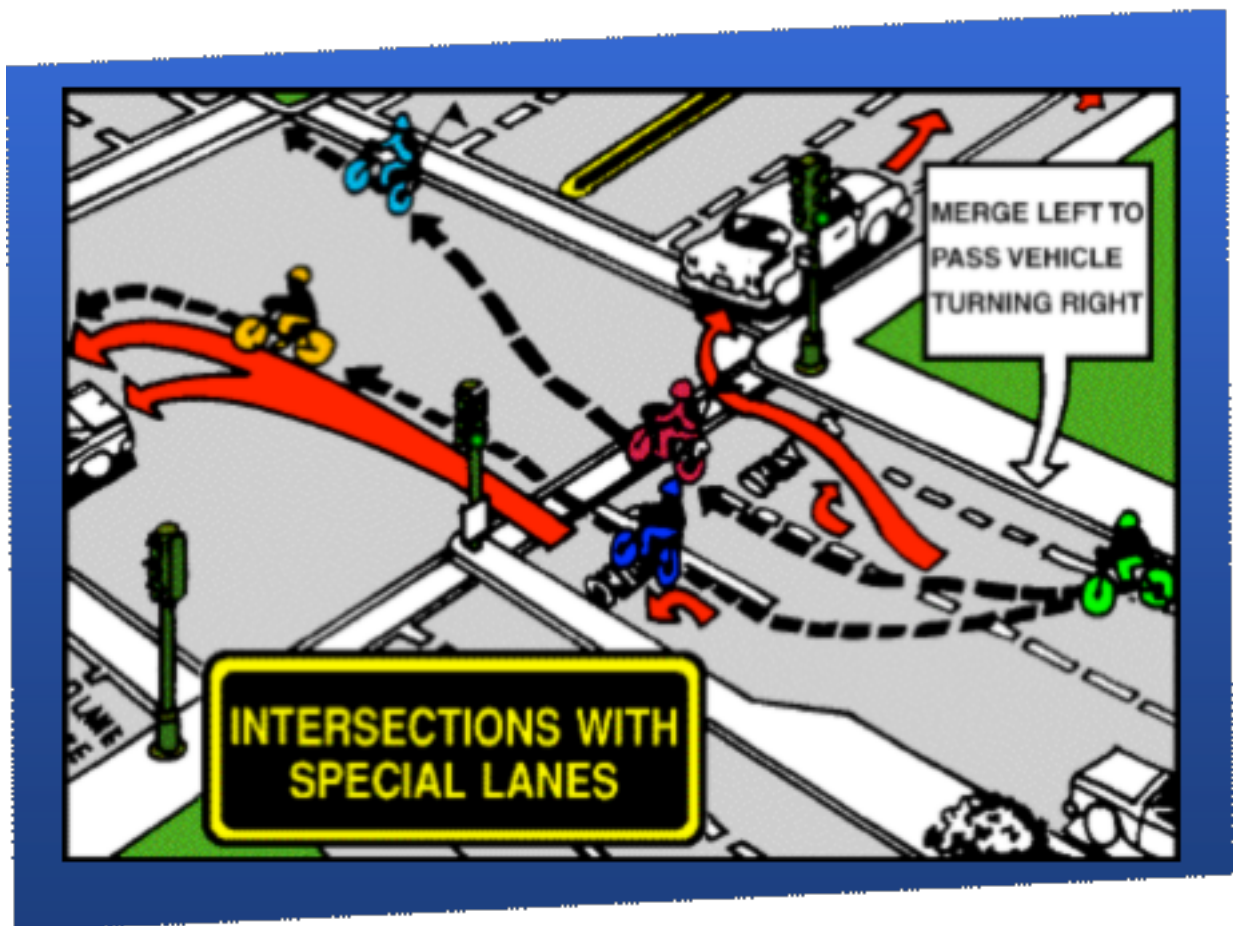
A person is prohibited from operating a motorized scooter unless that person has a valid class C driver's license or an instruction permit. A person is also prohibited from altering or modifying the exhaust system of a motorized scooter in violation of specified noise restrictions and muffler requirements.

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Bicycle riders on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. Drivers of motor vehicles must treat bicycle riders the same as drivers of other motor vehicles. Bicyclists are not out of place on the roadway. They are part of the traffic and share the road with other drivers. They must obey stop signs, traffic lights, and most other traffic laws and signs. Special care must be used near them because any collision with them will probably result in serious injury. This means that automobile drivers must leave safe passing room and must not turn so close to them that the bicyclist is in danger of being hit.

