IDAHO

DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

JULY 2025

The Idaho Driver's Handbook paraphrases the language of Idaho statutes. Courts go by the actual language of the statutes, not this text.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is committed to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related regulations and directives. ITD assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any ITD service, program, or activity. The department also assures that every effort will be made to prevent discrimination through the impacts of its Programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. In addition, the department will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with limited English proficiency.

Scan the QR code to view the most up-to-date handbook online.

INTRODUCTION

As more motorists share Idaho's highways, it becomes increasingly important that you always safely operate a motor vehicle. Becoming a safe driver takes time and practice. By knowing, understanding, and following Idaho's traffic laws, you will be able to safely operate a motor vehicle smoothly, defensively, with common sense and in a variety of traffic situations. Your life, as well as the lives of your family, friends, and other drivers depends on it.

Anyone operating a motor vehicle on public highways in Idaho must have a valid driver's license. You can be licensed in Idaho when you are 15 years of age. However, if you are under 17 years of age, you must first successfully complete an approved driver's training program and the graduated driver's license program.

ITD and its agents will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and equal accessibility to our facilities, programs, and services. Skills test examiners must provide an equal skills test to all applicants regardless of the existence of a disability.

ITD **does not issue** international driving permits for Idaho drivers. Customers need to contact the American Automobile Association (AAA) to obtain these permits.

New Residents

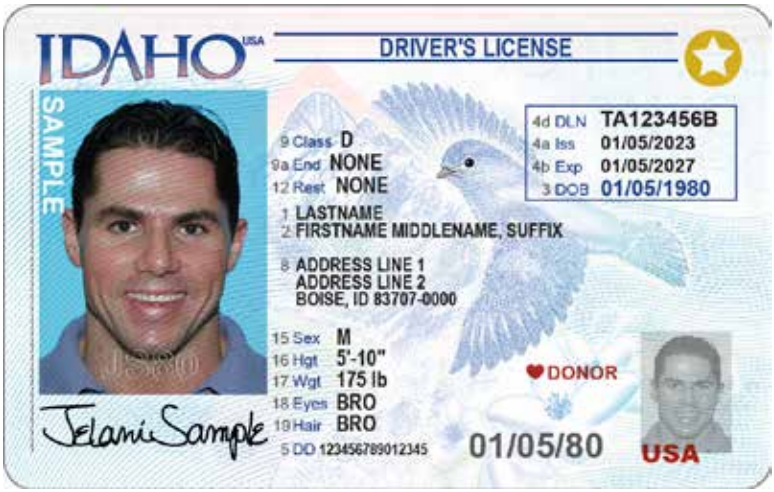
Upon moving to Idaho, you will need to apply for an Idaho driver's license within 30 days of residing in Idaho, whether your out-of-state license has expired or not. If you have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), you are required to be licensed in Idaho within 30 days of residing in Idaho.

Students

Students attending a college or university in Idaho who hold a valid driver's license from another state and who claim residency in that state are not required to obtain an Idaho driver's license.

U.S. Military

U.S. Military on active duty, their spouse, and dependents who hold a valid driver's license from another state and who claim residency in that state are not required to obtain an Idaho driver's license.



FEES

(All fees are non-refundable)

STAR CARD or NON-STAR CARD Driver's License (Class D)

- 1 year (age 17 or 20) $20.00
- 3 year (under age 15 to 18) $30.00
- 3 year (age 18 to 21) $30.00
- 4 year (age 21 and over) $35.00
- 8 year (age 21 to 62) $60.00

Instruction Permit (IP) $20.00
Knowledge Test $5.00
Skills Test ($6.50 paid to county DMV and up to $28.50 to Skills Test Examiner) ... $35.00
Duplicate $20.00
Driver Training Instruction Permit/Supervised Instruction Permit $21.50
(Fee includes $6.50 fee collected in advance for skills test receipt)

STAR CARD or NON-STAR CARD Commercial Driver's License (CDL) (Class A, B or C)

- 1 year (age 20) $15.00
- 3 year (age 18 to 21) $30.00
- 4 year (age 21 and over) $40.00
- 8 year (age 21 and over) $60.00

Instruction Permit (must have Idaho Class D) $29.00
Knowledge Test $5.00
Skills Test ($10 paid to county DMV and up to $190 to Skills Test Examiner) $200.00
Endorsement Knowledge Test $5.00
Additional Endorsement $20.00
Duplicate $20.00
CDL Driver's License Upgrade $30.00
Seasonal CDL Driver's License (6 months) $44.00

Motorcycle

Instruction Permit (must have Idaho Class D) $15.00
Duplicate $20.00
Knowledge Test $5.00
Skills Test (paid to Skills Test Examiner) $25.00
M Endorsement $15.00

STAR or NON-STAR Identification Card

- Under age 18 ..... $10.00
- Age 18 to 21 ..... $10.00
- 4 year (age 21 and over) $15.00
- 8 year (age 21 and over) $25.00
- Duplicate (same fee as original cost)

Eligible customers who renew online will qualify for a $5.00 discount off of their driver's license renewal. Note: The discount only applies to driver's licenses and not identification cards.

