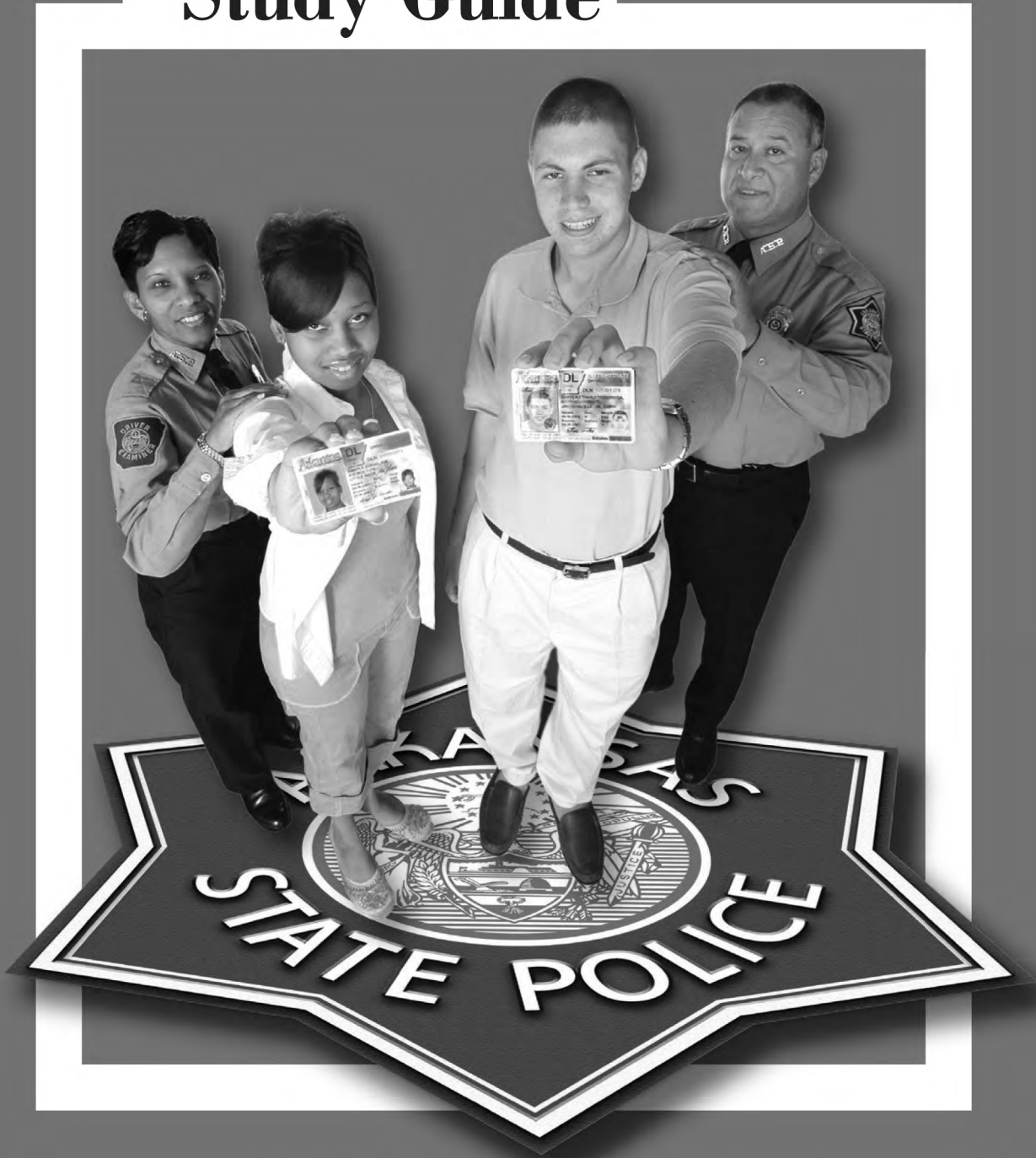


# Arkansas Driver License

## Study Guide



Volume 1 - Edition 6

# LITTERING: IT'S AGAINST THE LAW.

With a driver license comes the responsibility of being familiar with the laws of the road. As a driver you are accountable for what may be thrown from the vehicle onto a city street or state highway.

## 8-6-404 PENALTIES

(a)(1)(A)(i) A person convicted of a violation of § 8-6-406 or § 8-6-407 for a first offense shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and shall be fined in an amount of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(ii) An additional sentence of not more than eight (8) hours of community service shall be imposed under this subdivision (a)(1)(A).

(B)(i) A person convicted of a violation of § 8-6-406 or § 8-6-407 for a second or subsequent offense within three (3) years of the first offense shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and shall be fined in an amount of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(ii) An additional sentence of not more than twenty-four (24) hours of community service may be imposed under this subdivision (a)(1)(B).

(2) In addition to those penalties, any violator may also be required to remove litter from alongside highways and at other appropriate locations for any prescribed period.

(b) Any person who violates § 8-6-406 or § 8-6-407 and who is found to have committed the prohibited acts in furtherance of or as a part of a commercial enterprise, whether or not that enterprise is the disposal of wastes, shall be guilty of commercial littering and shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Additionally, those convicted may be required to remove any litter disposed of in violation of this subchapter.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of § 8-6-408 shall be guilty of:

(1) An unclassified misdemeanor for a first offense and shall be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and sentenced to one hundred (100) hours of community service; and

(2) A Class A misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

(d)(1) All or any portion of the fines, community service, and imprisonment penalties provided by this section may be suspended by the judge if the violator agrees to remove litter from alongside highways and at other appropriate locations for a prescribed period.

(e) In addition to all other penalties, any person convicted of a violation of § 8-6-406 or § 8-6-407 who fails to pay any fines assessed in accordance with the findings and orders of the

court shall have his or her driver's license suspended for six (6) months by the Department of Finance and Administration, upon receipt of an order of denial of driving privileges from the court pursuant to this section.

## 8-6-407 COMMERCIAL REFUSE HAULING BY UNCOVERED VEHICLES

It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in commercial or for-hire hauling to operate any truck or other vehicle within this state to transport litter, trash, or garbage unless the vehicle is covered to prevent its contents from blowing, dropping, falling off, or otherwise departing from the vehicle. In addition, any person operating his own truck or other vehicle to transport litter, trash, or garbage shall take reasonable steps to prevent its contents from blowing, dropping, falling off, or otherwise departing from the vehicle. However, no vehicle hauling predominately metallic material shall be required to be covered if it is loaded in a manner which will prevent the material from falling or dropping from the vehicle.

## 8-6-408 DISCARDING CERTAIN ITEMS PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or cause to be placed any junk motor vehicle, old vehicle tire, or inoperative or abandoned household appliance, or part thereof, upon the right-of-way of any public highway, upon any other public property, or upon any private property which he does not own, lease, rent, or otherwise control, unless it is at a salvage yard, a permitted disposal site, or at the business establishment of a demolisher.

## 8-6-409 PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE AGAINST DRIVERS

If the throwing, dumping, or depositing of litter was done from a motor vehicle, except a motor bus, it shall be prima facie evidence that the throwing, dumping, or depositing was done by the driver of the motor vehicle.



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**PLEASE RETURN THIS STUDY  
GUIDE TO YOUR ARKANSAS STATE  
POLICE DRIVER  
LICENSE EXAMINER.**



*Published August 2007*

This study guide offers you information about safe driving rules and practices that, if closely followed, will serve as the foundation in preparing you to successfully pass your written and practical driver license examinations and many safe and enjoyable years of driving pleasures.

Be sure to read the guide thoroughly. Without becoming adequately familiar with the information contained within the guide, you cannot pass the written test. Likewise, you should read and understand the section describing the written and practical tests.

## THE DRIVER LICENSE

Anyone who operates a motor vehicle, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motorized bicycle on public highways in Arkansas is required to have a license or certificate. In order to be legal, drivers are required to have an Arkansas driver license if they are located in the state for more than six months as a non-resident, or within thirty days once becoming a resident.

On July 1, 2002, Arkansas implemented a graduated driver license program. The graduated program is explained later in this section of the study guide. Any questions that may arise as you read about the graduated license program should be directed to the nearest Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Driver Services, or through the DF&A web site <http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/> or by telephone contact at (501) 682-7059.

The following individuals can drive on Arkansas streets and roadways provided they have a valid license from their home state and they are at least sixteen years old.

*Military* – Members of the Armed Forces on active duty, or members of foreign military on temporary duty with the U.S. Armed Forces. Act 235 of 2005 permits U.S. military spouses to obtain an Arkansas Driver License without testing, if the spouse has held a driver license that expired while residing outside the United States.

*Student* – Students attending classes who are considered non-residents under rules regulating payment of tuition.

An individual may obtain a driver license if:

- You are at least fourteen years of age (restricted license).
- You are at least eighteen years of age (non-restricted license).
- You are under the age of eighteen and submit the appropriate documents from your school (i.e. school attendance form).
- You are able to submit proof of name, residential address, and date of birth.
- You possess parental or guardian consent if under the age of eighteen.
- You pass a regular driver license test.
- You submit a valid driver license issued by another recognized licensing authority.

- You are not currently under any suspension, revocation, or denial in whole or in part by this or any other state, or one year has passed since any revocation.
- You legally reside within the United States.
- You have not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent, an alcoholic, or a habitual user of illegal narcotics.
- You have no judgments pending for a moving traffic violation.

## Types of Graduated Driver Licenses

An individual who does not possess an Arkansas driver license but intends to practice their driving skills while learning to drive must first obtain an instruction permit. Such permits are only valid while the unlicensed driver is driving with a parent, guardian or authorized licensed driver present inside the vehicle.

Instruction Permits (except Motorcycle Permits), Learner's Licenses, Intermediate Licenses and Class D Licenses authorize an individual to operate an automobile or any other four-wheel vehicle with a gross weight rating (GVWR) under 26,001 pounds, provided the vehicle is not designed to transport sixteen or more passengers (including the driver), and the vehicle is not transporting material defined as "hazardous material."

For information concerning driver licensing for persons who may operate vehicles with a GVWR over 26,000 pounds, designed to transport sixteen or more passengers or transport "hazardous material," please refer to the Arkansas Commercial Driver License Manual.

*Instruction Permit* – This permit allows a driver to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a licensed driver, twenty-one years of age or older, who is occupying a seat beside the driver, except in the event the permit holder is operating a motorcycle.

The applicant for an instruction permit must be at least fourteen years of age. To obtain the instruction permit, an applicant must pass the knowledge test and vision test. If the applicant is under the age of eighteen, a consent form signed by the applicant's parent or legal guardian must be submitted along with grade and attendance forms from the applicant's high school. The permit is issued for six months and can be renewed for an additional six month period if the applicant has not been at fault in an accident or been convicted of a serious traffic violation within the preceding six month period.

All passengers riding in a motor vehicle being operated by a person with an Instruction Permit must wear safety seat belts while the vehicle is operating.

*Learner's License* – This license is a restricted license issued to persons between fourteen and sixteen years of age. The applicant must possess a valid Instruction Permit indicating successful completion of the required knowledge, vision and skills tests.



The applicant must not have been at fault in a traffic crash or been convicted of a serious traffic violation within the preceding six months prior to application. A person operating a motor vehicle with a Learner's License must be accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least twenty-one years of age and all passengers riding in a motor vehicle being operated by a person with an Instruction Permit must wear safety seat belts while the vehicle is operating. Cellular phones are prohibited by law for telephone conversations except for an emergency. Text messaging is also prohibited.

*Intermediate License* – This license is a restricted license issued to persons between sixteen and eighteen years of age. The applicant must possess a valid Instruction Permit indicating successful completion of the required knowledge, vision, and skills tests or a Learner's License. The applicant must not have been at fault in traffic crash or been convicted of a serious traffic violation within the preceding six month period prior to application. All passengers riding in a vehicle being operated by a person with an Intermediate License must wear safety seat belts while the vehicle is operating. Cellular phones are prohibited by law for telephone conversations except for an emergency. Text messaging is also prohibited. A driver with an intermediate license shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one (1) unrelated minor passenger unless accompanied by a licensed driver that is twenty-one (21) years of age or older who is occupying the front passenger seat of the motor vehicle. A driver with an intermediate drivers license can not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 11:00 pm and 4:00 am unless accompanied by a licensed driver twenty-one (21) years of age or older, driving to or from a school activity, church activity, job, or because of an emergency.

*Class D License* – This license is a non-restricted license issued to persons eighteen years of age or older. The applicant must possess a valid Instruction Permit indicating successful completion of the required knowledge, vision, and skills tests or an Intermediate License. The applicant must not have been at fault in connection with a traffic crash or been convicted of a serious traffic violation within the preceding twelve months prior to application. A driver of a motor vehicle who is at least eighteen (18) but under twenty-one (21) years of age may use a hands-free wireless telephone or device for interactive communication while driving. A hand-held wireless telephone can only be used for emergencies. Text messaging is not allowed regardless of age.

*Class M License* – This license is a non-restricted license issued to persons sixteen years of age or older to operate a motorcycle on public roadways. The applicant must possess a valid Instruction Permit indicating successful completion of all required knowledge, vision, and skills tests. The motorcycle skills test can be waived for an applicant successfully completing a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Riders Course within the preceding ninety day period prior to application.

*Class MD License* – This license is a restricted license issued to persons between fourteen and sixteen years of age. The applicant must possess a valid Instruction Permit indicating successful completion of all knowledge, vision, and skills tests. The motor-driven skill test can be waived for an applicant successfully completing a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Riders Course within the preceding ninety day period prior to application. A person possessing a Class MD License is restricted to operating motorcycles displacing 250-cubic centimeters or less.

*Motorized Bicycles Certificate* – This certificate is a restricted certificate issued to persons fourteen years of age or older as of July 27, 2011. A person possessing a Motorized Bicycle Certificate is restricted to operating motorized bicycles or motorcycles displacing fifty centimeters or less. The applicant must successfully complete knowledge, vision, and skills tests. The Motorized Bicycle Certificate skill tests can be waived for an applicant successfully completing a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Riders Course within the preceding ninety day period prior to application. A person possessing a Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, Intermediate, Learner's, Class M or Class MD License can legally operate a motorized bicycle or motorcycles displacing fifty cubic centimeters or less.

## Keeping the Driver License

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

- Being convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Refusing a request by a law enforcement officer to be tested for alcohol or narcotics intoxication.
- Leaving the scene of an accident in which you are involved without identifying yourself.
- Failing to notify the Department of Finance and Administration of a reportable traffic crash in which you were involved.
- Giving false information when you apply for a driver license.
- Failing to show proof of financial responsibility or failing to settle a financial judgment made against you for damages resulting from a motor vehicle crash.
- Attempting to change the information on your license or using another person's license when attempting to purchase an alcoholic beverage.
- Failing to appear for re-examination when requested to do so by the Office of Driver Services.
- Using a motor vehicle to commit a felony or cause the death of anyone in a motor vehicle crash.
- Accumulating excessive points against your driving record.
- Allowing another person to use your driver license.

Failure to disclose any information about a previous driver license or presenting any false information or altered documents can result in loss of future driving privileges and/or arrest for fraudulent application.

Driver license applicants not citizens of the United States making an initial application for an Arkansas driver license must show proof of legal presence in the United States. Before testing can begin, the applicant must provide one of the following documents:

- United States birth certificate (original or certified copy or plastic birth card issued by Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services)
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Visa
- Social Security Card (no metal cards)
- Photo INS document (except Border Crosser)
- Photo military or military dependent ID
- Naturalization Certificate

## Accepted Identification List

All applicants for an Arkansas driver license must provide proof of identification before testing can begin. The accepted identification documents include:

- An Arkansas photo driver license or identification card
- Two Primary Documents; or
- One Primary and One Secondary Document

### *Primary Documents:*

- Out of state driver license or state issued photo ID
- US birth certificate (original or certified copy)
- Photo INS Document (except border crosser)
- Passport (if foreign, INS Card or U.S. Visa required)
- Naturalization certificate
- Court order (must contain full name, date of birth & court seal)
- Military or Military Dependent photo ID
- Armed Forces Discharge documents

### *Secondary Documents:*

- Employment or school photo ID
- Vehicle registration and/or title
- Bureau of Indian Affairs/Indian treaty card (no tribal cards)
- Marriage license
- Health insurance card
- IRS/State Tax Forms (W-2 Form is not acceptable)
- Court order (date of birth not present)
- Medical records (from doctor or hospital)
- Concealed Handgun License
- Certified school transcript
- Pilot license
- Parental affidavit (Parent must appear in person, proving his or her identity and submit notarized affidavit of child's identity. Applies to minors only)
- Court records
- Prison release documents

Proof of legal documents may also serve as proof of identification in the appropriate primary or secondary category. Additional documentation may be required if the documentation submitted appears to be questionable or if the issuing agency has reason to believe the applicant has claimed a false identity.