Many of the same things apply to bicycles as to motorcycles. 50% of all bicycle collisions occur to children. As of 1/1/94, ANSI/Snell approved safety helmets are required for all persons under 18. Bikes have the same responsibilities as autos. They also have the same rights as other traffic. Use proper signals as shown by the DMV. Ride with traffic, not against it. If using a crosswalk, dismount then walk through. Watch out for parked cars and be alert for indication they may be pulling out, (since you are generally on the extreme right, closest to parked cars). Bike riders must watch carefully when making turns or changing lanes.



Although bicyclists will normally ride near the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, they can legally move left to turn left, to pass another vehicle or bicycle, or to avoid debris or parked cars. They may have to swerve to avoid a car door suddenly opening. Expect any of these moves by bicyclists in a main traffic lane. Remember, on one-way streets, this can be the left hand lane.

Bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age, (including children in attached bicycle seats or in towed trailers) shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. This helmet must be labeled to show that it meets applicable safety standards. Violation of this law is punishable by a fine.

When the lane is too narrow to pass a bicyclist safely, wait until the next lane is clear and give the bicyclist all the rights of any other slow moving vehicle.

A motorist parked at a curb must not open a door on the traffic side of a vehicle without looking for other vehicles, including bicycles or motorcycles.

Bicycle riders may give right turn signals with their right arm held straight out, pointing right. Remember, bicycles are small and sometimes drivers do not see them.

To summarize, bicyclists:

- ***Must obey all traffic signals and stop signs.***
- ***Are lawfully permitted to ride on certain sections of roadway in rural areas where there is no alternate route.***
- ***Must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it.***
- ***Shall ride as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practical– not on the sidewalk.***
- ***Are legally allowed to ride in the center of the lane when moving at the same speed as other traffic.***
- ***May move left to pass a parked or moving vehicle, bicycle, animal, avoid debris, or other hazards.***
- ***May choose to ride near the left curb or edge of a one-way street.***
- ***Should ride single file on a busy or narrow street.***
- ***Must make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes. If the bicyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than ride next to the curb and block traffic making right turns.***
- ***Must signal all their intentions to motorists and bicyclists near them.***

- **Must stay to the right when moving slow.**
- **Must wear a helmet if under the age of 18.**
- **Should carry identification.**
- **Shall not operate a bicycle on a roadway during darkness unless the bicycle is equipped with:**
 - **A brake which will enable the operator to make one braked wheel stop on dry, level, clean pavement.**

During darkness bicyclists must have the following equipment:

- **A front lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet.**
- **A rear red reflector visible from a distance of 500 feet.**

A white or yellow reflector on each pedal or on the bicyclist's shoes or ankles visible from a distance of 200 feet.

Amends Vehicle Code Section 21204

Provides an exemption to the prohibition of allowing a person from operating a bicycle on a highway that does not have a seat, if the bicycle is specifically designed by the manufacturer to be ridden without a seat.



Right-of-way rules, together with courtesy and common sense, help to promote traffic safety. It is important to respect the right-of-way of others, especially pedestrians, motorcycle riders, and bicycle riders.

Pedestrian safety is a serious issue. A pedestrian is a person on foot or who uses a conveyance such as roller skates, skateboard, etc., other than a bicycle. A pedestrian can also be a person with a disability using a tricycle, quadricycle, or wheelchair for transportation.

Pedestrian deaths occur in 17 percent of all traffic fatalities. Drive cautiously when pedestrians are near because they may suddenly cross your path.

Pedestrians may be at risk walking near hybrid and electric vehicles, because these vehicles are virtually silent while operating. Use extra caution when driving near pedestrians.