Note: All Retest Fees are the Same as the Original Test Fees.

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PRACTICE TEST ANSWERS

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ONE DRIVER, ONE LICENSE, ONE RECORD

When applying for an Idaho driver's license, you must surrender any driver's license or identification card (ID card) issued to you from another state, U.S. Territory, or the District of Columbia. When transferring from one of those jurisdictions, you will be required to pass a Class D knowledge test (and skills test if your license has been expired for 25 months or more), even if you were previously licensed in Idaho.

When you obtain a credential in another jurisdiction, your Idaho credential will be canceled. If you apply again in Idaho for a credential, you are considered a new applicant in Idaho and must reapply and retest. When you are applying for an Idaho Commercial Driver's License (CDL), you must surrender any driver's license(s) issued to you by any jurisdiction(s) – foreign or domestic.

If you are from a foreign country and are issued a Class D Idaho driver's license you are not required to surrender your foreign driver's license. However, you are not allowed to show or use your foreign driver's license for operating a motor vehicle. If you do, you could be cited and fined for a misdemeanor.

Accommodations for applicants with disabilities:

Reasonable accommodations will be made to provide persons with disabilities equal accessibility to ITD's facilities, programs, and services, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), when requested. Please allow the county DMV two weeks to complete the arrangements.

WHAT IS REAL ID

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the federal government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting, for official purposes, driver's licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards.

WHAT IS A STAR CARD

The Star Card is Idaho's Real ID. It is an Idaho driver's license or identification (ID) card that adds a star to show it is in compliance with the federal Real ID security standards. While the Star Card is not mandatory, starting May 7, 2025, you will not be able to fly commercially or enter a federal building, such as a military base or the Idaho National Laboratory, without it or a valid passport.

For more information, please visit itd.idaho.gov/starcard.

MISUSE OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE

You must carry your driver's license when operating a motor vehicle. Any misuse or mutilation of your driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card is a misdemeanor. If your license gets worn, broken, or damaged you need to get a duplicate.

Providing False Information – If you knowingly provide false information on a driver's license, ID card, or permit application, you are subject to prosecution for perjury and your credential will be canceled. When you apply for a new driver's license or permit, duplicate driver's license, or driver's license renewal, your driving record with ITD and the Problem Driver Pointer

System (PDPS) through the National Driver Register (NDR) will be examined. If there are any outstanding license suspensions, revocations, cancellations, etc. in any jurisdiction, they must be cleared before you can be issued a driver's license.

WHERE TO GET AN IDAHO CREDENTIAL

Idaho driver's licenses, ID cards, and instruction permits are issued through the county sheriff's driver's license offices. The list of office locations and phone numbers can be found at itd.idaho.gov/dmv (click on the Driver's License/ID Cards tab).

YOUR PHOTOGRAPH

Your new driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card will include a photo showing a full front view of your face. Before your photo is taken at the county driver's license office, you will be asked remove anything that covers your face or head (i.e. hat or sunglasses). An exception may be made for medical or religious purposes.

TYPES OF CREDENTIALS

Types of credentials that Idaho issues:

- Driver's Licenses
  - Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL)
    Class A, B, and C
  - Class D – Non-Commercial Driver's License (DL)
- Permits
  - Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP)
  - Class D Instruction Permit (IP)
  - Driver Training Permit (DT)
  - Motorcycle Instruction Permit (MIP)
- Identification Cards (ID)

CLASS A, B, AND C

Class A, B, and C licenses are Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) that allow a person to operate certain types of commercial vehicles. A commercial vehicle, for driver's licensing purposes, is a vehicle that either has a manufactured gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, is placarded for hazardous materials, or designed to transport 16 or more passengers (including the driver). See the Commercial Driver's License Manual for detailed information about commercial driver's licensing applications, requirements, and endorsements.

CLASS D

Class D driver's licenses allow drivers to operate non-commercial motor vehicles. The requirements for drivers from any of the U.S. Territories applying for an Idaho DL are the same as if moving to Idaho from out-of-state. Applicants surrender their DL from that territory and pass the knowledge test but they do not need to take the skills test.

DRIVER TRAINING PERMITS

Driver Training Permits (DT) allow anyone 14 1/2 and under 17 years of age to attend any public school or private driver training program. The permit expires 5 days after the permit holder's 18th birthday. The permit expiration for people 17 1/2 years of age and older is 6 months (180 days). While you are enrolled in a driver training program, the DT permit is valid only to operate a vehicle with a driver's training instructor. When you have successfully completed a driver training program and the instructor has given you the driver training permit, you will be eligible to begin the supervised instruction period required by Idaho's Graduated Driver's License (GDL) program.