### *Applicants Under Eighteen Years of Age*

Before written driver license testing can begin, **applicants under the age of eighteen must have the following documentation:**

- An original or certified copy of a **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** and any one (1) secondary document issued by a different source with corresponding identity and/or date of birth.
- **SIGNATURE OF PARENT** (if living) must be provided on the application indicating the parent assumes all legal and financial responsibilities associated with the operation of a motor vehicle by the applicant. A step-parent or guardian may sign the application if the individual can present court documents substantiating legal guardian status as provided in ACA §27-16-702.
- **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & GRADE AVERAGE FORMS** are mandatory documents required to begin the testing process. These special forms are obtained from the business office at your school. Prior to your application inform your school's administrative staff of your intentions to test for a driver license and ask them to provide you with proper grade average and attendance forms. The forms are furnished to the school district by the Department of Education. **The form must be completed at the school office, signed by a school official, stamped with the school seal, and must be dated no more than 30 days prior to submission of the license application.** High school diplomas and GED certificates may also be accepted. Individuals being "home schooled" must provide proof in the form of a notarized copy of the written notice of intent to home school provided by the parent or guardian to the superintendent of the local school district. Adult education program students must furnish proof of enrollment and regular attendance in the program. **Report cards are not accepted.** Likewise, the **reporting forms from the local school districts that appear to have been altered will not be accepted.**
- **HOME SCHOOL STUDENT FORMS** are available through the Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Home Schooling. Telephone contact with the office can be made through (501) 682-1874. The reporting forms must be exhibit a legal notary seal when submitted with a license application.

Failure to disclose any information about a previous driver license or presenting any false information or altered documents to the examiner may result in loss of future driving privileges and/or the applicant being arrested for fraudulent application.

Before any skills test is administered, the applicant must show proof of insurance and have a current vehicle registration certificate for the vehicle to be used during the skills test.

## **BEFORE YOU DRIVE**

Before you drive take the time to honestly assess whether your trip is necessary, especially during bad weather or when driving may be hazardous. If you drive, your safety and that of the public depends greatly on what you do before driving, including

adjusting your seat and mirrors, using safety belts, checking your vehicle, maintaining a clear view outside the vehicle, and securing the vehicle.

## **Planning the Trip**

There are ways you can help reduce your driving costs. First, determine your overall transportation needs and consider the following:

- Plan the trip, no matter the distance. Planning reduces driving distance and stress.
- Use public transportation whenever it is available.
- Avoid driving during periods of heavy traffic. It causes stress on the driver and the vehicle.
- Use carpools and share rides whenever possible.
- Plan and 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. Take the shortest distance between locations. Attempt to reduce the number of places you need to go.
- When picking up packages or specialty items, call ahead to your destination and confirm whether the items you need are available.

By doing these things you can help reduce the amount of traffic on the road, reduce your travel costs, and save yourself time and effort.

## **Inspecting the Vehicle**

How safely you may complete a trip begins with the condition of the vehicle you plan to drive.

A vehicle in poor operating condition is unsafe and likewise more costly to operate. Such vehicles are more likely to become disabled along the highway or cause a collision. Vehicles in sub-standard operating condition may not properly respond to a driver's reaction while attempting to avoid an imminent emergency or collision. A vehicle in good operating order will always provide an extra margin of safety.

Exercise the safety recommendations that are specific to your vehicle. This very important information as well as the prescribed routine maintenance schedule for your car can be found in the operating handbook. It's a good idea to become familiar with the handbook and learn the unique operating features of the vehicle, especially those relating to emergencies such as a flat tire.

Some of the maintenance functions can be performed by the vehicle operator, however it is important to appreciate the safety value found in a certified mechanic who will inspect and/or make repairs to your vehicle.

A few extra minutes checking the following items may prevent the need for roadside assistance from a mechanic, avoid a traffic crash or even save your life or another.

*Braking system* – Only the brakes installed by a vehicle manufacturer can safely stop the vehicle. It is very dangerous if you attempt to drive a vehicle and the brakes are not working properly. If the brakes are not working properly, or even if you think the brake system is not functioning as it should, you should not drive the vehicle until it can be inspected or repaired by a certified mechanic. Some indicators of problems with the braking system include noise from under the vehicle when the brake pedal is depressed, a foul odor during heavy braking or depressing the brake pedal with little or any braking action.

*Lights* – Make sure that turn signals, brake lights, tail lights, and headlights are operating properly. These should be checked from outside the vehicle. Brake lights indicate to other road users that you are stopping, and turn signals indicate the direction you will turn. A misaligned headlight may be aimed in the direction it does not help you or temporarily blind other drivers. If you are having trouble clearly seeing the roadway at night, or if other drivers of opposing traffic are flashing their headlights as you pass, it may be time to have a mechanic check the headlights.

*Windshield and Wipers* – Damaged glass can break more easily in a minor collision or when an object hits the windshield. Have a damaged windshield repaired or replaced. Windshield wipers keep the rain and snow off the windshield while you're driving. Make sure the wiper blades are in good condition and replace the blades regularly.

*Tires* – Worn or bald tires may increase your stopping distance and make turning more difficult especially on a wet street or highway. Unbalanced tires and low inflation pressure cause faster tire wear, reduce fuel economy, and make the vehicle harder to steer and stop. If the vehicle bounces, or the steering wheel shakes, or the vehicle pulls to one side, have a mechanic check the tires and suspension. Worn tires can cause hydroplaning and increase the chance of a flat tire during a trip. Keep an air pressure gauge in the vehicle glove box and check the tire air pressure regularly. Always check the pressure before the vehicle is operated while the tires are cold. Use information from the vehicle owner's manual for proper inflation pressure. The tire tread can be checked for proper depth by using a penny. Place the coin with Abe Lincoln's head first between the tread grooves. If the tread does not come up to or cover Lincoln's head, the tire is not safe and should be replaced.

*Steering System* – If the steering is not working properly or difficult to control the direction of the vehicle or if the vehicle does not turn when the steering wheel is first moved, have the steering mechanism checked by a mechanic.

*Suspension System* – The suspension helps the driver control a vehicle and provides a comfortable ride over a variety of road surfaces. If the vehicle bounces a lot and continues to bounce after passing over a bump or after the vehicle comes to a stop, you may need new shock absorbers or other suspension system parts.

*Exhaust System* – The exhaust system helps remove toxic gases from the engine, aids in the reduction of noise from the engine, and helps cool the hot gases from the running engine. Fumes from a leaky exhaust can cause death in a very short time.

Never allow the engine to idle in your garage or sit in the car while the motor is idling without opening a window. During extended winter travel it's a good idea to occasionally open a window and allow fresh air to fill the cabin of the vehicle avoiding any risk of toxic exhaust fumes filtering into the moving vehicle.

*Engine* – An engine not properly maintained may lose power needed for routine driving or in a worst case situation, when the driver needs power to avoid an imminent crash or emergency. Poorly maintained engines also tend not to start easily, offer less than acceptable fuel economy and pollute the environment. Always follow the prescribed procedures for routine maintenance found in the vehicle owner/operator handbook.

*Loose Objects* – Always be aware of what items may be in the vehicle you're driving. Make sure there are no loose packages or other objects that could become dangerous projectiles that could strike you or a passenger in the event of a sudden stop or crash. Keep the floor of the vehicle clear of anything that could roll under the brake pedal preventing the brake from operating at its maximum effectiveness.

*Horn* – It may not seem that the warning horn would be an important part of the vehicle safety package, but this device could save your life. It should only be used as a warning to others.

## **Keeping Your Field of Vision Clean and Clear**

Being able to clearly see what's outside your vehicle while you're driving is probably the best defense there is to prevent a traffic crash. It is important that the driver's view through all windows of the vehicle is unobstructed with a clear field of vision for the driver to see the rearview mirror and both side view mirrors. Likewise, your headlights and warning lights should also be unobstructed and clear of dirt and debris. Here are a few tips to remember that may help you:

- Keep the windshield clean. Bright sun or headlights on a dirty windshield make it difficult to see. Carry liquid cleaner and a paper or cloth towel so you can clean your windshield surface whenever necessary.
- Keep your window washer bottle full. Use antifreeze wash when the temperature may fall below freezing.
- The inside surface of the windows should not be overlooked. Keep the inside window surfaces clean, especially if anyone has been smoking in the vehicle. Smoking causes a film to build up on the interior glass.
- Never try to drive with snow, ice or frost on the exterior windows. Clear the front, side, and back windows before you drive.
- Do not hang items from your mirror or clutter-up the view through the windshield with decals. These items could block a portion of your view.

- Keep the headlights, backup, brake, and taillights clean. Dirt on the lenses can cut the effectiveness of the lights by as much as 50 percent.

## **Adjusting Driver Seat and Mirrors**

Always check your seat and mirrors before driving away. Some vehicles are driven by more than one person and these adjustments will have to be made regularly as the drivers change.

- Adjust the driver seat so that you can see above the front of the vehicle with an unobstructed view of the roadway. If necessary use a seat cushion. Never try to move the seat forward beyond a point that you cannot easily maneuver the steering wheel.
- You should be able to see out the back window with the rear view mirror, and to the sides using the exterior side mirrors.
- If your vehicle is equipped with a daylight/nighttime mirror, make sure it is correctly positioned for the current lighting conditions.
- Head restraints are designed to prevent neck injuries should your vehicle be struck from behind. Head rests should be adjusted so the head restraint contacts the back of the head.

## **Use of Safety Belts and Child Restraints**

Before you drive away, always fasten your safety belts and make sure all passengers are using safety belts, or child restraints. Also remember to lock the vehicle doors.

It is important that you and your passengers use safety belts. Studies have shown that if you are involved in a crash, using safety belts, your chances of being hurt or killed are greatly reduced. In Arkansas, it is illegal to drive, or to be a front-seat passenger, without wearing safety belts.

Be sure to wear both the lap belt and shoulder belt. Using just one part of the safety restraint system reduces the level of protective effectiveness. If your vehicle is equipped with an automatic shoulder belt, be sure to also buckle the lap belt.

In addition to protecting you from injury, safety belts help the driver keep control of the vehicle. If your vehicle is struck by moving object such as another vehicle, or if you have to make a sudden turn, the inertial force from the impact or turn could push you and your passengers to one side or the other of the vehicle. A safety belt will help keep the driver in place to control the vehicle.

Safety belts should be worn even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. While modern air bag systems are good protection devices, an air bag will not keep you and your passengers in position, particularly during a roll-over crash.



The law requires that all children under the age of fifteen wear appropriate safety restraints while the vehicle is in motion. Children under the age of six, or weighing less than sixty pounds, must be secured in an approved safety seat. A number of organizations will loan you a child safety seat if you are unable to afford one.

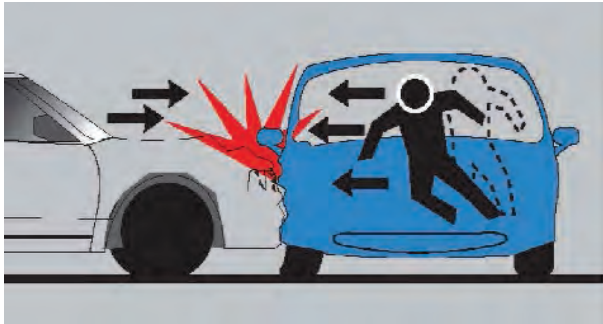
Many individuals have come to rely on inaccurate information about using safety belts. Here are a few examples:

*"Safety belts can trap you inside a car."* It takes less than a second to release a safety belt. You may hear reports of a car that was engulfed by fire or was emerged in water after being forced from the roadway. Crashes such as these seldom happen. Even if they do, a safety belt may keep you from being left unconscious. Your chance of escape from the flames or water will be better if you are conscious.

*"Safety belts are good on long trips, but I do not need them if I am driving around town."* Over half of all traffic crash deaths occur within twenty-five miles of a driver's home. Many of the crashes occur on roads with posted speed limits of less than 45 mph.

*"Some people are thrown clear in a crash and walk away with hardly a scratch."* Your chances of surviving a motor vehicle crash are much better if you stay inside the vehicle. A safety belt can keep you from being thrown out of your vehicle into the path of another vehicle.

*"If I get hit from the side, I'm better off being thrown across the car, away from the crash point."* When a vehicle is struck from the side, it quickly moves sideways. Everything in the car that is not secured, including the driver and passengers, will slide toward the point of crash, not away from it.



*"At slow speed, I can brace myself."* Even at 25 mph, the force of a head-on crash is the same as pedaling a bicycle into a brick wall or diving off a three story tall building onto the sidewalk below. No one can safely brace themselves for such an impact.

## The Law on Littering

Arkansas is "The Natural State" and litter is unnatural. More than just an ugly, offensive nuisance that detracts from Arkansas' scenic beauty; roadside litter is dangerous to motorists and negatively impacts the environmental quality. Litter is also expensive to control. Motorists must accept personal responsibility for keeping their waste items from littering Arkansas roadways. Please demonstrate pride while using your driving privilege. Don't permit thoughtless or careless actions to litter our state's roadways.

Littering is also a violation of the law. Upon conviction, first offenders are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and not more than eight hours of community service. Subsequent convictions can result in fines up to \$2,000 and twenty-four hours of community service.

## **Unattended Children and Pets**

Every summer we read tragic stories of children or pets dying due to drivers who left them unattended inside a hot vehicle. Even with the windows partially open, temperatures rapidly rise to deadly levels inside a vehicle parked in direct sunlight. There is also the danger of a child being abducted from an unattended vehicle. Even if you only intend to be away from the vehicle for a few minutes, do not leave children or pets unattended.

## **RULES OF THE ROAD**

There are traffic laws, rules and regulations that dictate where, when, and how fast you can drive and each is designed to help keep traffic moving safely. Rules of the road include traffic controls, lane controls, right-of-way laws, and parking rules.

### **Construction/Maintenance Zone Safety**

Highway work zones are established according to the type of work underway along the roadway. Signs in work areas are typically diamond shaped, orange, displaying black letters or symbols, and serve as a warning that people are working on or near the highway. In addition to warning signs, police officers, flaggers, roadway markings, and traffic control devices are used to direct drivers safely through work zones and protect highway workers.

Through many work zones, the speed limits may be reduced and lane usage could be restricted for safety purposes. Any reduced speed will be clearly posted within the work zone. If there are no reduced speed limits posted, drivers should obey the normal posted speed limit. Remember though to be prepared for the unexpected when traveling through work zones.

In Arkansas, fines for all moving traffic violations occurring in a highway work zone are doubled if workers are present and warning signs are present in advance of the work zone.

### **Traffic Controls**

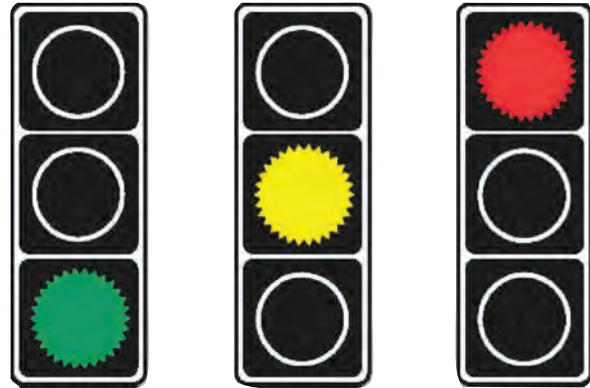
Traffic controls include traffic signals, traffic signs, and pavement markings. Traffic control also can be provided by law enforcement, highway personnel, or school crossing guards. You must obey directions from these individuals.

## *Lighted Traffic Signals*

Traffic signal lights are designed to indicate to a driver when and where to stop and when to proceed. The signals are typically placed at intersections or other roadway locations where there is a large volume of traffic or high incidents of traffic crashes.

While the most common form of traffic signal light is constructed with three different color lenses (red, yellow and green), a driver may encounter intersections with a single light and lens of a particular color.

A green light indicates you may proceed if there is no opposing traffic. A yellow light indicates caution and a red light is an indication to stop.