- ***Respect the right-of-way of pedestrians. Always stop for any pedestrian crossing at corners or other crosswalks, even if the crosswalk is in the middle of the block, at corners with or without traffic lights, whether or not the crosswalks are marked by painted lines.***
- ***Do not pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian you cannot see may be crossing the street.***
- ***Do not drive on a sidewalk, except to cross it to enter or exit a driveway or alley. When crossing, yield to all pedestrians.***
- ***Do not stop in a crosswalk. You will place pedestrians in danger.***
- ***Remember, if a pedestrian makes eye contact with you, he or she is ready to cross the street. Yield to the pedestrian.***
- ***Allow older pedestrians, disabled pedestrians and pedestrians with young children sufficient time to cross the street.***
- ***Important: Blind pedestrians rely on the sound of your vehicle to become aware of your vehicle's presence; so it is important that you stop your vehicle within 5 feet of the crosswalk. Drivers of hybrid or electric vehicles must remain especially aware that the lack of engine noise may cause a blind pedestrian to assume there is not a vehicle nearby. Follow this cue:***
 - ***When a blind person pulls in his or her cane and steps away from the intersection, this gesture usually means for you to go.***

CROSSWALKS

A crosswalk is the part of the roadway set aside for pedestrian traffic. Most intersections have a pedestrian crosswalk whether or not lines are painted on the street. Most crosswalks are located at corners, but they can also be located in the middle of the block. Before turning a corner, watch for people about to cross the street. Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks.

Crosswalks are often marked with white lines. Yellow crosswalk lines may be painted at school crossings. Most often, crosswalks in residential areas are not marked.

Some crosswalks have flashing lights to warn you that pedestrians may be crossing. Look for pedestrians and be prepared to stop, whether or not the lights are flashing.

PEDESTRIANS WHO ARE BLIND pedestrians using guide dogs or white canes with or without a red tip must be given the right-of-way at all times. These pedestrians are partially or totally blind.

When these pedestrians are in your vicinity be especially careful when turning corners or backing up, particularly if you are driving a quiet hybrid vehicle.

Here are some suggestions for helping pedestrians who are blind:

- ***Do not stop your vehicle more than five feet from the crosswalk, unless there is an advance stop bar (line). A blind pedestrian uses the sound of your engine as a guide, so drive up to the crosswalk to allow the person to hear you. Important: Drivers of electric and hybrid vehicles must be extra alert to blind pedestrians, as they may be unaware of your presence due to the nearly silent nature of these vehicles.***
- ***Stop at all crosswalks where pedestrians are waiting.***
- ***Do not stop in the middle of a crosswalk. This forces the blind pedestrian to go around your vehicle and into traffic outside of the crosswalk.***
- ***Do not give the blind pedestrian verbal directions. A blind pedestrian listens to all traffic sounds before deciding to cross the street.***
- ***Do not wait too long for the blind pedestrian to cross the street. When a blind person pulls in his or her cane and steps away from the intersection, this gesture usually means for you to go.***
- ***Do not turn right without looking first. Look for any pedestrians, especially blind pedestrians or traffic before starting your turn. Blind pedestrians who have a green light are not expecting a driver to make a right turn in front of them. Turning may result in the blind pedestrian becoming disoriented and vulnerable to being hit by another right turning vehicle when attempting to cross the street.***
- ***Do not honk your horn at a blind person. The blind person has no idea who you are honking at and may be startled by the noise.***
- ***Do not block any sidewalk.***

PEDESTRIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Pedestrians (including joggers) should be aware of traffic conditions. Watch out for aggressive drivers before assuming that you have the right-of-way when crossing a street.

Be aware that hybrid and electric vehicles are virtually silent when running on electric power and you may not hear them approaching an intersection.

Yield the right-of-way to vehicles, when you cross a street between intersections and in areas with no pedestrian crosswalks or signals.

Remember: Making eye contact with a driver does not mean that the driver will yield the right-of-way.

Do not suddenly leave a curb or other safe place and walk or run into the path of a vehicle close enough to be a danger to you. This is true even though you are in a crosswalk. The law states that drivers must always yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian– but if the driver cannot stop in time to avoid hitting you the law will not prevent you from being hit.

Always obey traffic signals. Whether the intersection has pedestrian signals or traffic lights, you must obey the pedestrian rules. At an intersection where traffic is not controlled by signals, drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within any crosswalk, marked or unmarked.

When a signal first changes to green or "WALK", look left, right, and then left again, and yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection before the signal changes.

If the signal begins blinking or changes to "DON'T WALK" or to an upraised hand after you have gone part way across a divided street, you may continue across the street. Do not stop or delay traffic unnecessarily while crossing a street.

Pedestrians are not permitted on any toll bridge or highway crossing, unless there is a sidewalk and signs stating pedestrian traffic is permitted.