The documents required to get a DT are the same as those required for a driver's license and are listed on the following pages. All applicants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian, who has verifiable custody of guardianship, sign as the liability signer, assuming the obligation of the applicant. At 18 years of age, you may apply for a Class D Instruction Permit without a liability signer.

CLASS D INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Class D Instruction Permits (IP) allow an applicant who is 17 years of age or older to practice safely operating a motor vehicle for one (1) year when accompanied by an adult (someone who is 18 years of age or older) who holds a valid driver's license. You must pass a knowledge test to be issued an instruction permit. The permit may be renewed one (1) time without requiring the permit holder to retake and pass the Class D knowledge test, provided the previous knowledge test was taken within the past 12 months. Anyone 17 years of age or older may take driver's training with either the Driver Training or Supervised Instruction Permit (if they have taken a driver's education course) or with the Class D Instruction Permit.

RESTRICTION WHEN UNDER 16

Daylight only travel is allowed unless you have a valid licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age sitting in the front seat beside you. Daylight is defined as 5:00a to 10:00p local time.

RESTRICTION WHEN UNDER 17

During the first 6 months from the date the license was issued, the number of passengers in the vehicle who are under the age of 17 shall be limited to not more than one passenger, unless the passenger(s) are related to the driver by blood, adoption or marriage.

UNDER 18 AND 21 YEARS OF AGE

For those under 18 and 21 years of age, your driver's license or ID card will show "Under 21 until month/day/year," and your license or ID card will expire five days after your 21st birthday. If you are 15 to 17 years of age, your driver's license or ID card will show "Under 18 until month/day/year," and your driver's license or ID card will expire five days after your 18th birthday.

FOREIGN CLASS D

If you are a foreign applicant applying for an Idaho Class D (non-commercial) driver's license and have not been issued a CDL in any jurisdiction, you are not required to surrender your foreign driver's license or provide a driving record. If drivers from Korea or Taiwan choose not to surrender their foreign driver's license, they must take the skills test. Drivers from Germany do not have to surrender their license or take the skills test. All other foreign drivers must take a skills test. No foreign drivers are exempt from the knowledge test.

FOREIGN CDL

Foreign CDL drivers are foreign drivers from any country other than Mexico or Canada, holding a temporary work visa for the United States, and who may apply and test for an Idaho non-domiciled commercial instruction permit or CDL, and not have to surrender their home country license. If you become a permanent legal resident or citizen of the United States and resident of Idaho, you must surrender the Idaho non-domicile CDL and any other licenses to receive an Idaho CDL, without retesting unless you are upgrading or adding endorsements.

If you are from Canada or Mexico, you are not allowed to purchase a non-resident CDL. Canadian and Mexican CDL holders are only required to surrender their driver's license if they change their permanent residence from their country of origin to the United States. If they reside in Idaho, they can

apply for an Idaho CDL. When surrendering a CDL issued in Mexico or Canada you must provide a driving record no older than 30 days. You will be required to take the Class D knowledge test and the required test(s) for any additional endorsements you want added to your CDL.

MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Motorcycle Instruction Permits (MIP) are available for those who want to learn how to operate a motorcycle. You must have a valid Idaho driver's license to apply for an MIP. You must also take and pass a motorcycle knowledge test. The MIP may be renewed one (1) time without requiring the permit holder to retake and pass the motorcycle knowledge test, provided the previous knowledge test was taken within the past 12 months. Any person under 21 years of age will be required to take a knowledge test and successfully complete an approved Motorcycle Rider Training Course. (See the Motorcycle Riders Handbook for more information.)

GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE (GDL) PROGRAM

Anyone under 17 years of age who has not been issued a driver's license in Idaho must successfully complete an approved driver's training program and comply with the requirements of the GDL program. Under this program, you will be required to complete a minimum 6-month, violation-free supervised instruction period, during which you must:

- Be accompanied by a valid licensed driver at least 21 years of age who is occupying the front seat beside the driver (no other passengers are allowed in the front seat).
- Ensure that all occupants are wearing seat belts or child restraints if required.
- Observe all laws regarding alcohol and other intoxicating substances.
- Accumulate at least 50 hours of supervised driving time, ten hours of which must be at night.

If you are convicted of violating any traffic laws while you are operating a vehicle under the supervised instruction period, the permit will be canceled and you must reapply for a new permit. Your minimum 6 months of supervised driving time starts over again with the issuance of a new permit. Once you have successfully met the requirements of the GDL, you will be required to take and pass a knowledge and skills test before being issued a driver's license.

DRIVER TRAINING

An approved Idaho Driver Training (DT) program consists of a required 30 hours of classroom instruction, 6 hours of in-car experience observing other student drivers, and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel practice with an approved DT instructor. DT is required for anyone under 17 years of age who is applying for an Idaho driver's license. You must purchase a Driver Training

Instruction Permit before attending any DT class.