At some locations a driver may encounter a small but very bright strobe light within the center of the red light. Such devices are designed to draw the attention of the driver to the red light and stop. Once the light changes to green and there is no opposing traffic a driver may continue through the intersection.

Approaching a controlled intersection with intentions to turn right will require the driver to come to a stop if the traffic signal is red. However, once the driver has come to a complete stop and there is no opposing traffic to interfere with the right turn, the driver may proceed with the turn. It is important during such turns to be cautious of pedestrians crossing in front of the vehicle.

A flashing red traffic light indicates the same as a stop sign. A driver must come to a complete stop, then proceed only when it is safe.

A lighted red arrow indicates a driver must stop and is prohibited from turning in the same direction indicated by the arrow. The driver may proceed however once the arrow light changes to green.

A continuous yellow traffic light indicates the traffic signal is about to change. The driver of a vehicle must stop if such a stop can be executed safely without blocking the intersection. However if the driver is within the intersection when the yellow light changes, the driver must not stop, but proceed through the intersection. A flashing yellow traffic signal light indicates to proceed with caution. A yellow lighted arrow indicates the signal is about to change and if the driver is about to turn in the direction of the arrow, preparation should be made to stop.

A steady green traffic light indicates a driver may proceed through an intersection if there is no opposing traffic. If a driver is stopped at a controlled intersection and the signal light changes color to green, the driver must allow opposing traffic already in the intersection to clear the intersection before proceeding. A green lighted arrow is an indication a driver may turn in the direction of the arrow.

Unless a traffic sign is posted to prohibit turns in a particular direction through an intersection, a driver may turn left from a one-way street onto another one-way street when a traffic signal light indicates red, however the turn can only be initiated after the driver has come to a complete stop and yields to any opposing traffic within the intersection.

Always remember that Arkansas laws require drivers to yield to emergency vehicles. Law enforcement, fire, or ambulance vehicles that may be moving through an intersection with emergency lights and sirens will have the right of way and you must yield to this traffic.

### *Traffic Signs*

Traffic signs indicate traffic rules, hazards, location, travel directions, and where services are located. The shape and color of these signs provide an indication of the type of information that will be indicated by the sign.

*Stop Signs* – A stop sign is red with white letters and has eight sides. It means a driver must come to a complete stop. The driver must wait until crossing vehicles and pedestrians have cleared the intersection. Also there may be a line painted on the street or roadway at the intersection next to a stop sign indicating where the vehicle must stop. If necessary, a driver may pull forward to the stop sign or the edge of the intersection, then proceed only when it is safe to do so.

*Speed Limit Signs* – These signs indicate the maximum or minimum safe speed that is allowed for a particular section of highway, road or street. Always remember that the maximum speed limits are for ideal conditions and a driver must reduce speed as conditions dictate such as when the roadway is slippery or visibility becomes obscured. Some high speed roads have minimum speed limits. If a minimum speed is too fast for a particular driver or their vehicle, another route should be used.

*Yield Signs* – A yield sign is a triangle shaped sign pointing downward. It is red and white with red letters. It means the driver must slow and yield the right-of-way to traffic in the intersection the driver may be crossing or roadway the driver is entering. Court imposed fines for failure to yield charges can amount up to \$1,000 and suspension of the violator's driver license for up to 180 days.

*Do Not Enter Signs* – A square sign with a white horizontal line inside a red ball means the vehicle cannot enter. The driver will see such signs at roadway openings to one-way streets, exit ramps, in crossovers on divided roadways, and at numerous locations on one-way streets.

*Slow Moving Vehicle Signs* – A reflective orange triangle on the rear of a vehicle means the vehicle is traveling less than 25 miles per hour. A driver may see this sign on construction equipment or in rural areas on farm vehicles, or on horse drawn wagons or carriages.

*Destination Signs* – These signs are square or rectangular shaped, and are green or brown with white lettering. The signs indicate directions and distance to various locations such as cities, airports, state borders, or to special areas such as national parks, historical areas, or museums.

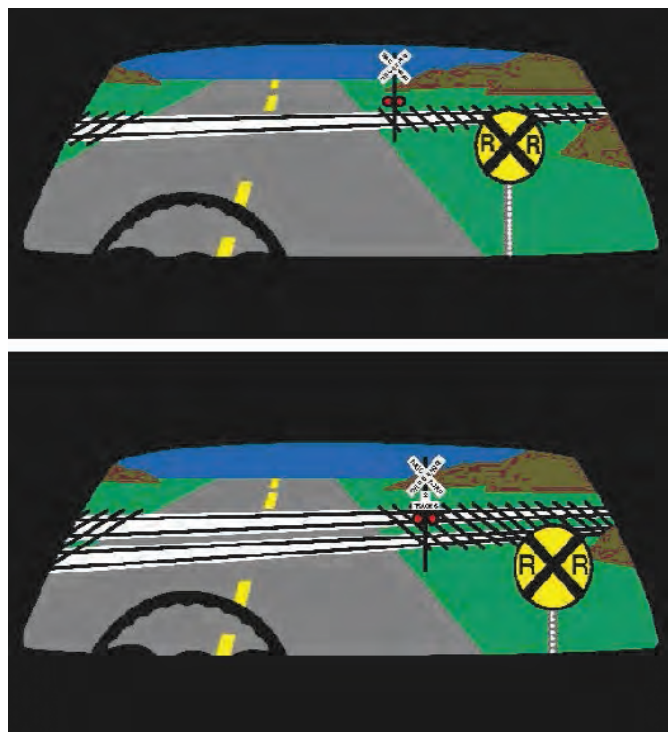
*Service Signs* – These signs are square or rectangular shaped, and are blue with white letters or symbols. The signs indicate the location of various services such as rest areas, gas stations, campgrounds, or hospitals.

*Route Signs* – The shape of route signs indicates the type of roadway: Interstate, U.S., state or county. When planning a trip, use a highway map to determine your route. During the trip, follow the route signs.

*Railroad Crossing Warning Signs* – Many railroad crossings have signs or signals to warn drivers. You should never try to cross a rail crossings in an attempt to beat an oncoming train and never start to cross until there is enough distance for your vehicle on the opposite side of the track. If your vehicle is equipped with a manual transmission, it is wise not to shift gears when crossing railroad tracks to avoid the possibility of an engine stall. Some common railroad crossing warning signs and signals are illustrated below.

A round yellow sign with an "X" symbol and black "RR" letters (top right) placed along the roadway may be your first warning that you are about to approach a railroad crossing. A white X-shaped sign or "crossbuck" is located at the railroad crossing. This sign has the same meaning as a "Yield" sign.

Posted at some railroad crossings, along with the "cross buck" sign, a driver will see parallel lights that flash alternately. Gates that lower as a train approaches are also common at some crossings along with a warning bell. Signs may also indicate a number of track sets within a railroad crossing zone.



*Warning Signs* – These signs are yellow with black lettering or symbols and most are diamond shaped. These signs warn a driver to slow and be prepared to stop if necessary, or provide information about a special situation or a hazard that may be along the road ahead. Some common warning signs are shown below.



**Intersection**



**Traffic Signal**



**Merging Traffic**



**Two-Way**



**Traffic Lane Ends**



**School Zone**



**Pedestrian Crossing**



**School Crossing**



**Divided Highway**



**Slippery When Wet**



**Bridge Clearance**



**Incline or Hill**

There are signs on a white square or rectangular with black and/or red letters or symbols. These signs provide information about rules for traffic direction, lane use, turning, parking, and other special instructions. Some of the signs have a red circle with a red slash over a particular symbol. These regulation signs indicate a driver is prohibited from executing a particular maneuver such as a turn toward a particular direction or no u-turn.

Common types of regulation signs are:



*Work Area Signs* – These signs are typically diamond shaped, orange with black letters or symbols, and warn a driver that workers may be along side or on the roadway. These warnings include reduced speed, detours, slow moving construction equipment, and poor or suddenly changing road surfaces. In work areas, traffic may be controlled by a person with a sign or flag, known as a flagger.

Some commonly used work area signs are shown below:



Used at locations along a roadway where a flagger may be stationed to control traffic.



Warning to drivers of an approaching alternate route of travel through a construction zone.



Work is underway along the driver's route of travel. Be prepared for road obstructions or restrictions.



Warning of two-way traffic along a single lane roadway.



Mowing equipment may be in operation on or next to the highway.



Warning to drivers that fines associated with violations are doubled if the violation occurs within a construction zone.



Used to warn drivers of work along multi-lane roadways and only one lane is open to traffic



Construction work may have caused a difference in the elevation of parallel traffic lanes.

*Lane Control Signs* – These signs indicate where a driver can go and where a driver can turn and often use an arrow as a symbol. The signs are along the road or positioned over the roadway. It is not unusual for these indicators to be painted onto the roadway.



*Passing Signs* – These signs indicate where it is safe to pass another vehicle and where a driver may not pass. The signs indicate where a driver can pass, or the beginning and ending of a passing zone, or where the driver may not pass. Where passing is permitted, a driver may do so only if it is safe.

## Pavement Markings

Lines and symbols marked on the roadway divide lanes, indicate to a driver when it is

safe to pass other vehicles or change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, where a driver must stop for signs or traffic signals, and define pedestrian walkways.

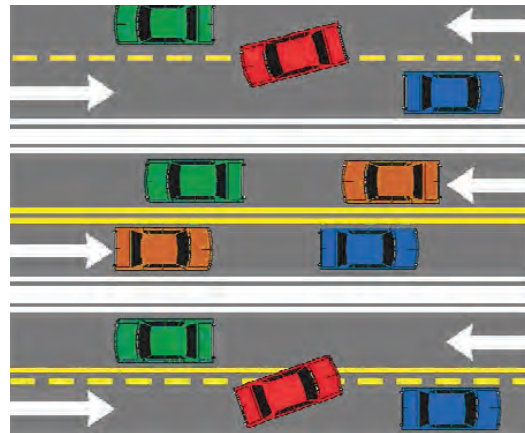


*Fog Line and Lane Lines* – A solid white line along the side of the roadway is a point of reference for the driver to indicate where the outer edge of the road is located. Lines separating lanes of traffic moving in the same direction are white. Lines separating lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions are yellow.

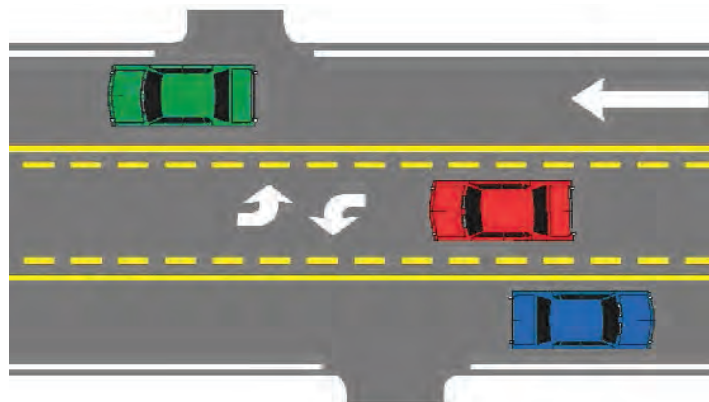
*White Lane Markings* – A dashed white line between lanes of traffic indicates a driver may cross the line to change lanes, but only if it is safe. A solid white line between lanes of traffic means that a driver should stay within the lane.

*Crosswalks and Stop Lines* – When required to stop because of a sign or signal, a driver must stop before the vehicle reaches the stop line, or if there is one, a crosswalk. Crosswalks define the area where pedestrians are to cross the roadway. A driver must yield to pedestrians in or about to enter a crosswalk. Not all crosswalks are marked. Be alert for pedestrians when crossing intersections that do not have defined crosswalks.

*Yellow Lane Markings* – A broken yellow line between opposing lanes of traffic indicate a driver may cross to pass if there is no opposing traffic. If there is a solid and broken line between opposing lanes, a driver may pass if there is no opposing traffic. Two solid lines between opposing lanes of traffic indicate neither lanes of traffic may pass. A driver may cross a solid yellow line to turn into a driveway if there is no opposing traffic approaching the planned turn site.



*Shared Center Lane* - Shared center lanes are reserved for making left turns and can be used by vehicles traveling in either direction. Marked on the pavement, left turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left turn arrows for traffic approaching from the opposing direction.





These lanes are marked on each side by solid yellow and dashed yellow lines. In Arkansas it is permissible for a vehicle making a left turn from an intersecting street or driveway to utilize a center left turn lane as part of the maneuver to gain access or merge into traffic lanes, except that it is not permissible to use the center left turn lane as an acceleration lane.

*Unmarked Lanes* – When there are no signs or markings to control the use of lanes, there are rules that indicate which lane is to be used. These rules cover general driving, passing, and turning.

*General Driving* – Never back a vehicle in any travel lane. It is illegal and unsafe to do so. If a turn or exit is missed, do not back up; proceed to a safe turn around area.

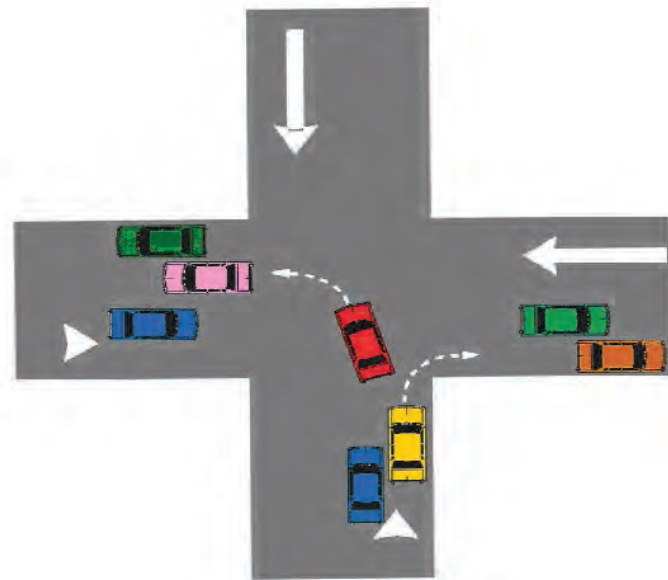
Never stop in travel lanes for any reason (e.g. confusion, breakdown, letting out a passenger). Keep moving until you can safely pull off the road.

On a road with three or more lanes traveling in the same direction, remain in the right lane except to pass. If there is considerable merging traffic, then use the center travel lane.

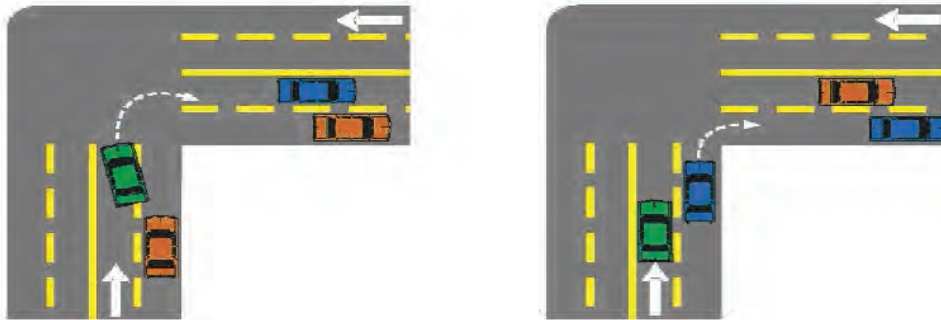
Unless directed to do so by a police officer never drive on the shoulder of the road.

*Passing* – On multi-lane roads, the left-most lane is intended to be used to pass slower vehicles. Never pass on the shoulder, whether it is paved or not. Other drivers will never expect you to be there and may pull off the road without looking.

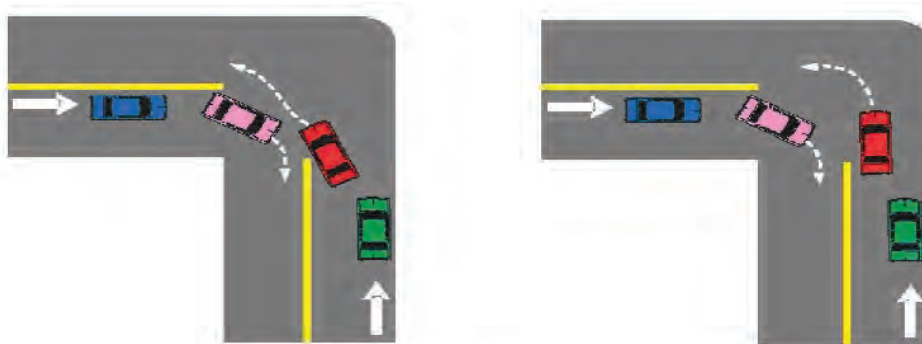
*Turning* – Where there are no signs or lane markings to control turning, a driver should turn from the lane that is closest to the direction of travel and turn into the lane closest to the lane from which the turn is initiated. When making turns, go from one lane to the other as directly as possible without crossing lane lines or interfering with traffic. Once a turn has been completed, a change of lanes can begin.