If there are no sidewalks, walk facing oncoming traffic. Do not walk or jog on any freeway where signs tell you that pedestrians are not allowed. Do not walk or jog in a bike lane unless there is no sidewalk.

At night, make yourself more visible by:

- ***Wearing white, light, or reflective material clothing.***
- ***Carrying a flashlight.***

21956. Pedestrian on Roadway

-No pedestrians are allowed to walk upon any roadway outside of a residence or business district otherwise than close to their left-hand edge of the roadway.

-If a crosswalk or other means of crossing the roadway safely are not available or if existing traffic or other conditions would compromise the safety of a pedestrian trying to cross the road, then a pedestrian may walk close to their right-hand edge of the roadway.

ROAD WORKERS AND CONSTRUCTION ZONES

Workers who must be on highways try hard to warn you of their presence by using orange signs, equipment, flags, and jackets. It's up to you to ensure both your own and the workers' safety by driving slowly through work areas. THE HIGHWAY WORKER'S LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Vehicles used to maintain the highways, like bulldozers, often move slowly on or next to the road. Be prepared to slow down or stop for them. When you see work zone signs and message boards on the road, people on foot are often working nearby.

One or more lanes may be closed when road work is going on. Orange signs warn you that you must be prepared for people and slow moving equipment on the road. Signs will tell you which lanes are closed. A line of orange cones will show you the closed lane. Do not cross the line of cones. Sometimes a flashing arrow will tell you to move left or right. BE CAREFUL! Make your lane change early and safely.

Do not stop or slow down to watch road work. Keep going. Obey any special signs or instructions as you pass. NOTE: Fines are doubled for

certain violations committed in highway construction or maintenance zones when workers are present and/or traffic is regulated or restricted by Caltrans or local authorities.

Amends Penal Code Sections 241.5 & 243.65

Expands the definition of a highway worker to include employees of a city, county, or city and county who perform specified activities related to local streets and roads. Additionally, this law includes in the definition of a highway worker, employees of a contractor while working under contract with the Department of Transportation, contractors and employees of contractors while working under contract with a city, county, or city and county, and volunteers.

CVC Section 15215 - Commercial Drivers Conviction Reporting

Requires the DMV to report each conviction occurring within California of a person holding a commercial driver's license from another state to the licensing authority of the home state of the licensee.

Required Declaration on an Original or Renewal Application for a Driver License

Adds Penal Code Sections 241.5 & 243.65

This law provides an increased penalty for assault and battery crimes committed against highway workers engaged in the performance of his or her duties.

241.5. (a) When an assault is committed against a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties and the person committing the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail up to one year or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) As used in this section, "highway worker" means an employee or contractor of the Department of Transportation who does one or more of the following:

(1) Performs maintenance, repair, or construction of state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones.

(2) Operates equipment on state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones.

(3) Performs any related maintenance work, as required, on state highway infrastructures in highway work zones.

243.65. (a) When a battery is committed against the person of a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties and the person committing the offense knows or reasonably should know

that the victim is a highway worker engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) As used in this section, "highway worker" means an employee or contractor of the Department of Transportation who does one or more of the following:

(1) Performs maintenance, repair, or construction of state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones.

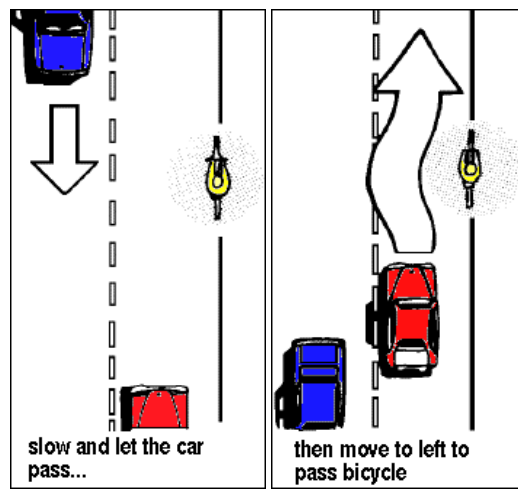
(2) Operates equipment on state highway infrastructures and associated rights-of-way in highway work zones.

(3) Performs any related maintenance work, as required, on state highway infrastructures in highway work zones.