The Idaho Department of Education provides approved DT courses through public schools in most Idaho school districts. The courses are open to all Idaho residents between the ages of 14 ½ and 21, even if they are not public school students. DT classes are also available through private DT schools (refer to sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/driver-ed/).

If you are under 17 years of age and have completed DT in another state (while a resident of that state) but have not been licensed in that state, you will be required to provide acceptable proof of completion of an approved DT course from that state. If you are not surrendering an out-of-state license, you will also be required to complete a supervised driving period prior to licensing. More information can be found at the link above.

MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT

Motorcycle (M) Endorsements are required on all licenses when a motorcycle rider operates on public highways. A motorcycle is defined as a motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. Tractors and mopeds are not classified as motorcycles. You must pass the motorcycle knowledge and skills test or successfully complete an approved motorcycle rider training course before receiving an M endorsement on your driver's license. If you are surrendering an out-of-state driver's license with an M endorsement that is expired fewer than 25 months, you must take and pass a motorcycle knowledge test. If the Idaho or out-of-state license with or without an M endorsement has been expired for more than 25 months, you must take a motorcycle knowledge and skills test. (See the Motorcycle Riders Handbook for more information about the M endorsement.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN IDAHO DRIVER'S LICENSE

New Applicants – Idaho considers new applicants to be individuals who:

- Have never been licensed in Idaho or any jurisdiction
- Are returning to Idaho after getting a driver's license or ID card in another jurisdiction
- Are surrendering a license from another jurisdiction
- Have an Idaho driver's license that has been expired for 25 months or more.

DOCUMENTS

New applicants applying for an Idaho credential are required to provide the following to the county driver's license office:

- Proof of Age and Identity (see below)
- Social Security Card or Number Verification
- Proof of Idaho Residency
- Proof of US Citizenship
- Acceptable Lawful Presence Documents (if applicable)
- Visual/Medical Certification (if applicable)
- Driver Training Completion (if under 17 years of age)
- Liability Signer (if under 18 years of age)
- Verification of School Compliance – VOC (if under 18 years of age)

PROOF OF AGE & IDENTITY

The county driver's license offices are required by law to verify your age and identity before issuing you a driver's license or ID card. Surrendering a state-issued driver's license or ID card (with photo) along with a US birth certificate that contains your full legal name and date of birth, is sufficient to prove age and identity. Photocopies or faxes of these documents will not be accepted. Note: if your name has changed due to a legal name change or marriage, you will need to provide

documentation linking your birth name to your current legal name. This is most commonly done with a certified marriage certificate or court ordered name change documents.

Note: Driver privilege cards, which differ from standard driver's licenses and Real ID cards, are not acceptable for proof of age and identity.

Driver's licenses and ID cards issued from other states are not acceptable forms of identity in Idaho unless they are accompanied by a US birth certificate or equivalent.

Minor children (under the age of 18) do not need a photo ID. Parents or legal guardians can provide their own photo ID along with the child's certified original birth certificate and, if needed, documentation to support guardianship. If the minor child brings in an acceptable photo ID from the list provided, no extra identification from a parent or guardian will be necessary (See Table 1).

When providing a birth certificate, it must be accompanied by an acceptable photo identity document listed in **Table 1** below. If the birth certificate does not match your current name (such as maiden name vs. married named) a secondary document, such as a certified marriage certificate from **Table 2**, must be provided.

TABLE 1 – ACCEPTABLE PHOTO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

- Idaho issued driver's license or identification card expired less than 5 years
- Out-of-state issued driver's license or identification card expired less than 5 years
- Acceptable valid Department of Homeland Security (DHS) photo card/document
- U.S. Military ID card or U.S. Retired Military card
- U.S. Military Dependent's card
- Valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport card

- Original citizenship/naturalization document
- Foreign passport
- Concealed Weapons Permit issued by the state of Idaho not expired for more than 1 year
- Veteran's Universal Access Card with photo
- Native American ID card with photo
- Transportation Workers Identity Credential (TWIC)
- Junior or senior high school (not college or university) photo card
- Junior or senior high school, college, university or military annual yearbook
- Idaho Department of Corrections photo ID card
- Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections photo ID card

Note: "Foreign Nationals" can provide a foreign passport in lieu of the U.S. certified birth certificate. In compliance with the National Driver's License Agreement, the foreign passport is the only acceptable document to provide proof of legal name and date of birth. To establish identity, a foreign national will need a valid foreign passport and acceptable lawful presence documentation.

Table 2 below contains acceptable secondary documents that can be used to assist in confirming your identity. Secondary documents alone are not sufficient. These documents must contain your name and enough information to establish proof of all or part of what is contained on the primary document from Table 1.