*Right turns* – On right turns, avoid a swinging wide turn to the left before initiating the turn. Swinging wide turns may cause the driver behind you to think you are changing lanes or going to turn left and may try to pass you on the right. If you swing wide as you complete the turn, drivers who are in the far lane will not expect to see you there.



*Left Turns* – When making a left turn, avoid cutting the corner so sharply that you run into another vehicle approaching from the left. However, you must leave room for oncoming vehicles to turn left in front of you.



## Right-Of-Way

Where vehicles or pedestrians are likely to converge, and there are no signs or signals to regulate traffic, there are rules that indicate which vehicle must yield the right-of-way. These rules indicate which vehicle goes first and which vehicle must wait in different traffic situations. *AR Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities April 2007*

The law indicates which vehicle must yield the right-of-way; it does not give anyone the right-of-way. A driver must do everything possible to prevent striking a pedestrian or another vehicle, regardless of the circumstances.

## *Intersections*

The following right-of-way rules apply at intersections:

- Drivers must yield where necessary to avoid striking pedestrians who are legally crossing the road.
- Drivers crossing a sidewalk when entering or exiting a driveway, alley, or parking lot must yield to pedestrians. It is illegal to drive on a sidewalk except to cross it.
- Pedestrians using a guide dog or carrying a white cane have absolute right-of-way. Do not use your horn as it could confuse or frighten a blind pedestrian.
- Drivers turning left must yield to oncoming cars traveling straight-ahead.
- Drivers entering a traffic circle or rotary must yield to drivers already in the circle.
- At an intersection where there is no stop sign or traffic signal, drivers must yield to vehicles approaching from the right.
- At a 4-way stop, the driver reaching the intersection first gets to go first (after coming to a complete stop).
- Drivers entering a road from a driveway, alley or roadside must yield to vehicles already on the main road.
- Drivers may not enter an intersection unless they can get through it without having to stop. You should wait until traffic clears, so that you are not blocking the intersection.

## *Passing*

Drivers passing a vehicle traveling in the same direction must yield to that vehicle, even if the vehicle is slowing or coming to a stop, because the vehicle may be about to turn left or may be approaching a hazard the overtaking driver does not see.

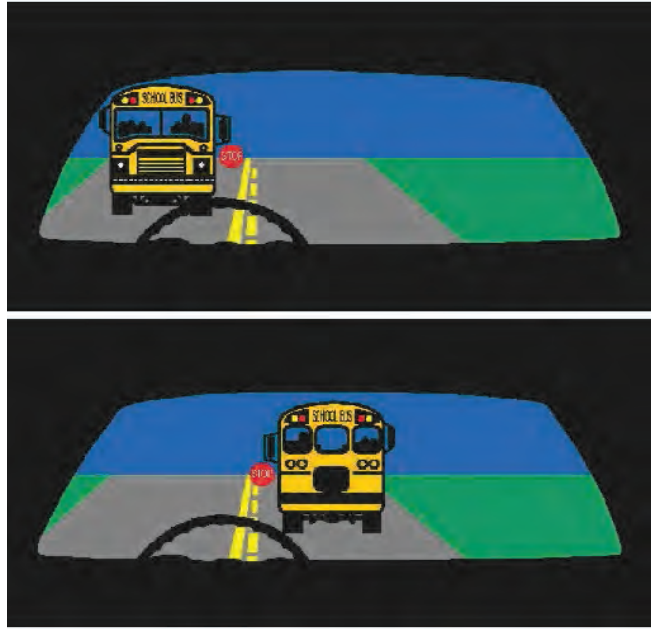
## *Emergency Vehicles*

A driver must yield the right of way to a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle using a siren or air horn, and a red or blue flashing light. Drivers should pull over to the right edge of the road, or as near to the right as possible, when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction. Follow any instructions given over the emergency vehicle's loudspeaker. If you are in an intersection, drive through the intersection before pulling over.

Arkansas law requires that any motor vehicle operator on a multilane highway must move whenever safely possible to the farthest lane away from law enforcement vehicle that is stopped and has emergency lighting turned-on. This law is designed to help protect police officers and individuals who may be the subject of a traffic stop from being injured by traffic moving dangerously close to the edge of the highway where the traffic stop is occurring. Violators of this law may be fined and have their driver license suspended.

## *School Buses*

When approaching a school bus that is stopped and red warning lights on the bus are activated, all approaching vehicles are required to also stop. Regardless of where the driver may be in relation to the bus, whether its in the same lane of traffic, opposing lane or at an intersection, traffic must come to a complete stop until the school bus turns-off the warning lights and begins to move. Drivers are not required to stop if the school bus is approaching along an opposite lane of travel separated by a median twenty feet or more in width.



It is a felony to negligently cause the death of a person while passing a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading school children.

Always exercise extreme caution at a school bus stop, even as the bus may be leaving the stop, children may still be crossing the street or roadway.

## **Parking**

Drivers are responsible for making certain their vehicle does not become a hazard after it has been parked. Whenever a driver parks a car it should be in a place that is (1) far enough from the street or highway to avoid interfering with traffic and (2) visible to cars approaching from either direction.

- If possible, always park in a designated area.
- Always set the parking brake. Leave the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission or in "park" if it has an automatic transmission.
- Check traffic before you open the door. If possible, get out of the vehicle on the curb side if you can. If you have to use the street side, check traffic before exiting. Shut the door as soon as you can after getting out.
- Never leave the ignition keys in a parked car. Lock the doors whenever you leave your vehicle.
- If you must park on a roadway, park your vehicle as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park as close to the curb as possible.
- When parking on a hill, turn the wheels sharply away from traffic to prevent the car from possible rolling into traffic.

## *No-Parking Zones*

There are many areas where parking is restricted. Check any signs that may prohibit or limit parking. Some parking restrictions are indicated by colored curb markings. Do not park:

- In an intersection
- On a crosswalk or sidewalk
- In a construction area if your vehicle would block traffic
- Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within thirty feet of a traffic signal, stop sign, or yield sign
- Within thirty feet of a pedestrian safety zone
- Within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant
- Within fifty feet of a railroad crossing
- More than eighteen inches from the curb
- Within twenty feet of a fire station driveway on the same side of the street, or within seventy-five feet of a fire station driveway on the opposite side of the street where proper signs are posted
- Blocking a driveway, alley, private road, or area of the curb removed or lowered for access to the sidewalk
- On a bridge or overpass, or in a tunnel or underpass
- Along a lane of opposing traffic
- In a space marked for the handicapped, unless you have an authorized handicapped license plate, tag, or sticker issued by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
- Along the street or highway next to another parked vehicle (double parking)
- On railroad tracks
- Wherever a sign indicates you may not park

Other parking restrictions are indicated by curbs painted:

- Red indicating fire zone
- Yellow indicating a loading zone or other restriction

## **AR Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities April 2007**

Handicap parking referred to politically and legislatively as "Accessible Parking." These parking spaces are not *special* places for convenience, but in fact, create equal access for persons with a mobility disability or other disabilities as defined under state laws. Accessible parking spaces are created to enable individuals with disabilities to accomplish his same task, as other individuals are able to accomplish. Many people have the misconception that accessible spaces are designed for a matter of convenience. This is a misconception; accessible parking spaces *create equal access*; thus allowing the individual with the disability the same opportunity as all people.

To park in an accessible parking space a person must either have the appropriate license plate with the international symbol or the hangtag, referred to legislatively as the "Special Certificate." The assigned special license plate is granted to the registered owner of said vehicle; whereby the Special Certificate is, registered to the individual with the disability and is transferable to other vehicles as long as the owner of the special certificate is in the said vehicle. When an individual with a disability obtains the special certificate or special license plate, a photo identification card must be purchased for \$5.00; this card will correspond with the issued special certificate number or a person with a disability may choose to have the special certificate number endorsed on the back of their driver's license

or state I.D. card for verification of ownership. Further, in both instances the individual with the disability must:

- a) Be present in the vehicle when parking in an accessible parking space.
- b) The special certificate is to be displayed hanging from the rearview mirror or the dashboard.
- c) The registered owner of the special certificate or vehicle with appropriate license plate must exit the vehicle, when utilizing a designated space.
- d) The issued or endorsed photo identification card must be present on the person at all times when utilizing an accessible parking space.

Anyone illegally utilizing another individual's special certificate is committing fraud, and guilty of a Class A misdemeanor according to 27-15-305 of the Arkansas Code. Penalties include, but are not limited to, for the first offense is \$100.00 to \$500.00. The second offense is \$250.00 up to \$1,000.00, plus six months suspended driver's license, and the offender is liable for all towing, impoundment, attorney fees, court costs, and other related fees. When moving out of state or after the death of the person whom the special certificate or plate was issued, the items must be returned to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Special Division within 30 days of occurrence.

## SAFE DRIVING TIPS

No driver manual can teach you how to operate a vehicle or be a safe driver. Driving requires skill only gained through instruction and practice.

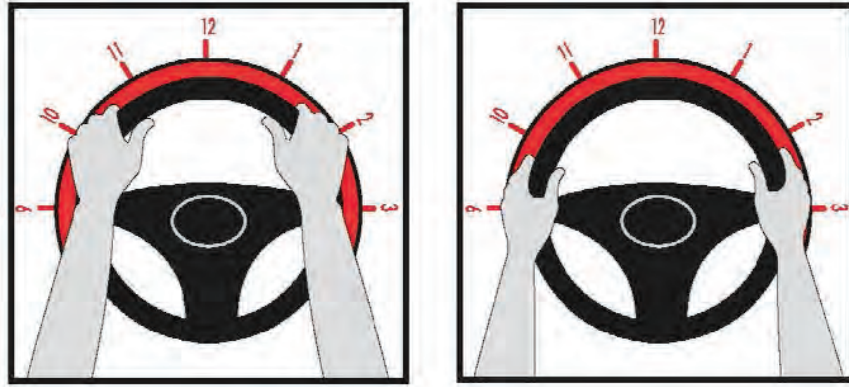
### Operating the Motor Vehicle

*Starting the Vehicle Engine* – Check the vehicle owner's manual for the best starting procedures for your particular vehicle. The procedures differ depending on whether or not the vehicle has electronic ignition and the type of transmission. Make sure the parking brake is set before starting the vehicle.

If the vehicle has a manual transmission, it must not be in gear, and in some vehicles, you must depress the clutch. For a vehicle that has an automatic transmission, you must put the shift selector in "park," otherwise the vehicle will not start.

*Acceleration* – Accelerate speed of the vehicle smoothly and gradually. Trying to start too fast can cause the drive wheels to spin, particularly on slippery surfaces, and cause the vehicle to slide. With a vehicle equipped with a manual transmission, practice using the clutch and accelerator so that the engine does not over accelerate or stall when shifting between gears.

*Steering the Vehicle* – Use a proper grip on the steering wheel. Hands should be placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel. This position is comfortable and allows you to make turns without taking your hands off the wheel.



Scan the road ahead, not just at the road in front of your vehicle. Look for traffic situations where you will need to change direction before it's too late. This way, you have time to steer smoothly and safely.

When executing a sharp turn, such as around corners of an intersection, use the "hand-over-hand" technique to control the vehicle steering wheel. Do not turn the wheel with the palm of your hand. When you complete a turn, return the steering wheel to the appropriate position relative to the direction the vehicle should be moving.

*Monitoring Vehicle Speed* – Check the speedometer often. You may be going much faster than you think. This is especially true when you leave high speed roads and move to roadways with a slower posted speed.

Obey speed limit signs. Limits on speed are set for your safety.

*Stopping* – Be alert so that you know when you will have to stop well before it is necessary. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and usually points to a driver who is 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 avoid hitting you.

Try to avoid stops by scanning the road ahead. By slowing or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, it can be a more gradual and safer stop.

## **Remaining Alert and Avoiding Distractions**

Most of what you do in driving depends on what you see. To be a good driver, you need to see well. The single biggest contributor to accidents is failing to see what is about to happen. You must look down the road, to the sides and behind your vehicle, and be alert for unexpected events. At night and at other times when it's hard to see, you must use your headlights. In many crashes with motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians, drivers reported they did not see the other vehicle.

Drivers must be alert to what is going on around them. Many accidents occur because drivers do not pay enough attention. Don't take your eyes off the road for

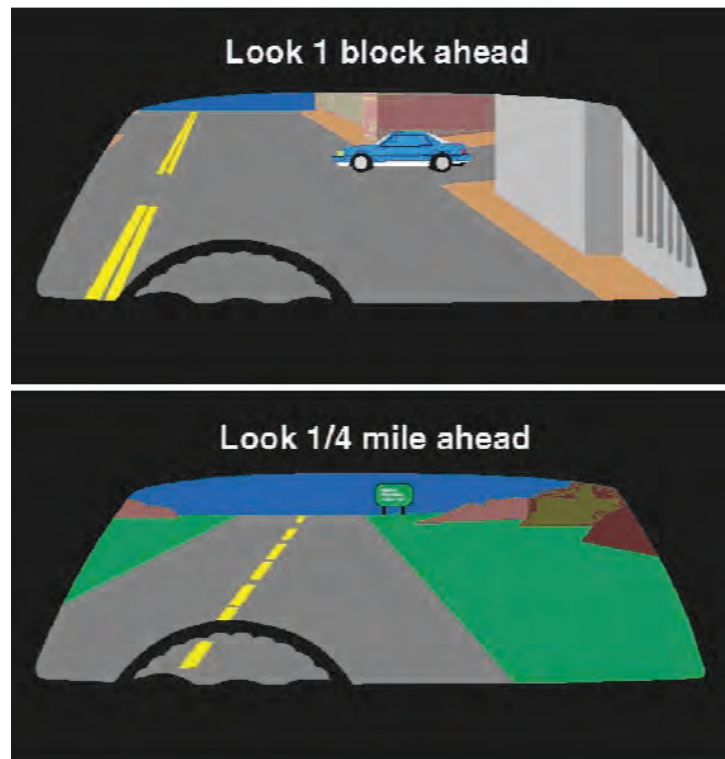
more than a few seconds at any one time. For example, if you need to look at a map, pull safely off the road before looking at the map.

If you have a cellular phone or CB radio, avoid using it when the vehicle is in motion. Even with “hands free” equipment, conversing on a phone or radio takes your attention away from driving and can cause you to be less likely to notice hazardous situations.

Do not “rubberneck” (slow your vehicle or become distracted) at crash scenes or at locations along the highway where a law enforcement officer may have a vehicle pulled off the road. Rubbernecking could cause you to become involved in a crash. If you take your eyes off the road to look at something, you could run into a vehicle ahead that has slowed or stopped. Rubbernecking also can increase congestion. When you pass these roadside activities, keep your eyes on the road.

To be a good driver, you must know what is happening around your vehicle. You must look ahead, to the sides, and behind the vehicle. Scanning helps you to see problems ahead, vehicles and people that may be in the road by the time you reach them, signs warning of problems ahead, and signs giving you directions.

*Looking Ahead* – In order to avoid last-minute braking or the need to turn, you should look down the road at least one city block in the city or one quarter mile on highways and interstates. That will be about fifteen seconds ahead of your vehicle. By looking well ahead and being ready to stop or change lanes, you can drive more safely, save on fuel, help keep traffic moving at a steady pace, and allow yourself time to better see around your vehicle and along the side of the road.



Here is how to figure if you are looking fifteen seconds ahead:

1. Find a stationary object such as a sign or telephone pole near the road about as far ahead as you are looking.
2. Start counting: one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand, three-one-thousand, etc., until you reach the object.
3. The number of seconds you have counted is the number of seconds ahead that you were looking.



By scanning the road ahead, you can save fuel. Every time you have to stop quickly, it takes time and fuel to get your car back up to speed. Making driving changes before the last second gives drivers behind you more time to react. By anticipating driving changes, you can drive more safely and that helps drivers behind you drive more safely.