ANIMALS OR OTHER OBJECTS ON THE ROAD *If you see animals or another large object, slow down. Obey the person in charge of the animals. If you see a stray animal in your path, slow down or stop if it is safe to do so.*

TAKING DANGERS ONE AT A TIME

Look at the pictures below. Suppose there is only one oncoming car to the left and a child on a bike to the right. Instead of driving between the car and the child, take them one at a time. Slow down and let the car pass. Then, move to the left to allow plenty of room before you pass the child.



Sometimes there will be dangers on both sides of the road. For example, there may be parked cars to the right and oncoming cars to the left. In this case, the best thing to do is "split the difference". Steer a middle course between the oncoming cars and the parked cars.

If one danger is greater than the other, give the most room to the worst danger. Suppose there are oncoming cars to the left of you and a child on a bike to the right. The child is most likely to make a sudden move. Therefore, give him or her a lot of room. It may mean moving closer to the oncoming cars.

REMEMBER: Trees, bushes, buildings, or parked vehicles at intersections can block your view of vehicles coming from the side.



What is "Road Rage"?

"Road Rage" is a term that is believed to have originated in the United States. In its broadest sense it can refer to any display of aggression by a driver. However, the term is often used to refer to the more extreme acts of aggression, such as a physical assault, that occur as a direct result of a disagreement between drivers.

The response to a stressful situation may often be anger. When we are confronted by a frustrating situation we often resort to aggression. This is often no more than verbal abuse. However, there are circumstances in which we may resort to physical violence. In the late 1980s, drivers in the United States, apparently frustrated by increasing

congestion, began fighting and shooting each other on a regular basis, victims of what the popular press termed "road rage." There is nothing to suggest that road rage is distinct from any other form of anger. But for many of us driving has become one of the most frustrating activities we are regularly engaged in.

In order to quantify the extent of the road rage problem, the Automobile Association commissioned a survey of 526 motorists. The survey found that almost 90 percent of motorists have experienced "road rage" incidents within a 12 month period. Sixty percent admitted to losing their tempers behind the wheel.

Aggressive tailgating (62%) was the most common form of "road rage," followed by headlight flashing (59%), obscene gestures (48%), deliberately obstructing other vehicles (21%) and verbal abuse (16%). One percent of drivers claim to have been physically assaulted by other motorists.

Although 62% of drivers were victimized by aggressive tailgaters, only 6 percent admitted to doing it themselves. Gender differences were not as great as expected; 54 percent of women admitted to aggressive driving behavior, compared with 64 percent of men.

What Causes "Road Rage"?

In some cases it appears that incidents of road rage are caused by simple misunderstandings between drivers. A driver might make a slight error of judgment but the perception of another is that he is driving aggressively.

It is likely that the cause of the road rage extends beyond the immediate incident. An individual may have had a bad day at work or troubles at home. Often it may be difficult to tackle the cause of the frustration. It may therefore lie dormant, indeed the driver may not even identify feelings of frustration. However, failure to indicate or a poor maneuver by another driver may be enough to trigger a release of the pent-up frustration which is directed towards the offending driver. These frustrations can be displayed by driving erratically such as tailgating, honking the horn obsessively, flashing headlights, making gestures or yelling at other drivers to name a few.

In some circumstances, the defending driver may wish to go one step further and assert his dominance. Many drivers admit to having chased after a driver to "teach him a lesson," often pressing him by moving to within inches of his rear bumper. The result of such behavior can be potentially fatal.

Some of the worst cases of road rage have occurred where the opportunity for the vehicles to separate and go their own ways does not present itself. Gestures and aggressive maneuvers have been exchanged rather quickly. Worked up into a rage, one or both drivers have then got out of their vehicles and physically attacked one another and/or his vehicle.

Increasing levels of congestion on the roads have undoubtedly played a role in raising tempers among drivers and many motorists feel that the behavior of drivers has changed for the worst in recent years.

Conflicts between drivers have also arisen because of unclear road priorities -- where drivers have disagreed as to who has right of way, for example. In many cases the road priorities were determined at a time when the level of congestion and speed of traffic were considerably less than today. Other drivers' failure to adhere to the rules of the road and ignoring signs, such as where lanes merge or a lane is closed and drivers merge into the open lane at the last possible opportunity, is a commonly quoted cause of irritation among drivers.