TABLE 2 – ACCEPTABLE SECONDARY IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

- Certified court name change document
- Certified marriage certificate meeting Idaho standards with seal & document number showing it was recorded
- Certified divorce document from a court or state vital records
- Guardianship or custody documents, notarized or court certified
- U.S. Military discharge paper (form #DD214)

All documents submitted must be acceptable to the county drivers license office and ITD.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD OR NUMBER FOR VERIFICATION

Your social security number must be verified through the Social Security Administration's Social Security Online Verification system. It will not be printed on your Idaho driver's license or ID card.

PROOF OF IDAHO RESIDENCY

You must reside inside Idaho's borders to be issued an Idaho driver's license or ID card. You will be required to show proof of physical address with documents such as lease or rental agreements, utility bills, employment records, school enrollment records, etc. Documents must be dated within 1 year.

ACCEPTABLE LAWFUL PRESENCE DOCUMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)

Individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for an Idaho driver's license or ID card. Proof of lawful presence may be required for a new issuance or renewal, if you have not previously provided proof of U.S. citizenship or ITD does not have record of it.

Acceptable lawful presence documents include:

- Certified Original U.S. Birth Certificate
- Valid U.S. Passport or Passport Card
- Certificate of Birth Abroad
- Original Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship
- Permanent Resident Card or Resident-Alien Card
- Employment Authorization Card
- Valid Foreign Passport and I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)

If you are not a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States, the expiration date on your driver's license will be the same date as your end of lawful stay in the United States as indicated on your documents issued by the Department of Homeland Security, or four years, whichever is less. If your Department of Homeland Security documents do not show an expiration date, the expiration date on the driver's license will be one year from the date of issuance of the driver's license.

VISUAL/MEDICAL CERTIFICATION (IF APPLICABLE)

If you have a visual and/or medical condition that could affect your driving, you may be required to provide a statement from your physician certifying that you can safely operate a motor vehicle. The necessary form may be obtained from the local county DMV agent.

If you have questions regarding any physical or mental condition that may affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle, contact ITD. If you have had eye surgery to improve your vision, the restriction on your driver's license may be removed with a physician's note. Contact ITD for more information.

PROOF OF COMPLETION OF DRIVER'S TRAINING (IF UNDER 17)

If you are under 17 years of age, you must provide proof that you have completed an approved driver's training program. You must also provide proof that the supervised instruction permit requirement has been met. See the Driver Training section of this manual for more information about these requirements.

LIABILITY SIGNER (IF UNDER 18)

If you are under 18 years of age, you need to have a parent or legal guardian with you to sign consent for you to be licensed. The signer assumes legal responsibility for your actions as a driver. If the liability signer is not the mother or father listed on your birth certificate, you must also provide acceptable legal documents (e.g. adoption records with updated birth certificate or court-ordered guardianship documents) to show the signer has authority to consent. The identity of the liability signer will be verified. If the signer's name is different from the one appearing on your birth certificate, additional documents such as a marriage license or divorce decree may be required to verify relationship. If the liability signer cannot be present to sign the application at the county DMV, the liability signer must complete a power of attorney form, giving another person authority to sign for them. While you are under 18 years of age, the liability signer may withdraw consent at any time, which will cause the department to cancel your driving credential. If you are married, your spouse, who must be at least 18 years of age, may sign for you.

VERIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMPLIANCE (VOC) (IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

If you are under 18 years of age, you will need to provide acceptable proof of enrollment and attendance in, or graduation from, a recognized high school or equivalent program. This proof can be in the form of a verification of compliance slip from an acceptable school or program you are attending, a high school diploma, or a general education certificate of completion. When signing the liability statement, your parent(s) or legal guardian must also sign a statement that you are in compliance with the school attendance provisions of Idaho Code.

STAR CARD

The following additional documentation will be required to obtain a Star Card (Real ID):

- Proof of identity, photo, and lawful presence (e.g. certified birth certificate, permanent resident card, etc.)
- Name change documents for proof of identity (if applicable) (e.g. certified marriage certificate, court ordered name change, etc.)
- Social security number for verification with the Social Security Administration
- Two proofs of Idaho residency with physical address.
- A list of other acceptable documents is available on the ITD website

For more information on obtaining a Star Card, visit itd.idaho.gov/starcard/

DESIGNATIONS ADDED TO CREDENTIALS

DONOR DESIGNATION:

- If you are 15 years of age or older, you may request to have the "DONOR" designation appear on your driver's license or ID card. The designation identifies your wish to donate your organs and/or tissue upon your death to those waiting for transplants. If you're under 18 years of age you must have consent from your parent or adult guardian to be an organ donor. Organ donor information can be found at yesIdaho.org. You may also elect to contribute an additional $2 to the organ donation fund.