*Looking to the Sides* – As other vehicles or pedestrians may cross or enter your path at any time, you should look to the sides to make sure no one is coming. This is especially true at intersections and railroad crossings.

*Intersections* – Intersections are places where traffic merges or crosses. These areas include: cross streets, side streets, driveways, and shopping center or parking lot entrances. Before entering an intersection, look both left and right for approaching vehicles and/or crossing pedestrians. If stopped, look both left and right before you start moving. Look across the intersection before you begin to move, making sure the path is clear through the intersection.

Before turning left across traffic, look for a safe gap in the oncoming traffic. Look to the street you are turning into to make sure that no vehicles or pedestrians are in your path that may leave you stranded in the path of oncoming traffic. Look a second time in the direction of oncoming traffic before finally making your turn.

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

Never assume an intersection or cross-walk is clear. There are drivers who may become distracted or pedestrians who are not paying attention to the traffic controls who will cross your path at the same time you may be entering the intersection. Always stop to look left, then right, even if other traffic is suppose to stop for a stop sign or red light. This rule is particularly important in the first seconds after a traffic light has switched to green. It is then that pedestrians may try to quickly cross your path or another vehicle may try to “beat the light” in a deadly attempt to get through before opposing traffic enters the intersection.

Make sure you can clearly see crossing traffic before entering an intersection. If stopped at an intersection 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 the approaching vehicle.

Whenever there is activity along side the road, there is a good chance someone will cross or enter the road. Therefore, it is very important to look to the sides when you are near shopping centers and parking lots, construction areas, busy sidewalks, playgrounds, and school yards.

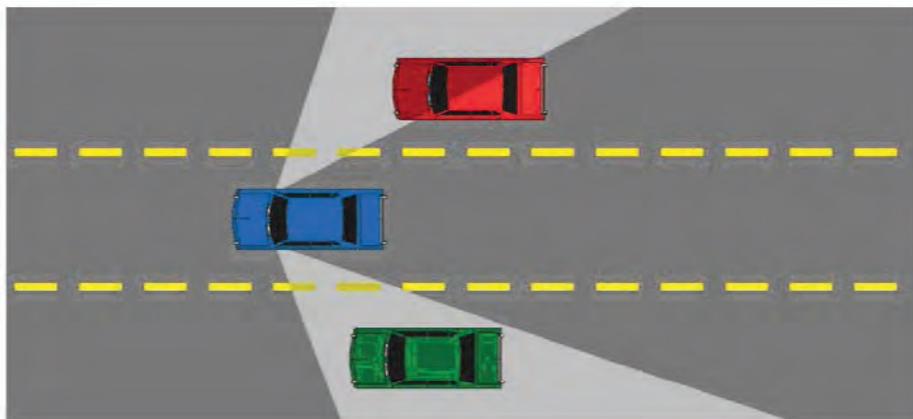
*Railroad Crossings* – As you approach any railroad crossing, look up and down the track to make sure a train is not approaching. Do not assume that a train is not coming even if you have never seen one at a particular crossing before. That is one of the leading causes of accidents at railroad crossings.

At crossings with more than one track, wait until a passing train has cleared the area before starting to cross. Another train could be coming, one that might have been hidden by the one that just passed.

*Looking Behind* – Along with watching traffic ahead of your route, you must check traffic behind you. It is necessary to check your rearview and side view mirrors more often when traffic is heavy. This is the only way you will know if another vehicle is following too closely or coming up too fast and it will give you time to do something about it. It is very important to look behind for vehicles when you change lanes, slow, back up, or are driving along a steep incline.

*Changing Lanes* – Whenever changing lanes, you must check to be certain no vehicles are in the lane you want to enter. This means you must check for traffic to the side and behind your vehicle before changing 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, you should:

- Look in your rear-view and side mirrors. Make sure there are no vehicles in the lane you want to enter. 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 your vehicle. These areas are called “blind spots” because you cannot see the area through your mirrors. You have to turn your head and look.



- Check quickly. Don't take your eyes off the road ahead for more than an instant. Traffic ahead could stop suddenly while you're checking traffic to the sides, rear, or over your shoulder. Also, use your mirrors to check traffic while you are preparing to change lanes, merge, or pull onto the roadway. Check over your shoulder just before you change lanes for traffic in your

blind spot. You must keep track of what traffic is doing in front of you and in the lane you are entering.

- Be certain to check the other parallel lanes of travel, when another driver may be planning to move into the same lane you want to enter.
- Remember that there are other road users such as motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians that are more difficult to see than cars and trucks. Be especially alert when you are entering the roadway from the curb or driveway.

*Slowing* – You must check behind your vehicle whenever you slow. This is very important when you slow quickly or at points where a following driver would not expect you to slow, such as private driveways or parking lots.

*Backing* – As a driver it is difficult to get a clear view of all areas behind your vehicle. Try to do as little backing as possible. In a shopping center, try to find a parking space you can drive through, so that you can drive forward when you leave. Here are some hints that will help you back your vehicle safely:

- Check behind your 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 seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window. Do not depend on your rearview or side mirrors as you cannot see directly behind your vehicle.
- Back slowly; your vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing.
- Whenever possible use a person outside the vehicle to help you back.

*Moving Along Steep Inclines* – Check traffic through your mirrors when you are going down hills or mountains. Vehicles often build up speed moving down a steep grade. Be alert for large trucks and buses that may be going too fast.

## See and Be Seen

Accidents often happen because one driver does not see another driver, or when one driver does something the other driver does not expect. It is important that drivers let other road users know they are there, and what they plan to do.

Some drivers do not always pay attention to what is going on around them. It is important that other road users know that you are there.

*External Vehicle Lights* – Along with helping you to see at night, headlights help other people see you. If needed, flick your headlights to alert other road users you are there. Remember to turn on your headlights whenever you have trouble seeing others. If you have trouble seeing them, they are having trouble seeing you.

- On rainy, snowy, or foggy days, it is sometimes hard for other drivers to see your vehicle. In these conditions, headlights make your vehicle easier to see. Remember, if you turn on your wipers, turn on your headlights. It's this is the law on Arkansas streets and roadways.

- Turn on your headlights 1/2 hour after sunset, 1/2 hour before sunrise or at any time you cannot see a person or object clearly within 500 feet.
- If lights are necessary while driving, use your headlights. Parking lights are for parked cars only, and it is illegal in Arkansas to drive with parking lights only.
- When driving away from a rising or setting sun, turn on your headlights. Drivers coming toward you may have trouble seeing your vehicle. Your headlights will help them see you.

Here are some other driving tips that can help you see and be seen:

- Use your 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 your high beams whenever you come within 500 feet of an oncoming car. Also, use your low beams when following another vehicle closer than 200 feet.
- Use the low beams in fog, or when it is snowing or raining. Light from high beams will reflect back, causing glare, and make it more difficult to see ahead. Some vehicles have fog lights that may be better suited under these conditions.
- Never drive at any time with only your parking lights turned on. Parking lights are for parking only.
- If a vehicle comes toward you with high beams on, flash your headlights quickly a couple of times. If the driver fails to dim the lights, look toward the right side of the road. This will keep you from being blinded by the other vehicle's headlights. You should also be able to see enough of the edge of the road to remain on course. Do not try to "get back" at other driver by keeping your headlights turned to the high-beam setting. If you do, both of you may be blinded.

*Warning Horn* – Your horn can get the attention of another driver. Use it whenever it will help prevent an accident. If there is no immediate danger, a light tap on the horn should be all you need.

Sound your vehicle horn when:

- A person on foot or on a bike appears to be moving into your lane of travel.
- You are passing a driver who starts to turn into your lane.
- There is a driver who is not paying attention or who may have trouble seeing you.
- Approaching a location where you cannot see what is ahead, such as 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 your horn. Do this:

- When a child or older person is about to walk, run, or ride into the street.
- When another car is in danger of hitting you.

- When you have lost control of your vehicle and are moving toward someone.

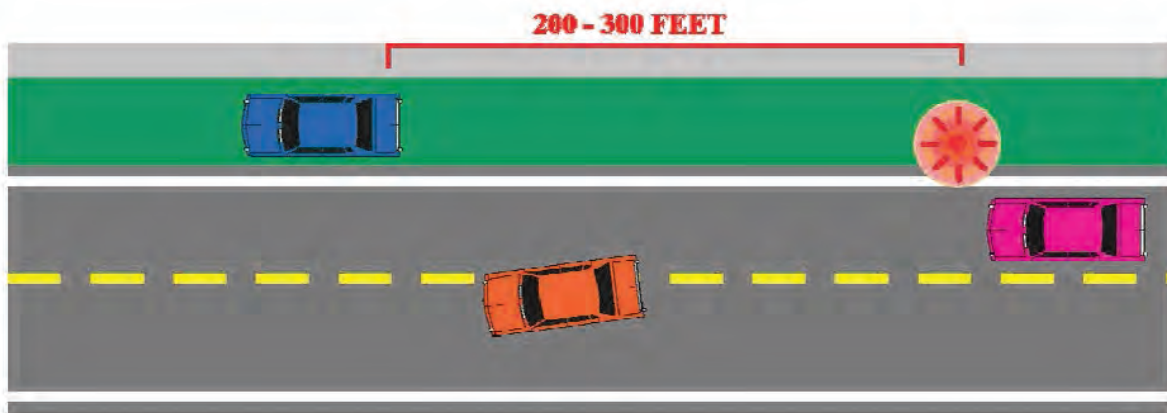
There are several occasions when you should not use your horn:

- To encourage someone to drive faster or get out of the way
- To apprise other drivers of an error
- To greet a friend
- Near blind pedestrians

*Emergency Signals* – If your vehicle breaks down on the highway, make sure that other drivers can see it. All too often highway crashes occur because a driver did not see a stalled vehicle until it was too late to stop.

If available, use a two-way radio or telephone to notify authorities that your vehicle or another has broken down. Many roadways have signs that indicate which CB channel to use or telephone number to call in an emergency. If you are having vehicle trouble and have to stop:

- If at all possible, get your vehicle off the road away from traffic.
- Use your emergency flashers to warn other drivers of the presence of a vehicle traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing.
- If you cannot get your vehicle off the roadway, try to stop where other drivers have a clear view of your vehicle. Do not stop just over a hill or just around a curve.
- Try to warn other road users that your vehicle is there. Place emergency flares behind the vehicle. This allows other drivers to change lanes if necessary.



- If you do not have emergency flares or other warning devices, stand by the side of the road, where you are safe and wave traffic away or around your vehicle. Using a white cloth, if one is available.
- Never stand in the roadway. Don't even try to change a tire if it means you have to be in a traffic lane.

- Lift the hood, or tie a white cloth to the antenna, side mirror, or door handle to signal an emergency.

*Blind Spots* – Drive your vehicle where others can see you. Don't drive in another vehicle's blind spot.

- Avoid driving on either side and slightly to the rear of another vehicle. Either speed up or drop back so the other driver can see your vehicle more easily.
- When passing another car, get through the other driver's blind spot as quickly as you can.
- Never stay alongside a large vehicle such as a truck or bus. These vehicles have large blind spots and it is hard for drivers to see you.

## Let Other Drivers Know Your Intentions

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

*Signaling to Change Directions* – It gives other drivers time to react to your moves. You should use your 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. 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 as early as possible. Try to signal at least 100 feet before you make a change.
- Be careful that you do not signal too early. If there are streets, driveways, or entrances between you and where you want to turn, wait until you have passed 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, other drivers may think you plan to turn where they are and proceed into your path.
- After you have made a turn or lane change, make sure your turn signal is off.

*Signaling to Slow* – Your brake lights let people know that you are slowing down. Always slow as early as it is safe to do so. If you are going to stop or slow at a place where another driver does not expect it, tap your brake pedal three or four times quickly to let those behind you know you are about to slow. Signal when you slow:

- To turn off a roadway that does not have a dedicated exit or deceleration lane.
- To park or turn just before an intersection. Following traffic expects you to continue to the intersection.
- To reduce speed in traffic for a hazard in the road that a driver behind you cannot see.

## Adjusting the Vehicle Speed

The faster your vehicle is going, the more distance it will take to turn, slow, or stop. For example, stopping at 60 mph does not take twice the distance it takes at 30 mph, as one might think, but over three times the distance. Driving safely means adjusting your speed to road and traffic conditions and how well you can see, and obeying speed limits.

*Adjusting to Road Conditions* – There are various road conditions which make it necessary to drive slowly. You must slow before a curve, when the roadway is slippery, and when there is standing water on the road.

The only contact your vehicle has with the road is through the tires and it is important to always know the condition of the tires on your vehicle. Tires that may have some degree of deteriorating tread combined with wet or icy road conditions are both good reasons to reduce the speed below the posted speed limit.

Many drivers do not pay enough attention to the condition of their vehicle tires or to the condition of the roadway. It is important that the tires be in good condition and properly inflated. See the vehicle owner's manual for correct air pressures.

You do not have as much traction on gravel and dirt roads as you do on concrete and asphalt roads. When driving on gravel or dirt, you must slow. It will take you much longer to stop and it is easier to skid when turning.

*Curves* – A vehicle can travel much faster in a straight line than it can in a curve. If you go too fast, then the tires will not be able to grip the road, and the vehicle will skid. Always slow before you enter the curve so you don't have to brake in the curve. Braking in a curve can cause the vehicle to skid.

*Slippery Roads* – Decrease your speed at the first sign of rain, snow, or sleet. These weather elements make the roadway slippery. When the road is slippery, the vehicle's tires do not grip as well as on a dry road. How slowly should you go? On a wet road you should reduce your speed about 10 mph. On packed snow you should cut your speed in half. Use snow tires or chains when the road is covered with snow. On ice, you must slow to a crawl. It is very dangerous to drive on ice.

If at all possible, do not drive when the roads are icy. In some areas where there is a lot of icy weather, special studded tires are allowed. Because these tires can cause road damage, in Arkansas such tires are only allowed to be used during the period from November 15 of each year until April 15 of the following year. It is illegal to use metal studded tires with studs protruding more than one-sixteenth inch from the surface of the rubber tread.

Here are some clues to help you spot slippery conditions before it's too late:

- On cold and wet days, ice may linger in shady spots along the roadway. These areas are the first to freeze and the last to thaw.
- Overpasses and bridges can become some of the first sections of roadway to develop icy conditions. It is not unusual for bridges and overpasses to be ice covered and the stretches of roadway leading up to and away from the bridge or overpass to be clear. Unlike the highway that may get natural heat from the ground below it, the design of bridges and overpasses leaves little to insulate the roadbed and allows cold air underneath the structure to speed-up the process of developing ice along the roadbed surface.
- When highway ice is initially forming, it can be wet. This makes it more slippery than at temperatures well below freezing.
- If it starts to rain on a hot day, pavement can be very slippery for the first few minutes. Heat causes oil in the asphalt to come to the surface. It makes the road more slippery until the oil is washed off.

*Water Over the Roadway* – When it is raining or the road is wet, most tires have good traction up to about 35 mph. However, as you move faster, your tires will start to ride up on the water, much like water skis. This is called “hydroplaning.” In a heavy rain, your tires can lose all traction with the road at around 50 mph. Bald or badly worn tires will lose traction at much lower speed. The best way to keep from hydroplaning is to drive slower in the rain, or when the road is wet.

If it feels like your tires have lost traction with the surface of the road you should:

- Ease your foot off the gas pedal.
- Keep the steering wheel straight. Only try to turn if it's an emergency. If you must turn, do it slowly, or you will cause your vehicle to skid.
- Do not try to stop or turn until your tires are gripping the road again.

## **Adjusting to the Flow of Traffic**

Vehicles moving in the same direction at the same speed cannot hit one another. Crashes involving two or more vehicles often happen when drivers go faster or slower than other vehicles using the same roadway.

*Keeping Pace* – If you are going faster than other traffic, you will have to keep passing. Each time you pass another vehicle there is a chance of a collision. The vehicle you are passing may change lanes suddenly, or on a two-lane road, an oncoming car may appear suddenly. Slow down, and keep pace with other traffic. Speeding does not save more than a few minutes an hour.

Going much slower than other vehicles traveling in the same direction can be just as bad as speeding. It tends to make traffic behind you collect into a single slow moving



pocket of vehicles. If vehicles are accumulating behind you, pull over and allow them to pass. You may consider driving faster or using another road.