Some psychologists have suggested that certain drivers are more susceptible to losing their tempers behind the wheel than others. However, there is no one profile of the so-called "aggressive driver." Although the majority of them are between the ages of 18 and 26, there are hundreds of cases in which the perpetrator was 26 to 50 years old and cases where the aggressive driver was 50 to 75 years old. Today's aggressive driver could be male (as is usually the case) or female, young or old, rich or poor. Road rage can come from anyone!

DEALING WITH ROAD RAGE

Some Safe Driving Tips

There are some basic things that you can do to reduce your chances of ever becoming involved in an aggressive driving or "road rage" incident:

- ***First of all, observe common courtesy and consciously try to avoid actions which can provoke other drivers.***

- **Secondly, take measures to reduce your own stress so that you are less likely to feel aggressive yourself.**
- **You can also try to adjust your attitude about why other drivers are behaving the way they are.**
- **Finally, keep your emotions in check and think about the consequences of your behavior before you react.**

BE AWARE OF ACTIONS WHICH CAN PROVOKE AGGRESSION

Motorists are advised to be patient and courteous to other drivers. You should correct any unsafe driving habits that may endanger, annoy or provoke other drivers. Be aware of the actions that have resulted in violence in the past. Many of these actions are simply eliminated by practicing common courtesy. Others are behaviors which are, or may be considered, offensive. When confronted with an angry or aggressive driver, it is a good idea to move out of the way. Provoking an argument will probably spell disaster. So, to avoid such a situation put as much distance between your vehicle and the other car as possible.

Avoid behaviors that are likely to provoke aggression:

- **Gestures – Keep your hands on the steering wheel. Obscene or offensive gestures irritate other drivers. Be aware that any gesture may be misinterpreted by another driver.**
- **Car phones -- Don't let your phone become a distraction. Car phone users are perceived as being poor drivers and presenting a traffic hazard. Data shows that aggressive drivers are particularly irritated by fender-benders with motorists who were talking on the phone.**
- **Displays - Refrain from displaying a bumper sticker, slogan or vanity license plate that may be considered offensive.**
- **Eye contact - If a motorist tries to pick a fight, do not make eye contact. To some people, eye contact is the same as a challenge. If someone is determined to act out his or her frustrations, even a friendly smile can be misinterpreted. Instead, get out of the way without acknowledging the other motorist. If the driver follows you, do not go home. Go to a police station or location where you can get help and there will be witnesses.**
- **Aggressive tailgating - Riding the bumper of the vehicle in front of you is both annoying and unsafe. Many drivers get angry when they are followed too closely. Remember to keep the appropriate following distance between you and the car ahead of you.**
- **Aggressive horn use - Leaning on the horn to express anger is aggravating.**
- **Aggressive headlight use - Flashing headlights to denote irritation is rude and unsafe.**

Use common courtesy:

- **Don't drive slowly in the left lane – Avoid using the fast lane except for the brief time it takes to pass another driver. Driving slowly in the fast lane frustrates other drivers.**
- **Tailgating - Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.**
- **Signal use - Don't change lanes without using your signal, and make sure you can change lanes without cutting another driver off. After changing lanes or turning, turn your signal off.**
- **Horn use - Use your horn for emergencies only. Noise is shown to be a contributor to stress.**
- **Failure to turn - Right turns are allowed after a complete stop for a red light unless an intersection is marked otherwise. Avoid the right lane if you are not turning right.**
- **Parking:**
 - **Don't take up more than one parking space**
 - **Don't park in a space reserved for people with disabilities unless you are disabled**
 - **Don't open your door into the car next to you**
 - **When parallel parking, do not tap the vehicles in front or in back of yours**
 - **Always look carefully before backing out of a parking space**
- **Headlight use - Keep headlights on low beam, except where lighting conditions are poor. Dim your high beams for oncoming traffic, when approaching a vehicle from the rear or when another vehicle is passing you.**
- **Merging - When traffic permits, move out of the right hand acceleration lane of a freeway to allow vehicles easier access from on-ramps.**
- **Don't cut off other drivers – When you merge, change lanes, or pass another vehicle, make sure you have enough room and always use your signal.**
- **Blocking traffic - If you are driving a cumbersome or slow moving vehicle, pull over when possible to allow traffic to pass you. Do not block the road to stop and have a conversation with another driver or a pedestrian.**
- **Alarms - Be sure you know how to turn off the anti-theft alarm on any vehicle you are driving. If you are purchasing an alarm, buy one that turns off automatically after a short time.**

KEEPING YOUR OWN EMOTIONS IN CHECK

Keep your own emotions in check and learn to spot the warning signs

of stress. Try to avoid situations which are likely to cause stress, distraction and fatigue.