VETERAN'S DESIGNATION:

- If you would like a veteran's designation on your driver's license or ID card, you must provide a DD214 form indicating honorable discharge. A list of other acceptable documents is available on the ITD website

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

When you apply for a driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card, you can request to have a notation placed on the back of the driver's license or ID card regarding any medical condition(s) you have. This may alert emergency personnel or those assisting you in an emergency.

PERMANENT DISABILITY NOTATION:

- Individuals may request the notation "permanently disabled" on their driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card if that person:
  - Has a permanent disability, and
  - Presents written certification from a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant, or licensed advanced-practice professional nurse verifying that the person's stated impairment qualifies as a permanent disability as provided in Idaho Code, section 49-117, and
  - ITD determines that the person meets all other requirements for issuance of a driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.
  - Individuals who have received non-expiring disability placards or disability license plates may present the corresponding registration document to the county driver's license office to have the "permanent disability" notation included on their driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION:

- Federal law requires all males who are 18 to 25 years of age to register with the Selective Service System. The Selective Service System receives notification of all applicants who say "no," that they have not registered for Selective Service.

NAME CHANGE ON CREDENTIAL

To change the name that is shown on your driver's license or ID card you must apply for a duplicate or, if you are eligible, you may make the change as you renew your driver's license. You will need to provide the county driver's license office with legal proof of your new name, such as a state-certified marriage certificate meeting Idaho standards, court-certified divorce decree, or court documents. Note: your name must be updated with the Social Security Administration prior to applying for a duplicate.

ADDRESS CHANGE

You must notify ITD within 30 days when your address changes. You must do this by either completing a change of address form available at any county driver's license office or online at itd.idaho.gov (DMV > DMV Online > Update Address) or paper form. You may also notify the department in writing by email or mail.

If you would like an address change to show on your actual driver's license or ID card, you will need to apply for a duplicate, unless you are eligible to renew the driver's license or ID card. Your record must show your actual physical address, however a post office box, general delivery, highway contract (HC) route number or rural route, or another address may be given for your mailing address.

For your own protection, DO NOT:

- Lend anyone your driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card
- Use anyone else's driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card
- Display or possess a fraudulent/altered driver's license, permit, or ID card

- Keep a driver's license, permit, or ID card if it has been canceled
- Allow an unlicensed driver to drive your vehicle (in case of a crash, both the driver and the owner of the vehicle are responsible for the damage, injury, or death when permissions to drive the vehicle have been given).

RENEWALS

If you are 21 years of age or older, you may renew your Idaho Class D or CDL driver's license in person up to 25 months before the expiration date, unless you have a hazardous materials endorsement on your CDL. A renewal is valid for either four years or eight years, or to the end of your lawful stay in the United States. If you are between 21 and 62 years of age, you may choose the eight-year renewal for your Class D or commercial driver's license. Vision screening is required at all renewals and, if failed, examiner may require a Vision Exam form to be filled out by an eye doctor/specialist. Medical Exam forms may also be required depending on pre-existing conditions or observations.

If the Idaho (Class D or CDL) or out-of-state (Class D only) driver's license has been expired for 25 months or more, you will be required to take all applicable knowledge and skills test(s). If the out-of-state CDL has been expired for more than 12 months and you wish to retain CDL privileges, you will be required to take the class D knowledge and skills tests, all knowledge tests pertinent to the CDL, and a skills test in the class of vehicle that matches the class of CDL you are applying for.

DUPLICATES

If your Idaho credential is lost, damaged or destroyed, you may obtain a duplicate by applying at any county driver's license office or online. If you are temporarily residing out of state, a paper application may be submitted. In most cases, the county driver's license office should be able to identify you

from the digital photo on file along with any other documentation you can bring that identifies you (see previous pages for lists of acceptable documents). If you find your lost driver's license or ID card after a duplicate has been issued, it must be destroyed, or surrendered to the county driver's license office. The new duplicate driver's license or ID card issued to you is the driver's license that should be retained.

EXTENSIONS

Your Idaho driver's license will expire on your birthday as indicated on your license. If you are temporarily out of state at that time, you may apply for an extension of up to 12 months for $10.00. If necessary, you can request a second, and final, 12-month extension upon reapplication for $10.00.

A CDL may be extended, but a hazardous materials endorsement cannot be extended.

If you are on active duty or a dependent of an active-duty military personnel in the U.S. armed forces, you may, during the active-duty period, apply for as many extensions as are needed, at $10.00 per application. For more information or an application for an extension, contact ITD.

LOST OR STOLEN CREDENTIAL

Idaho residents whose driver's license, DT/SIP, CLP, or ID card is lost, stolen, mutilated, destroyed, confiscated, etc., must visit a county DMV office and declare the reason for applying for a duplicate.

Applicants who are new to the State of Idaho and who have lost a valid out-of-state driver's license or ID card are required to provide documentation as outlined previously to assist in identity verification.

REQUIRED TESTING

Applicants must be 15 years of age or older to take the knowledge and skills tests.