*Merging With Traffic* – When you merge with traffic, try to enter at the same speed that traffic is moving. High-speed roadways generally have ramps to give you time to build up speed. Use the ramp to reach the speed of the other vehicles before you pull onto the road. Do not drive to the end of the ramp and stop. This will not leave you enough room to get up to the speed of traffic. Also, drivers behind you will not expect you to stop. If they are watching traffic on the main road, you may be hit from the rear. If you have to wait for space to enter the roadway, slow down on the ramp so you have some room to speed up before you have to merge.

*Exiting Traffic* – Keep up with the speed of traffic as long as you are on the main road. If the road you are traveling has exit ramps, do not slow down until you have moved 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 your brakes and reduce your speed quickly but safely. Use your turn signals to let other drivers know your intentions.

*Slow Moving Traffic* – Some vehicles are not designed to maneuver at highway speeds or may experience mechanical problems that force the driver to slow the vehicle. As you may approach this type of traffic, give yourself time to change lanes or slow safely. Slowing suddenly can cause a traffic accident.

- Watch for large trucks and small, underpowered cars on steep grades or when these vehicles are entering traffic. The slower vehicles can lose speed on long or steep hills and it takes longer for these vehicles to get up to speed when entering traffic.
- Farm tractors, animal-drawn vehicles, and roadway maintenance vehicles usually travel 25 mph or less. These vehicles should have a slow-moving vehicle sign (an orange triangle) visible from the rear.

*Trouble Spots* – Be prepared for situations that limit your maneuvering options. In locations where people and their vehicles are parked; the space you have to maneuver will be limited. You need to reduce your speed to have time to react in crowded spaces. Here are some of the places where you may need to slow:

- Shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas. These are busy areas with vehicles and people stopping and starting, and moving in different directions.
- Rush hours often have heavy traffic and drivers that always seem to be in a hurry.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels. Vehicles approaching each other are closer together.
- At toll plazas vehicles are changing lanes and preparing to stop and then speeding up again leaving the plaza. The number of lanes could change both before and after the plaza.

- Schools, playgrounds, residential streets. These areas often have children present. Always be alert for children crossing the street, or running or riding into the street without looking.

## Visibility and Reaction

If a hazard is in your path and you need to stop, you need time and distance. It takes much longer and further to stop than many people think. If you have good tires and brakes and dry pavement:

- At 50 mph, it can take about 400 feet to react to something you see and bring your vehicle to a stop. That is about the length of a city block.
- At 30 mph, it can take about 200 feet to stop. That is almost half a city block.

If you cannot see 400 feet ahead, you may not be driving safely at 50 mph. If you cannot see 200 feet ahead, you may not be driving safely at 30 mph. By the time you see an object in your path, it might be too late to stop.

Here are some considerations that limit how well you can see and hints about how to be a safer driver.

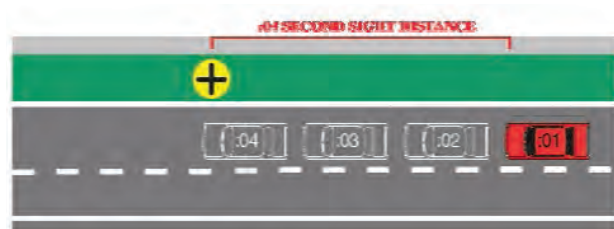
*Darkness* – It is harder to see at night. You must be closer to an object to see it at night than during the day. You must be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead with your headlights. Your headlights let you see about 400 feet ahead. You should drive at a speed that allows you to stop within this distance, or about 50 mph.

*Rain, Fog or Snow* – In a very heavy rain, snowstorm or thick fog, you may not be able to see much more than 200 feet ahead. When you cannot see any further than that, you cannot safely drive faster than 30 mph. In a very heavy downpour, you may not be able to see well enough to drive. If this happens, pull off the road in a safe place and wait until the weather clears.

*Hills and Curves* – You may not know what is on the other side of a hill or just around a curve, even if you have driven the route before. If a car is stalled on the road just over a hill or around a curve, you must be able to stop. Whenever you come to a hill or curve where you cannot see over or around, adjust your speed so you can stop if necessary.

*Parked Vehicles* – Vehicles parked along the side of the road may block your view. People may be ready to get out of a car or walk out from between parked vehicles. Give parked vehicles as much room as safely possible.

*Sight-Distance Rule* – Drive at a speed at which you can always safely stop. To determine if you are driving too fast for conditions, use the “Four Second Sight Distance Rule.” Pick out a stationary



object as far ahead as you can clearly see (e.g. a sign or a utility pole). Start counting “one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand, three-one-thousand, four-one-thousand.” If you reach the object before you finish saying “four-one-thousand,” you need to slow, you are going too fast. You must not drive faster than the distance you can see otherwise you could injure or kill yourself or others.

You also can use the “Four Second Sight Distance Rule” at night to make sure you are not driving so fast that you would over run the safe distance provided by your headlights.

*Speed Limits* – You must comply with speed limits. Speed limits are based on the design of the road, the type of vehicles that use it, and where the roads are located. Determining or setting a speed takes into account things you cannot see, such as side roads and driveways where people may pull out suddenly and the amount of traffic that uses the road.

Remember, speed limits are posted for ideal conditions. If the road is wet or icy, if you cannot see well, or if traffic is heavy, then you must slow down. Even if you are driving under the posted speed limit, you can get a ticket for traveling too fast under these conditions.

## **Distance and Reaction**

You must always share the road with others. The more distance you keep between yourself and everyone else, the more time you have to react to a hazard. This space is like a safety cushion. The more distance you have, the safer it can be. This section describes how to make sure you have enough space.

*Following Distance* – Rear-end crashes are very common. They are caused by drivers following too closely to be able to stop before hitting the vehicle ahead when it stops suddenly. There is an easy way to tell if you are following too closely. It is call the “two-second rule,” and it works at any speed.

- When the rear of the vehicle ahead passes a sign, pole or any other stationary point, count the seconds it takes you to reach the same point.
- Count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two.”
- You are following too closely if you pass the mark before you finish counting.
- If so, drop back and then count again at another spot to check the new distance. Repeat the process until you are following no closer than “two seconds.”

There are situations where you need more space in front of your vehicle. In these situations, you may need a four second following distance to be safe.

*Slippery Roads* – As you need more distance to stop your 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.

*The Driver Behind You Wants To Pass* – Slow down to allow room in front of your vehicle. Slowing also will allow the pass to be completed sooner.

*Following Motorcycles* – If the motorcycle should fall, you need extra distance to avoid the rider. The chances of a fall are greatest on wet or icy roads, gravel roads, or metal surfaces such as bridges, gratings, and streetcar or railroad tracks.

*Following Drivers Who Cannot See Your Vehicle* – The drivers of trucks, buses, vans, or vehicles pulling campers or trailers may not be able to see you when you are directly behind them. They could stop suddenly without knowing you are behind them. These large vehicles also block your view of the road ahead. Reducing your speed and falling back allows you more room to see ahead.

*Towing* – The extra weight increases your stopping distance.

*Poor Visibility* – When it is hard for you to see ahead because of darkness or bad weather, you need to increase your following distance.

*Being Followed Too Closely* – If you are being followed closely, you should allow extra room. You will then be able to stop without being hit from behind.

*Following Emergency Vehicles* – Police vehicles, ambulances, and fire trucks need more room to operate.

*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.

*Stopping On An Incline* – Leave extra space when stopped on a hill. The vehicle ahead may roll back when it is started.

## **The Safety Cushion**

### *Traffic to the Rear*

It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind your vehicle. However, you can help keep the driver at a safe distance by keeping a steady speed, and signaling in advance when you have to slow or stop, such as when:

- Stopping to pick up or let off passengers - Try to find a safe place away from traffic to stop.
- Parallel Parking - If you want to parallel park and there is traffic coming behind you, activate your turn signal, pull next to the space, allow following vehicles to pass before you park.
- Driving Slowly - When you have to drive so slowly that other vehicles must slow, pull to the side of the road when safe to do so, and let the vehicles pass. There are “turnout” areas on some two lane roads you may use.

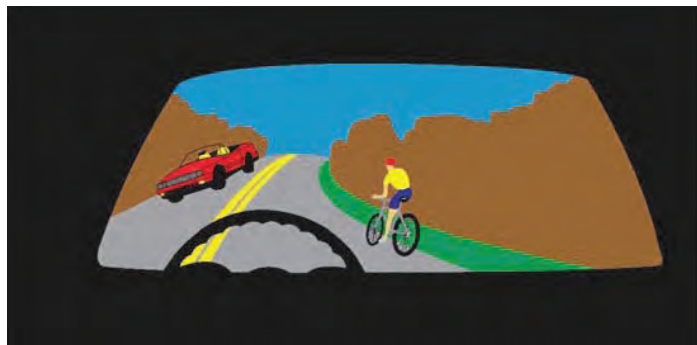
- Being Tailgated - Occasionally, you may find yourself being followed closely or “tailgated” by another driver. If you are being followed too closely and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until the path ahead is clear then reduce speed slowly. This will encourage the tailgater to drive around you. Never slow down quickly to discourage a tailgater, which may increase the risk of being hit from behind.

### *Traffic to the Side*

You need space on both sides of your vehicle to have room to turn or change lanes.

- Avoid driving next to other vehicles on multi-lane roads. Another driver may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and pull into your lane. Move ahead or drop behind the other vehicle.
- Keep as much space as you can between your vehicle and oncoming vehicles. On a two lane road, this means not crowding the center line. In general, it is safest to drive in the center of your lane.
- Make room for vehicles entering on a roadway that has two or more lanes. If there is no other vehicle next to you, move over one lane.
- Keep extra space between your vehicle and parked cars. Someone could step out from a parked vehicle, or from between vehicles, or a parked vehicle could pull out.

- Give extra space to pedestrians or bicycles, especially children. They can move into your path quickly and without warning. Do not share a lane with a pedestrian or bicyclist. Wait



- until it is safe to pass in the adjoining lane.
- “Split the difference rule.” 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 danger side. In the example, if the oncoming vehicle is a tractor trailer, 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 you are passing 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.

### *Merging*

Anytime you want to merge with other traffic, you need a gap of about four seconds. If you move into the middle of a four second gap, both your vehicle and the vehicle that is now behind you have a two second following distance. You need a four second gap whenever you change lanes, enter a roadway, or your lane merges with another travel lane.

- Do not try to merge into a gap that is too small. A small gap can quickly become even smaller. Enter a gap that gives you a big enough cushion of safety.
- If you want to cross several lanes, take one at a time. Like going up or down stairs one step at a time; it is safest and easiest to merge one lane at a time.

### *Intersecting Traffic*

When you cross traffic, you need a large enough gap to get all the way across the road. When you enter traffic, you need enough space to first turn and then to get up to speed.

- When you cross traffic, you need enough space to clear a potential hazard. Stopping halfway across is only safe when there is a median divider large enough to hold your car. Do not stop in a divider where part of your vehicle is sticking into traffic.
- If you are turning left, make sure there are no vehicles or pedestrians blocking your path. You do not want to be caught waiting for a path to clear while being stuck across a lane that has an oncoming vehicle moving in your direction.
- Even if you have the green light, do not start across the intersection if there are cars blocking your path. If you are caught in the intersection when the light changes to red, you will block other traffic. You can be ticketed for blocking the intersection.
- Do not turn just because an approaching vehicle has a turn signal on. The driver may plan to turn beyond you, or may have forgotten to turn the signal off from a prior turn. This is particularly true of motorcycles, since their signals often do not cancel automatically. Wait until the other driver actually starts to turn and then start your turn if it is safe.

### *Passing Distance*

Whenever signs or road markings permit you to pass, you will have to judge whether you have enough room to pass safely. Do not count on having enough time to pass several cars at once. Be safe. As a general rule, only pass one vehicle at a time.

*Oncoming Vehicles* – At a speed of 55 mph, you need about ten seconds to pass. That means you need a ten second gap in oncoming traffic and sight-distance to pass. You must judge whether you have enough space to pass safely.

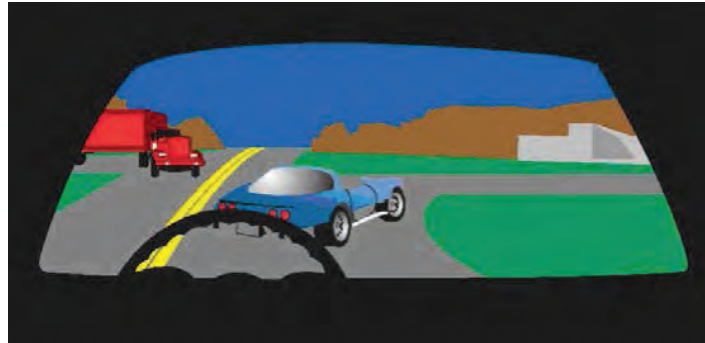
At 55 mph you will travel over 800 feet in ten seconds. So will an oncoming vehicle. That means you need over 1600 feet or about one-third of a mile to pass safely. It is hard to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles at such distances. A vehicle that is far enough away generally appears to be stationary. In fact, if you can really see it coming closer, it may be too close for you to pass. If you are not sure, wait to pass until you are sure that there is enough space.

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

*Intersections* – It is dangerous to pass where a vehicle is likely to enter or cross the road. Such places include intersections, railroad crossings, and shopping center entrances.

While you are passing, your view of people, vehicles or a train can be blocked by the vehicle you are passing. Also drivers turning right into the approaching lane will not expect to find you approaching within their lane. They may not even look your way before turning.

*Lane Obstructions* – Before you pass, look ahead for road conditions and traffic that may cause other vehicles to move into your lane. Do not pass unless you have enough space to return to the driving lane. And do not count upon other drivers to make room for you.



You might lose your space for passing because of:

- People or bicyclists near the road
- A narrow bridge or other situation that causes reduced lane width
- A patch of ice, pothole, or object on the road

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

## **Beware – Unusual Traffic Circumstances**

There are certain drivers and other road users you should give extra room. Here are some of them.

*Individuals Who Cannot See You* – Anyone who cannot see your vehicle may enter your path without knowing you are there. Those who could have trouble seeing you include:

- Drivers at intersections or driveways who may have a blocked view by buildings, trees or other cars
- Drivers backing into the roadway, or backing into or pulling out of parking spaces
- Drivers whose windows are covered with snow, or ice or steamed covered
- Pedestrians with umbrellas in front of their faces or hats pulled below their brow

*Individuals 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

*Individuals Who May Be Disoriented or Confused* – People who are confused may cause an unsafe situation. People who may be confused include:

- Tourists, or others who do not seem to know where they are going
- Drivers who slow down for what seems to be no reason
- Drivers looking for street signs or house numbers
- Drivers having medical problems

*Consideration of Other Drivers* – If a driver makes a mistake, do not make it worse. For example, if a driver attempts to pass you when there is not enough room, slow down and let the vehicle return to the drive lane safely. If another driver needs to suddenly change lanes, slow and let the vehicle merge. These gestures will keep traffic moving smoothly and safely.

*Approaching a Law Enforcement Vehicle with Emergency Lights Turned-on* – Arkansas law requires that any motor vehicle operator on a multilane highway must move whenever safely possible to the farthest lane away from a law enforcement vehicle that is stopped and has emergency lighting turned-on. This law is designed to help protect police officers and individuals who may be the subject of a traffic stop from being injured by traffic moving dangerously close to the edge of the highway where the traffic stop is occurring. Violators of this law may be fined and have their driver license suspended.

## **TRACTOR TRAILER RIGS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

It may sound obvious, but tractor-trailer rigs are not large cars. To reduce the chance of a crash with a large tractor-trailer, motorists must be familiar with a truck's capabilities and common maneuvers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 72 percent of the fatal crashes involving two or more vehicles, in which one of the vehicles is a tractor-trailer, the cause is usually attributed to a car.

### **Braking**

Tractor-trailers take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger car traveling at 55 miles per hour can stop in about 130 to 140 feet, which is about half the length of a football field. A fully loaded tractor-trailer traveling at the same speed may take more than 400 feet, more than the length of a football field, to come to a complete stop.

### **Turning**

With any turning vehicle, the rear wheels follow a shorter path than the front wheels. The longer the vehicle, the greater the difference. That's why the drivers of tractor-trailers must often swing out to the left as the first step in making a right turn. When following a tractor-trailer, watch the turn signals before trying to pass. If a left turn is eminent, wait a moment to check and see which way the driver is signaling to turn before passing on the right.