In general:

- **Keep your vehicle in good working order to avoid the stress of a breakdown.**
- **If your destination is in an unfamiliar area, plan your route and have a map available.**
- **Have windshield cleaning materials and sunglasses available.**

If you are making a long trip:

- **Plan your route and have a map in your vehicle.**
- **Take breaks to stretch and walk around.**
- **Eat light snacks as opposed to heavy meals.**
- **Avoid eating in noisy, crowded places since they can promote stress.**

Road congestion is a major contributing factor to traffic disputes:

- **Consider altering your schedule.**
- **Allow plenty of time to get where you are going. Can you change your schedule or route to avoid the worst congestion? And does it really matter if you are a little late?**
- **Improve the comfort of your vehicle.**
- **Listen to music that reduces your anxiety, or try listening to books on tape, but avoid anger-inducing talk radio. Use your air conditioner. Make your seat more comfortable by adjusting your seating position or using a pillow.**
- **Concentrate on being relaxed.**
- **Take a deep breath. Don't clench your teeth or grip the steering wheel too tightly. Try doing limited stretching exercises.**
- **Don't drive when you are upset, angry or overtired.**
- **Take a break to calm down, "cool off" or rest before you get behind the wheel. Your emotions can significantly affect the way you drive and can be very unsafe.**



ADJUST YOUR ATTITUDE

- **Give the other driver the benefit of the doubt.**
- **We all make mistakes. Do not assume that all unsafe driving actions are intentional or personal.**

- ***Be polite and courteous, even if the other driver isn't.***
- ***Self-control is crucial in managing stress and aggression.***

It is important

KEEP YOUR COOL... THINK BEFORE YOU REACT

It is important for individuals to have a set of responses to cope with frustration. The most important advice is to remain patient in traffic congestion. You can gain a sense of control by realizing that people behave differently in different situations and that environmental factors may affect others to a greater or lesser degree than they affect you. Information about why a driver may be acting in a certain way will make their behavior more predictable to you, and you will be able to take action to avoid a confrontation, if necessary.

- ***Drivers must pay more attention to their own levels of emotion.***

Evidence suggests that drivers who allow their emotions to spiral out of control while driving are a much greater risk to themselves than to those around them. It is important not to try to alleviate aggressive emotion with an outburst. Research shows that this does not help to overcome the situation, and the risk of retaliation increases.

Several psychologists suggest a "cooling off" period such as going for a walk or using relaxation techniques. Although many people, particularly men, go for a drive to "cool off", it is not recommended. Any activity that is an attempt to "cool off" must be distracting enough to interfere with the train of anger-inducing thought.

- ***Avoid all conflict if possible.***

If you are challenged, take a deep breath and get out of the way, even if you are in the right.

- ***Finally, before reacting, think about the possible consequences of your actions.***

Aggressive behavior behind the wheel could result in serious injury or even death to yourself or someone else. Don't let an impulsive action ruin the rest of your life. If you utilize the defensive driving techniques that have been taught to you throughout this course, you will be prepared to handle any hostile driving situation that may come your way.

Taking the questionnaire to determine the type of driver that you are:

ARE YOU AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER?

DO YOU (Check the appropriate box):

Y N

- Overtake other vehicles only on the left.
- Avoid blocking passing lanes.
- Yield to faster traffic by moving to the right.
- Keep to the right as much as possible.
- Maintain appropriate following distance.
- Provide appropriate distance when cutting in after passing vehicles.
- Use headlights in cloudy, rainy, low light conditions.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs, etc.
- Stop for red traffic lights.
- Approach intersections and pedestrians at slow speeds.
- Follow right-of-way rules at four-way stops.
- Drive below the posted speed limit when conditions warrant.
- Drive at slower speeds in construction zones.
- Maintain speeds appropriate for conditions.
- Use vehicle turn signals for turns and lane changes.
- Make eye contact and signal intention where needed.
- Acknowledge intention of others.