MEDICAL/VISUAL SCREENING:

Your vision will be tested and you must meet a minimum standard of 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or without corrective lenses. If you wear glasses or contacts during the vision screening, a lens restriction will be placed on your driver's license. If a lens restriction is placed on your driver's license, you must always wear your glasses or contacts when operating a motor vehicle or you may be cited and have your driving privileges suspended. If you have a medical condition that may affect your ability to safely operate a vehicle, the county DMV agent may request a medical to be completed by your physician prior to issuing you a driver's license.

KNOWLEDGE TEST: CLASS D (NON-COMMERCIAL)

If you are a new applicant, transferring your out-of-state driver's license, or your Idaho driver's license has been expired for 25 months or more, you must take the knowledge test. Knowledge test questions are taken directly from information included in the Driver's Handbook. The knowledge test consists of 40 questions; you can miss up to six (6) questions before failing the test. The knowledge test is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Korean, Russian, Serbo-Croation, Spanish, Swahili, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Web-based driver practice tests are not an accurate representation of Idaho knowledge tests, with the exception of the sample test questions provided by ITD through the itd.idaho.gov website.

IF YOU FAIL A KNOWLEDGE TEST, YOU MUST WAIT THREE (3) DAYS TO RETEST. YOU WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE KNOWLEDGE TEST FEE AGAIN.

SKILLS TEST: CLASS D (NON-COMMERCIAL)

To ensure an applicant for a class D driver's license understands the rules of the road, it is beneficial for the applicant to pass the knowledge test prior to taking the skills test. However, tests may be taken in either order. Skills tests may only be scheduled during daylight hours and during acceptable weather conditions. Twelve or fewer errors is a passing score.

IF YOU FAIL A SKILLS TEST, YOU MUST WAIT THREE (3) DAYS TO RETEST. YOU WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PAY BOTH TEST FEES AGAIN (COUNTY AND SKILLS TEST EXAMINER).

Who is required to take a skills test? Those who:

- Have never been licensed before
- Have completed an approved driver's training course and the SIP (under 17)—***skills test eligibility dates are strictly enforced***
- Are driving on an instruction permit (17 years of age or older) and want to become a licensed driver
- Have vision that does not meet minimum standards
- Have a recurring skills test requirement due to a medical or visual condition
- Present a foreign license, if there is no reciprocity agreement
- Present an Idaho or out-of-state driver's license that has been expired 25 months or more—does not apply to Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL).

ADDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A REQUIRED SKILLS TEST:

- Having any mental or physical impairment that might affect the safe operation of a motor vehicle
- When a county agent has concerns about an applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle regardless of prior license, experience, or age

SCHEDULING A SKILLS TEST:

Idaho has third party contractors who administer all Class D skills tests. Applicants required to take a skills test are referred to the website (itd.idaho.gov/itddmv) to obtain contact information for skills test examiners. Click on the **DRIVER'S LICENSE/ ID CARDS** tab then scroll down and click on **SKILLS TEST.** Contact the skills test examiner of your choice. If the skills test examiner cannot be reached, leave a voicemail with your name and phone number. They will not return calls unless a voicemail with your information is provided.

RESTRICTED SKILLS TEST:

Notify the skills test examiner if you require or would like a restricted skills test. Restricted skills tests are for applicants who are unable to drive outside of their specific restrictions or proposed restrictions or only want to drive to and from certain locations. A restricted driver's license gives applicants some mobility while only allowing them to safely operate a motor vehicle within their abilities. If you do not want a restricted driver's license, you must complete the entire skills test route without any modifications. You must discuss all options with the skills test examiner prior to taking the skills test.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BRING FOR THE SKILLS TEST:

- **Proof of Identity (with photo):** A state-issued (Idaho or another jurisdiction) photo ID or driver's license, instruction permit, supervised instruction permit, passport, school ID, yearbook, etc.
- **Vehicle Permission (written or verbal in person):** If you are not the owner of the vehicle being used for the skills test, permission to use the vehicle must be provided to the skills test examiner either in written format or in person verbally. (Permission over the phone is not acceptable.)

- **Vehicle Insurance (not expired):** A paper or digital copy of valid proof of insurance must be in the vehicle during the skills test. An SR22 is not valid proof of insurance.
- **Vehicle Registration (not expired):** Valid, not a photo copy, must be in the vehicle during the skills test, and signed by the registrant.
- **Skills Test Receipt:** Only required for identity verification if no state-issued credential (Idaho or another jurisdiction) is provided as proof of identity. Photo identification is still required if a skills test receipt is provided.
- **Skills Test Evaluation Form (if applicable):** Form provided by ITD for use by the skills test examiner is required for a medical caution (reevaluation) or skills test requirement at the time of the skills test.