## Avoiding the Tractor-Trailer “No Zone”

It is important that your vehicle can be seen whenever you are driving. Many motorists falsely assume that truckers can see the road better because they sit higher than the driver of a car. While tractor-trailer drivers do enjoy a better forward view from the cabs of their trucks and have bigger mirrors, they still have serious blind spots into which a car can disappear from view; up to 20 feet in front of the cab, on either side of the tractor-trailer (particularly alongside the cab), and up to 200 feet in the rear of the truck.



### Help Promote **WRECK** Less Driving

#### **SIDE NO ZONES** *Don't "hang out" on either side of trucks or buses!*

They have big blind spots on both sides. If you can't see the driver's face in his side-view mirror, he can't see you. If that driver needs to change lanes for any reason, you could be in big trouble!

#### **REAR NO ZONES - Avoid Tailgating!**

Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge No-Zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver can't see your car back there, and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck or bus driver brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

#### **FRONT NO ZONES - Pass Safely!**

Don't cut in front too soon after passing. Truck and bus drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. Look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front, and then don't slow down!

#### **BACKING UP NO ZONE** *Pay Closer Attention!*

Never cross behind a truck that is backing up! Hundreds of motorists and pedestrians are killed or injured, each year, by ignoring trucks backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear-view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.

#### **WIDE RIGHT TURNS** *Avoid the "Squeeze Play"!*

Truck and bus drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. They can't see cars squeezing-in between them and the curb. Watch for their blinkers and give them room to turn.

## Don't hang out in the **NO ZONE**

Motorists remaining in the blind spots on the sides and in the rear of a truck hamper the trucker's ability to take evasive action to avoid a dangerous situation, and the possibility of a crash is increased. An excellent rule for motorists sharing the road with a tractor-trailer is, "if you can't see the truck driver in the tractor side mirror, the driver can't see you."

## **Maneuverability**

Trucks are designed to carry many products and are not designed to be as maneuverable as cars. Trucks have longer stopping and acceleration distances, take wider areas to turn, and weigh much more than cars.

The following is a list of some of the most common mistakes motorists must avoid when driving around trucks:

- Cutting off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach an exit or turn or cutting into the open space in front of a truck removes the truck driver's cushion of safety. Trying to beat a truck to a single-lane construction zone, for instance, represents a particularly dangerous situation. Take a moment to slow down and exit behind the truck, it will only take you a few extra seconds.
- Don't linger alongside a truck when passing. Always pass a tractor-trailer completely and always on the left side. If you linger when passing a truck, your position makes it impossible for the truck driver to take evasive action if an obstacle appears in the road ahead.
- When following behind a truck, if you can't see the truck driver's rear view mirrors, there is no way the truck driver can see you. Tailgating a truck or car is dangerous because you take away your own cushion of safety if the vehicle in front of you stops short. Also if the vehicle you are following hits something in the road, you will have no time to react before it hits the front of your car.
- Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer. Because of its size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed than it is. A large number of car-truck collisions take place at intersections because the driver of the car does not realize how close the truck is or how quickly it is approaching.

## **SHARING THE ROAD WITH BICYCLES**

Bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities on the streets that drivers do, and in most cases, they must share the lane. Bicycles are required to travel on the right hand side of the road with other traffic. Bicyclists are not allowed to travel facing traffic, since this is far less safe. They must ride as near to the right hand side of the road as practical, while avoiding road hazards that could cause them to swerve into traffic. When you're sharing the road with bicycles, you should always expect the rider to make sudden moves. Trash, minor oil slicks, a pothole or crack in the concrete, a barking dog, a parked car or a car door opening, and other surprises can force a bicycle rider to swerve suddenly in front of you.

Similarly, when cyclists are traveling past parked cars, they tend to move away from the cars, toward the center of the lane. This is to avoid injuring, or being injured by, persons getting out of those cars. In such cases, the bicyclist is operating the bicycle properly. If possible, give the cyclist the entire lane. When road conditions prevent this, pass the cyclist with extreme caution. Cyclists who are not on the extreme right hand side of the lane are not being careless, but are in fact attempting to account for traffic conditions and/or preparing to make a left turn.

Bicycles are hard to see. The riders are exposed and easily injured in a collision. Oncoming bicycle traffic is often overlooked or its speed misjudged.

### **Safety Tips for Motor Vehicle Drivers:**

- The most common causes of collisions are drivers turning left in front of an oncoming bicycle or turning right, across the path of the bicycle.
- Drivers often fail to pick the bicyclist out of the traffic scene, or inaccurately judge the speed of the cyclists making a left turn.
- Drivers overtaking a bicyclist, then making a right turn in front of the cyclist is also a cause of many accidents. Look once, then again, make sure you see the cyclist and know his speed before you turn.
- Merge with bicycle traffic when preparing for a right turn. Don't turn directly across the path of a bicyclist.
- Watch for bicycle riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling, especially if the rider is a child.
- Most bicyclists maintain eye contact with drivers of vehicles around them, particularly when the cyclist or vehicle is making a turn. Before turning, a driver should attempt to gain and maintain eye contact with the bicyclist to ensure a safer turn.
- Allow plenty of room when passing a bicycle rider.
- A driver should never attempt passing between a bicyclist and oncoming vehicles on a two-lane road. Slow down and allow vehicles to pass. Then move to the left to allow plenty of room to pass the rider safely. Leave at least three feet of space between your car and a cyclist when passing.
- Never pass a bicycle if the street is too narrow or you would force the bicyclist too close to parked vehicles. Wait until there is enough room to let you pass safely.
- If you are about to pass a bicycle on a narrow road and you think the rider doesn't know you're coming, tap your horn gently and briefly as a signal that you're going to pass. Don't blast your horn or otherwise startle or try to intimidate the rider.

### **Residential Areas Are Danger Zones**

Bicyclists may ride in the middle of the street and disregard stop signs and traffic signals. Be careful in all neighborhood areas where children and teenagers might be riding.

- Children riding bicycles create special problems for drivers. Children are not capable of proper judgment in determining traffic conditions and drivers should be alert to the possibility of erratic movement and sudden changes in direction when children and bicycles are present.

- Watch out for bikes coming out from driveways or from behind parked cars or other obstructions.
- Bicyclists riding at night present visibility problems for drivers. At night, watch the side of the road for bicyclists. Bicyclists are required to have proper illumination, a front light and rear reflector, but drivers should be aware that bicyclists are not easily seen. Lights from approaching traffic may make them even harder to see at night.
- If you see a bicyclist with a red or orange pennant flag on an antennae attached to the bike, slow down; this is a common symbol to indicate the rider has impaired hearing.

## Lane Positions for Bicycles

Bicycle riders are required to ride as far right in the lane as possible only when a car and a bicycle, side by side, can safely share the lane. Even then, there are certain times when a bicycle can take the full lane. A bicyclist should be allowed full use of the lane when:

- The rider is overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction.
- If the lane is marked and signed for bicycle use only, drivers must NEVER use that lane as a turning lane, passing lane or for parking.
- The bicyclist is getting in place for a left turn at an intersection or turning left into a private road or driveway.
- There are unsafe conditions in the roadway such as parked cars, moving vehicles or machinery, fixed obstacles, pedestrians, animals, potholes or debris.
- The lane is too narrow for both a car and a bicycle to safely share the lane. In this case, it is safest to let the bicycle take the full lane.

## DRIVING FITNESS

Driving safely is not always easy. In fact, it is one of the most complex things that people do. It also is one of the few things we do regularly that can injure and kill us. It is worth the extra effort to be a careful driver.

To be a safe driver takes a lot of skill and judgment. This task is even more difficult when you are just learning to drive. Driving can easily take all the ability you have. If anything happens so you are not up to your ability, you may not be a safe driver. Your ability to be a safe driver depends on being able to see clearly, not being tired, not driving consuming alcohol or illegal drugs. In other words, be in "shape" to drive.

### Vision

Good vision is a must for safe driving. Your driving decisions are based on what you see. If you cannot see clearly, you will have trouble identifying traffic and road conditions, spotting potential trouble, and reacting in a timely manner.

Vision is so important that Arkansas requires that you pass a vision test before you get a driver license. This test measures that you have at least twenty-fifty (20/50) vision in at least one eye, with or without corrective lenses.

Other important aspects of vision are:

*Peripheral Vision* – Take advantage of peripheral vision, the field of vision from 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 Distance And Speed* – Even if you can see clearly, you still may not be able to judge distances or speed very well. 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.

*Night Vision* – Many people who can see clearly in the daytime have trouble seeing at night. All people have more trouble seeing 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 when you do, be very careful.

Because it is so important to safe driving to see well, you should have your eyes checked every two years by an eye specialist. You may never know you have poor vision unless your eyes are tested.

If you need to wear glasses or contact lenses for driving, remember to:

- If you are prescribed corrective lenses, always wear them when you drive. If your driver license says you must wear corrective lenses and you are not and you happen to be stopped, you could get a ticket.
- Try to keep an extra pair of glasses in your vehicle. This can be helpful if you do not wear glasses all the time. It is easy to misplace them.
- Avoid using dark glasses or tinted contact lenses at night, even if it is to help with glare. The problem is these types of lenses cut down too much light, light that you need to see clearly.

## Hearing

Hearing can be helpful to 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. They learn to rely more on their vision and stay alert. Studies have shown that the driving records of hearing impaired drivers are just as good as those of drivers with good hearing.

## Fatigue

When you are tired, you cannot drive as safely as when you are rested and you do not see as well nor are you as alert as when you are rested. It takes you more time to make decisions and you do not always make good decisions. You can be more irritable and can get upset more easily. Lastly, when you are tired, you could fall asleep behind the wheel and crash.

There are things you can do to keep from getting tired on a long trip:

- Try to get a good night's sleep before you leave.
- Do not leave on a trip if you are tired. Plan your trips so you can leave when you are rested.
- Do not take any medicine that might make you drowsy.
- Eat light meals prior to departure. Large, full meals tend to cause drowsiness.
- Take breaks. Stop regularly or as needed to walk around, breath fresh air, and refresh yourself with coffee, soda, or juice. The few minutes spent on a rest break can save your life. Plan for plenty of time to complete your trip safely.
- Avoid long trips during hours your body is accustomed to resting.
- Never drive if you are sleepy. It is better to stop and sleep for a few hours than take a chance you can stay awake.

## Drinking and Driving

Alcohol is involved in approximately thirty-eight percent of the traffic crashes in which someone is killed. If you drink alcohol, even a little, your chances of being in a crash are much greater than if you did not drink any alcohol.

There is no alcohol concentration at which it is considered safe to operate a vehicle. Experienced drivers are affected by alcohol even if they have been driving for many years. New drivers are often more affected by alcohol than experienced drivers, because new drivers are still in the learning process.

Because drinking alcohol and then driving is so dangerous, the penalties are very severe. People who drive after drinking risk being fined more than for other violations of other types. These drivers also experience higher insurance rates, loss of license, and even jail sentences.

### *Alcohol Impairment*

Alcohol reduces all of the important skills you need to drive safely. After you drink alcohol, it goes from your stomach into the small intestine where most of it is absorbed into the blood, which then transports the alcohol to all parts of the body. Alcohol in the blood stream reaches the brain in fifteen to forty minutes. Once in the brain the alcohol first affects those areas of your brain that control judgment and skill. Good judgment is important to driving and this is one reason why drinking alcohol and driving is so dangerous. Judgment also helps you to decide when to stop drinking. When people consume alcohol they are unable to judge when they have had too much to drink until it is too late. Generally by the time you begin to feel the effects of the alcohol the judgment is already affected severely.

Alcohol slows your reflexes and reaction time, reduces your ability to see clearly, and makes you less alert. As the amount of alcohol in your body increases, your judgment worsens and your skill decreases. You will have trouble judging distances, speeds and the movement of other vehicles. Even more dangerous, you will have trouble controlling your vehicle.

### *Body Metabolism*

If you drink alcohol, do not drive. Depending upon body weight even one drink of alcohol may affect your ability to operate a vehicle properly. Two or more drinks may cause impairment and you could be arrested.

A single alcohol drink is considered 1.5 ounces of 80 proof liquor (one shot glass) straight or with a mixer, a 5 ounce glass of wine or a 12 ounce container of beer. Specialty drinks can have more alcohol and one drink may equal several normal drinks.

On the average it takes about one hour for the body to get rid of each drink. So, even if you have spread out your drinks to no more than one per hour, you should stop drinking at least one hour before you drive.



There is no way to sober up quickly. Coffee, fresh air, exercise, sleep, or cold showers will not help. Time is the only thing that will allow the alcohol to get out of your system.

There are ways of dealing with social drinking situations. Arrange to go with two or more persons, where one of you will not drink alcohol. You can rotate among the group being a "designated driver." If it is available, you might use public transportation or a cab.

If you drink alcohol, there are ways to control the effects. The best is to space out your drinking. Generally, if you drink one drink per hour, alcohol will not build up in your system enough so that you would be impaired; however, depending upon body weight and other conditions, this may not always be true. Another way is to take food before and during the time you are drinking. Food in the stomach slows down the rate that alcohol gets into your blood stream. Starchy foods like potato chips, pretzels, bread, and crackers are best. But remember, food only slows the rate that it takes for alcohol to get into the blood. It will not prevent you from getting intoxicated or being impaired.

### *Alcohol and the Law*

If you are arrested for drinking and driving, the penalties are severe. You can be arrested for driving while intoxicated with an alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more in the breath (grams/210 liters) or blood (grams/100 milliliters, the same as 0.08%). In Arkansas, you can also be arrested for alcohol impairment at any level above 0.04%. Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) is the alcohol in your breath and Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is the concentration of alcohol in the blood. Blood alcohol concentration can be determined by a blood or urine test. The law enforcement officer chooses which test (breath, blood, or urine) to request. If a law enforcement officer instructs you to take an alcohol test you are compelled by law to do so. You can lose your driver license if you refuse to take an alcohol test.

If you are found guilty of an alcohol violation and it is your first conviction, you will be fined from \$150 to \$1000, in addition to court costs. You could also be sentenced to one year in jail, and your license will be suspended for 120 days. For second and subsequent convictions the penalties are much worse, including being sent to prison.

Arkansas law does not allow anyone under the age of twenty-one to buy or consume alcohol. You can be arrested for Underage Driving Under The Influence if your alcohol concentration is 0.02% breath or blood alcohol concentration. If you are found guilty after having been afforded the proper test or tests you could have your license revoked until you reach twenty-one years of age and could be fined \$2000. In addition, any person under twenty-one years of age convicted of purchasing or being in possession of alcohol will have their driving privileges suspended, revoked or disqualified.

### *Other Types of Drugs and Driving*

There are many other drugs in addition to alcohol that can affect a person's ability to drive safely. These drugs can have affects like those of alcohol, or even worse. This is true of many prescription drugs or even many of the drugs you can buy without a prescription. Drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever or other allergies or to calm nerves can make a person drowsy and affect their driving skills. Pep pills, "uppers," and diet pills can make a driver feel more alert for a short time. Later, however, these drugs cause a person to be nervous, dizzy, not able to concentrate, and they can affect your vision. Other prescription drugs can affect your reflexes, judgment, vision, and alertness in ways similar to alcohol. Other drugs cannot increase the concentration in your system and do not constitute a defense against impairment.

If you are driving, before you take a drug, check the label for warnings about its effect. If you are not sure if it is safe to take the drug and drive, ask your doctor or pharmacist about any side effects.

Never drink alcohol while you are taking medication or other drugs. These drugs may multiply the effects of alcohol, or have additional effects of their own. These effects not only reduce your ability to be a safe driver, but the effects could cause serious health problems or even death. Illegal drugs are not good for your health and affect your ability to be a safe driver. For example, 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.

## **Health**

Many health problems can affect your driving – a bad cold, infection, or a 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.

*Epilepsy* – Epilepsy is usually not dangerous if it is under medical control. In Arkansas you may drive if you are under the care of a doctor and have not had a seizure for one year.



*Diabetes* – Diabetics who take insulin should not drive when there is any chance of going into 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 should also have your eyes checked regularly for possible night blindness and other vision problems.

*Heart Condition* – Some people with certain forms of heart disease, high blood pressure, or circulation problems may be in danger of blackout, fainting, or a heart attack and 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.