Y N

- Use your horn sparingly.
- Avoid unnecessary use of high beam headlights.
- Yield and move to the right for emergency vehicles.
- Refrain from flashing headlights.
- Make slow, deliberate U-turns.
- Maintain proper speeds around roadway crashes.
- Avoid returning inappropriate gestures.
- Avoid challenging other drivers.
- Try to get out of the way of aggressive drivers.
- Focus on driving and avoid distracting activities.

DO YOU AVOID:

- Driving when drowsy.
- Blocking the right-turn lane.
- Taking more than one parking space.
- Parking in a space designated for the disabled.
- Letting your door hit the vehicle parked next to you.
- Using the cell phone while driving.
- Stopping in the road to talk.
- Inflicting loud music on neighboring cars.

Score Yourself:

Count the number of "No" Answers

(1-3) SAFE DRIVER

(8-11) SEMI-AGGRESSIVE DRIVER

(4-7) GOOD DRIVER


(12+) AGGRESSIVE DRIVER

PHOTO-ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS

Automated red light running photo-enforcement systems are an effective and reliable tool in reducing the number of traffic signal violations. These systems detect a motor vehicle that passes over two sets of wire loops under the pavement after a traffic signal has turned red. These loops are connected to computers in high-speed cameras. Typically, the cameras take two photographs of the violation, one when the vehicle enters the intersection and the other while it is in the intersection. The photographs are then reviewed by numerous experts, frequently including law enforcement officials. In most states with the systems, citations are mailed to the registered owner of the car who is able to challenge the citation if he or she was not the driver at the time of the infraction. (However, you must first nominate the person who was driving the vehicle and if you fail to do that your success in challenging the citation would be doubtful.)

RED LIGHT RUNNING FACTS

- **An estimated 2.3 million crashes are caused by red light runners each year. Approximately 7,770 of these crashes are fatal while about 733,000 cause injuries. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2008)**
- **According to a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the American Trauma Society, 63 percent of Americans see someone running a red light at least a few times a week and, at most, once a day.**
- **A study conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that at a busy intersection in California, a motorist ran a red light every 12 minutes. During peak commuting times a motorist ran a red light every five minutes.**
- **One in three Americans knows someone who has been injured, someone who was killed, or both, because of a red light runner.**
- **The objectives of red light running photo-enforcement systems are to stop dangerous driving behaviors, reduce crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, lower health care costs and respond to community concerns.**
- **A violation rate reduction of more than 40 percent was documented in San Francisco and Oxnard, California. Los Angeles County experienced a 92 percent drop in violations.**
- **Some argue that photographs of a red light running incident violate a motorist's privacy rights. However, by obtaining a driver license, an individual agrees to abide by certain rules, one of which is to obey traffic signals. The use of cameras is just one way to enforce this law.**



Your fifth and LAST section is almost complete. Please read your last case study carefully!

“EMERGENCY PULL OVER” CASE STUDY #5

"Hi-fi" Freda loves her tunes. In fact, she loves to drive her car to the highest mountain and share her tunes with everyone that will listen (which isn't a lot of people). Anyway, after hours of "sharing" it was time to head back down the mountain on a one lane road. While going down the mountain she came across another vehicle coming up the road. What happens now? Well, fast thinking Freda knew exactly what to do. She knew that when two vehicles meet on a steep road where neither can pass, the vehicle facing downhill must back up until the vehicle going uphill can pass. Why? Because, the driver going downhill has the greater amount of control when backing up. Freda did the right thing!

Now I can't tell you enough how much Freda loved her music. In fact, there's not a single station Freda won't play on her amped up car stereo. The only time she lowers the volume on her "music machine" is during the commercials. Luckily for Freda, it was during the commercials when she heard the roar of a fire truck zooming behind her with sirens screaming. What should Freda do in this situation? Should she pull over to the right side of the road, to the left side of the road or just keep driving and find a station that will over power those screeching sirens?

Freda should know that when an emergency vehicle is approaching with sirens and lights in use, you have to pull over to the RIGHT. This lets the emergency vehicle travel to their destination with ease.

You are now ready to take the [ComedyTrafficSchool.COM](https://www.comedytrafficschool.com) Section 5 Quiz and Final Test. The final is comprised of multiple choice questions, covering the material throughout the entire course...GOOD LUCK!

TAKE QUIZ