*Emotional Distress* – Emotions can have a great effect on your driving safely. You may not be able to drive well if you are overly worried, excited, afraid, angry, or just “down.”

- If you are 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 or “down” about something, try to keep your mind on your driving. Some find listening to the radio helps.
- If you are impatient, give yourself extra time for your driving trip. Leave a few minutes early. If you have plenty of time, you may not tend to speed, do other things that can get you a traffic ticket or cause a crash.

## **EMERGENCIES**

All drivers sooner or later will find themselves in an emergency situation. As careful as you are, there are situations that could cause you a problem. If you are prepared, you may be able to prevent any serious outcomes.

### **Vehicle Emergencies**

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 your vehicle will have a problem. The following notes some possible vehicle failures and what you can do if they happen.

#### ***Brake Failure***

If your brakes stop working:

- Pump the brake pedal several times. This will often build up enough brake pressure to allow you to stop.
- If that does not work, use the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle slowly or slowly press the emergency brake pedal 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, start shifting to lower gears and look for a safe place to slow to a stop. Make sure the car is off the roadway. Do not drive the vehicle without brakes.

### ***Blowouts***

If a tire suddenly goes flat:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly, and keep the vehicle going straight.
- Slow gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal and use the brakes lightly.
- Do not stop on the road if at all possible. Pull off the road in a safe place.

### ***Engine Failure***

If the engine dies while you are driving:

- Keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. Be aware that the steering may be difficult to turn, but you can turn it.
- Pull off the roadway. The brakes will still work but you may have to push very hard on the brake pedal.

### ***Headlight Failure***

If your 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 you have them.
- Pull off the road as soon as possible.

### ***Faulty Accelerator***

The motor keeps running faster and faster:

- Keep your eyes on the road.
- Quickly shift to neutral.
- Pull off the road when safe to do so.
- Turn off the engine.

## **Avoiding Collisions**

When it looks like a collision may happen, many drivers panic and fail to act. In some cases they do act, but do something that does not help to reduce the chance of the collision. There almost always is something you can do to avoid the crash, or reduce the results of the crash. In avoiding a collision, drivers have three options: (1) Stop, (2) Turn, and (3) Speed Up.

### ***Stopping***

Many newer vehicles have ABS (Antilock Braking System). Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS system will allow you to stop without skidding. In general, if you need to stop quickly.

*With ABS* – If you have an antilock braking system and you need to stop quickly:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep pressing on it.
- You might feel the brake pedal pushing back when the ABS is working. Do not let up on the brake pedal. The ABS system will only work with the brake pedal pushed down.

*Without ABS* – If you must stop quickly and you do not have an antilock braking system:

- You can cause the vehicle to go into a skid if you brake too hard.
- Apply the brakes as hard as you can without locking the brake.
- If the brakes lock up, you will feel the vehicle start to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, push down on the brake pedal again. Keep doing this until the vehicle has stopped.

### *Turning*

In most cases, a driver can turn the vehicle quicker than it can be stopped. You should consider turning in order to avoid a collision.

Make sure you have a good grip with both hands on the steering wheel. It is best to have your hands at about the 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions. Once you have turned away or changed lanes, you must be ready to keep the vehicle under control. Some drivers steer away from one collision only to end up in another.

*With ABS* – One aspect of having ABS is that you can turn your vehicle while braking without skidding. This is very helpful if you must turn, stop or slow down.

*Without ABS* – If you do not have ABS, you must use a different procedure to turn quickly. You also step on the brake pedal, but you let up and turn the steering wheel. Braking will slow the vehicle some, and it puts more weight on the front tires and this allows for a quicker turn. Do not lock up the front wheels while braking or turn so sharply that the vehicle can only plow ahead.

Generally it is better to run off the road than crash head-on into another vehicle.

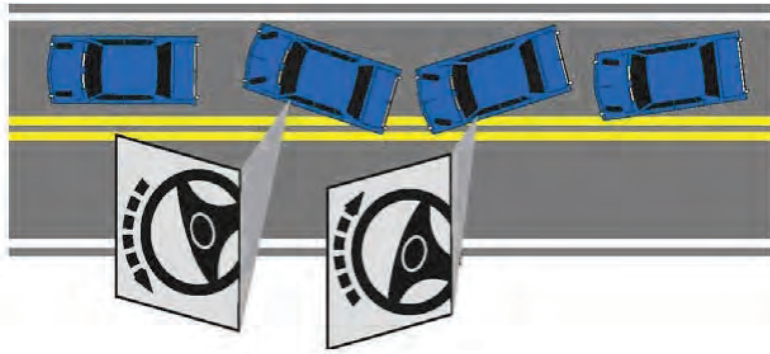
### *Accelerating*

Sometimes it is best or necessary to speed up to avoid a collision. This may happen when another vehicle is about to hit you from the side or from behind and there is room to the front of you to get out of danger. Be sure to slow down once the danger has passed.

### *Skids*

Any road that is safe under normal conditions can be dangerous when it is wet or has snow or ice on it. High speeds under normal conditions also increase the possibility of a skid if you must turn or stop suddenly.

Skids are caused when the tires can no longer grip the road. You cannot control a vehicle when it is skidding, so it is best not to cause your vehicle to skid in the first place.



In the vast majority of cases, skids were caused by drivers traveling too fast for conditions.

If your vehicle begins to skid:

- *Stay off the Brake* – Until the vehicle slows, your brakes will not work and could cause you to skid more.
- *Steer* – Turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the vehicle to go. As soon as the vehicle begins to straighten out, turn the steering wheel back the other way. If you do not do so, your vehicle may swing around in the other direction and you could start a new skid.
- *Continue to Steer* – Continue to correct your steering, left and right, until the vehicle is again moving down the road under your control.

## Protect Yourself

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 your lap and shoulder belts. Other than your safety belts, there are a couple of other evasive measures that could help prevent more serious injuries.

### *Rear Impact*

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

### *Side Impact*

If your vehicle is hit from the side, your body will be thrown toward the side that is hit. Your lap and shoulder belts are needed to help keep you behind the wheel. Get ready to steer or brake to prevent your vehicle from hitting another object.

### *Front Impact*

If your vehicle is about to be hit from the front it is important to try to 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 worst, you hit with a glancing blow. If your vehicle has an air bag, it will inflate. It will also deflate after the crash, so be ready to prevent your vehicle from hitting another object. You must wear your lap and shoulder belts to keep you behind the wheel, and to protect you if your vehicle has a second crash.

## **Traffic Crashes**

Do not stop at a crash unless you are involved or emergency help has not yet arrived. Keep your attention on your driving and keep moving, watching for people who might be in or near the road. Do not 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 a driver you are, there may be a time when you are involved in a crash. If you are involved in a crash, you must stop. If you are involved in a crash with a parked vehicle, you must try to locate the owner. If any person is injured or killed, or property damage exceeds \$1000, a driver must notify police immediately. If there is injury or death resulting from a crash it is a crime for a driver to leave a crash scene before police have talked to the drivers and received all the information they need about the crash.

You may want to carry a basic emergency kit that has flares and first aid supplies in your vehicle.

### *Crash Scenes*

- Stop your vehicle at or near the accident site. If your vehicle can move, get it off the road so it does not block traffic.
- 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 near wrecked vehicles. Fuel could have spilled.
- If there are electrical wires down, do not go near the wires.
- Make sure that other traffic will not be involved in the crash. Use flares or other warning devices to alert traffic of the accident, but again, be aware of any spilled fuel or fuel leaks.

### *Assisting the Injured*

- Help anyone who is immobile or unconscious. Check for breathing, then check for bleeding.
- Call for help. Make sure police are notified with a precise location of the crash scene and provide to the dispatchers any cautionary information such as gas spills, fire or downed electric lines. Follow-up with the same information given to rescue and emergency medical personnel.
- Do not move the injured unless they are trapped inside a burning vehicle or other immediate form of danger.
- If there is bleeding, supply direct pressure to the wound. Even severe bleeding can almost always be stopped or slowed by using direct pressure to a wound.
- Do not give the injured anything to drink, even water, until medical personnel are on the scene.
- To prevent an injured person from going into shock, cover the individual with a blanket or warm clothing such as a coat or jacket.

### *Keep a Record of Crash Information*

- Get the names and addresses of all the people involved in the accident and any witnesses. Also make sure to get the names and addresses of any 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 crash involve a parked car, 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 report the accident to the Office of Driver Services division of the Department of Finance and Administration if there is an injury, a death, or property damage in excess of \$1000 to one person's property. Accident forms are available at Office of Driver Services offices or from most insurance agents. You must file the report within 30 days of the accident. If you are injured and unable to complete the report, someone may file on your behalf.

## SKILLS TEST GUIDELINES

The final stage of obtaining a driver license in Arkansas is to successfully complete a skills test. This will be accomplished by the applicant driving the individual's vehicle accompanied by an Arkansas State Police Driver Examiner, or, in the case of a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, while being observed operating the class cycle for which the person is trying to obtain a license.

Following are guidelines for the skills test:

- The driver examiner will check the vehicle registration and insurance papers to be certain the documents are current and proper.
- The driver examiner will check the vehicle to be sure it is in safe, legal mechanical condition.

A skills test will not be given if:

- The vehicle interior is excessively dirty.
- All lights do not work.
- The windshield is cracked so badly that the view is obstructed.
- The muffler and exhaust system are not operating properly.
- The horn does not work.
- The speedometer does not work.
- The tires are worn so badly as to be unsafe.
- The windows are excessively tinted.
- The examiner recognizes serious mechanical defects, such as defective brakes.
- The vehicle is not properly licensed, and the license must be properly displayed.
- The applicant is unfamiliar with the vehicle systems and control mechanisms.

The skills test will measure an applicant's ability to properly and legally operate the vehicle. The driver examiner will observe the applicant to determine if the applicant:

- Is familiar with all controls
- Maintains proper control of the vehicle
- Obeys all traffic laws, such as speed limits, stop signs and signals, the seat belt law, use of headlights and windshield wipers, proper lane use, and others
- Keeps a proper lookout for other vehicles and pedestrians
- Properly adjusts to special driver situations, such as construction zones and school zones

A violation of any law may result in a failing grade on the skills test.

An applicant may be given a failing grade if the examiner observes driving practices which create a hazard to the applicant or other users of the streets or highways.

## ARKANSAS ORGAN & TISSUE DONOR INFORMATION

Following the successful completion of driver testing, Arkansas license applicants will be asked whether they wish to register as an organ or tissue donor. The words “*Organ Donor*” will be printed on the front of the Arkansas driver license for those individuals who choose to participate as a registered organ donor.

Arkansas driver license holders, identified as organ donors, will be listed in a state registry. The donor driver license and registry assist emergency services and medical personnel identify the individuals who have chosen to offer upon death, their body's organs to help another person have a second chance at life (i.e. the transplant of heart, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, corneas, bone, skin, heart valves or tissue).

It will be important, should you choose to participate in the donor program to speak with your family about the decision so that your wishes can be carried-out upon your death. Please review some of the facts you should know about organ and tissue donations:

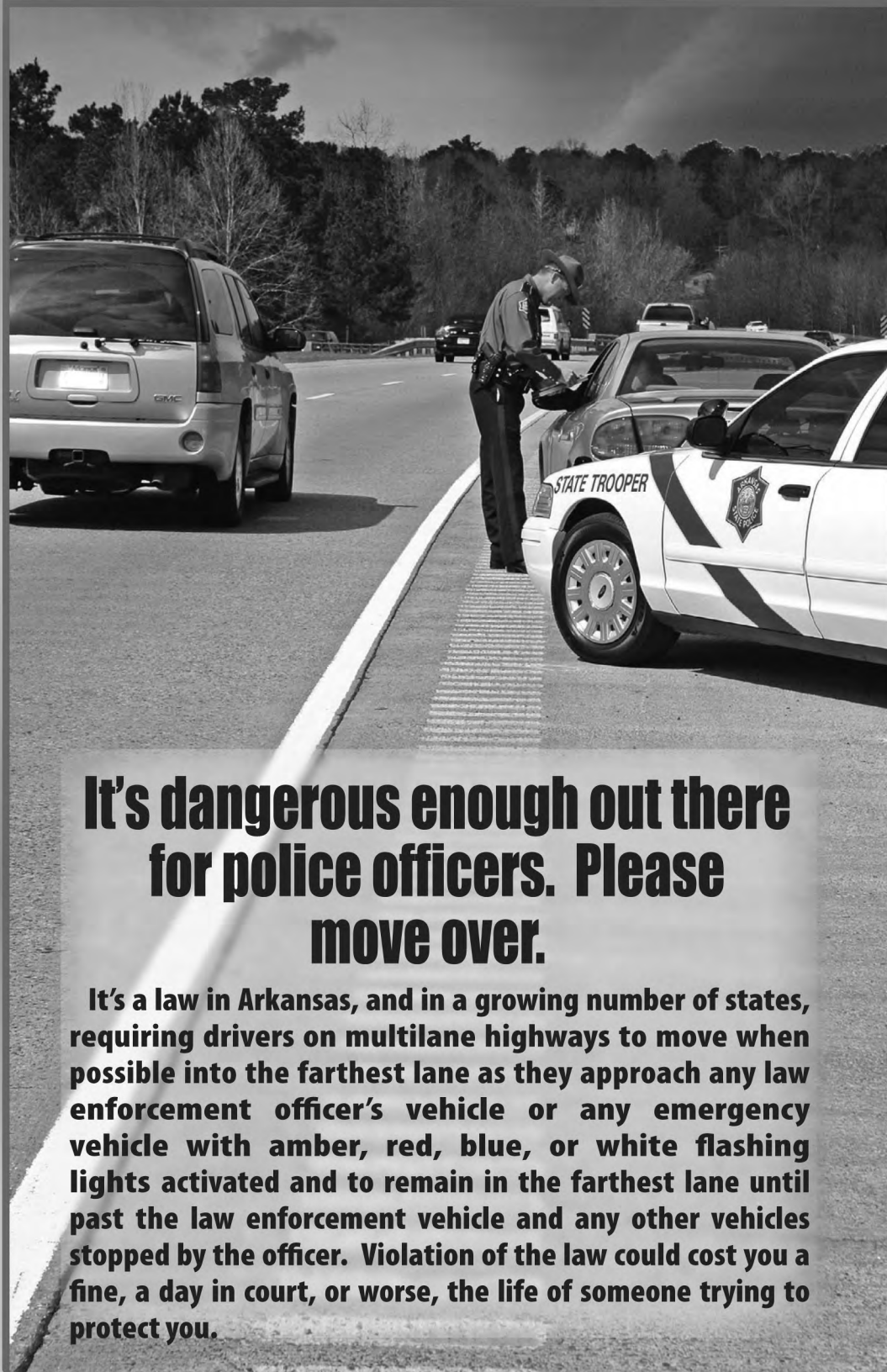
- Thousands of people are on waiting lists to receive organ transplants.
- Approximately 17 patients on average die each day while waiting on a suitable organ donation (one person every 85 minutes).
  - The decision to become an organ or tissue donor will not influence the quality of emergency care or medical treatment an organ donor might receive. Organ donations may only occur after every effort has been made to save the donor's life.
  - Organ and tissue donations do not change the way the body may appear. Organ and tissue donors are treated with respect and dignity. Organ harvesting occurs through a sterile surgical process under the strict guidance of a physician.
  - The families of organ and tissue donors are not expected to pay for any medical bills associated with the organ harvesting process.
  - Organ and tissue donations are considered gifts and family survivors of a donor receive no compensation.
  - While many religious orders or denominations may not oppose the principals of human organ and tissue donations, specific questions relating to this matter should be directed to your family pastor, cleric or religious leaders.

\*Source material from Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency

The Arkansas Organ Donor Registry is managed by the Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (**ARORA**). For more information about organ and tissue donation, contact **ARORA** by calling (501) 907-9150 or (866) 660-5433, or log onto the **ARORA** web site at [www.arora.org](http://www.arora.org)



# Move Over Law



**It's dangerous enough out there  
for police officers. Please  
move over.**

**It's a law in Arkansas, and in a growing number of states, requiring drivers on multilane highways to move when possible into the farthest lane as they approach any law enforcement officer's vehicle or any emergency vehicle with amber, red, blue, or white flashing lights activated and to remain in the farthest lane until past the law enforcement vehicle and any other vehicles stopped by the officer. Violation of the law could cost you a fine, a day in court, or worse, the life of someone trying to protect you.**