PASSENGERS

Passengers are not allowed during the skills test. Exceptions may be made for the following categories of passengers (These specific passengers must be 18 years of age or older with valid identification and must sign the liability waiver):

- Parent or Legal Guardian: Only one (1) parent or legal guardian may accompany a minor (17 years of age or younger) during the skills test.
- Translator: Translators are not required to be certified or have a valid driver's license. Applicants are responsible for procuring a translator if deemed necessary.
- Law Enforcement: An officer may accompany a current inmate during a skills test.
- Missionaries: A religious missionary companion may accompany the applicant during a skills test if requested.

SKILLS TEST EXAMINER VEHICLE INSPECTION

The skills test examiner will inspect and verify that all items listed below meet Idaho Code and ITD standards:

- Passenger door, passenger seatbelt, rear-view / side mirrors (rear-view or both side mirrors), windshield (no cracks or obstructions), tires (must have at least 2/32” of an inch or more of tread. Studded tires are not allowed May 1 to September 30, dashboard gauges / lights (no critical lights or gauges are illuminated).
- Vehicles with dealer plates cannot be used for skills tests unless the applicant is a dealer or a full-time salesperson. This must be proven by providing a state-issued dealer’s ID card.
- Rental cars are not allowed to be used for taking a skills test if the applicant is not a licensed driver or is under the age of 25.

If the provided motor vehicle does not meet standards, another skills test will be scheduled contingent upon bringing a safe and roadworthy vehicle or repairing the current motor vehicle.

APPLICANT VEHICLE KNOWLEDGE & INSPECTION

You must be able to locate and/or demonstrate to the skills test examiner that the following items are functioning properly: driver door, driver seatbelt, brake lights, turn signals, headlights, windshield wipers, hazards / emergency lights, driver window, horn, emergency / parking brake, and defroster/defogger, as well as properly demonstrate all three arm signals. You can miss 3 or fewer to continue to the driving portion of the skills test.

DRIVING SKILLS

You must be able to demonstrate the essential driving skills to safely operate a motor vehicle while abiding by Idaho traffic laws. Twelve or fewer errors is a passing score.

The skills test includes:

Commercial/residential driving, curve, intersections – (controlled, uncontrolled, railroad, roundabout), interstate (freeway), lane changes, parking lot, turns – (right, left, U-turn), and parking – (stall & curb), etc.

During the skills test, you will be scored on:

Acceleration/deceleration, attentiveness, stopping (complete/ unnecessary), lane position, right-of-way, signaling, spacing, speed control, steering control, unnecessary stops, parking (stall & curb), traffic checks, etc.

CRITICAL DRIVING ERRORS (CDE)

A driving skill performed or not performed that may result in an incident/accident, injury, or death. If a CDE occurs, the error constitutes an automatic FAIL and the skills test ends immediately. The CDE's can be any of the following actions: dangerous action, disobeys emergency or safety vehicle, disobeys police or safety personnel, disobeys traffic sign or signal, drives up onto the curb or sidewalk, intervention by or disobeys skills test examiner, habitual violation (missing 5 or more of same scored skill), lane violation, passenger interference, speeding, street parking (more than 18" from the curb & impeding traffic), and striking an object.

RESULTS

Upon completion of the skills test, you will be notified of your score. If you pass, the skills test examiner will provide you with your skills test in a sealed envelope to deliver to the county DMV. The envelope must not be opened. If it is determined the envelope has been opened or tampered with, your results will be held pending ITD verification and approval. If you fail, the skills test examiner will submit the failed skills test results to ITD to record on your driving record. You do not have driving privileges until the passing skills test results are recorded on your driving record and a driver's license is issued.

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

OPERATING A VEHICLE WITHOUT THE OWNER'S CONSENT

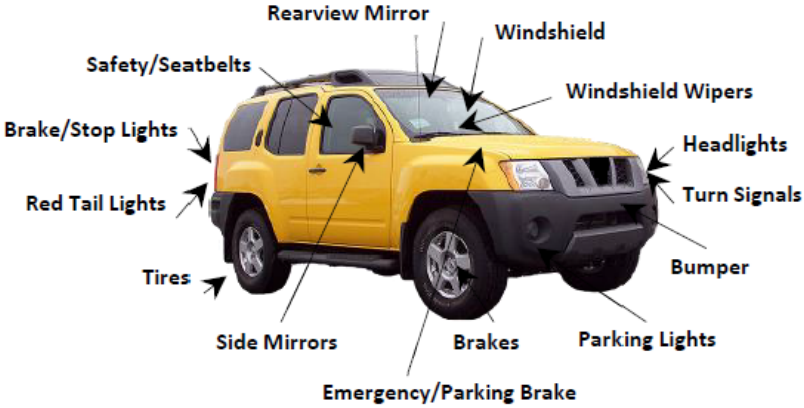
Any person who will operate a vehicle not his own, without the consent of the owner, and with intent to temporarily deprive the owner of his possession of such vehicle, without intent to steal the vehicle, will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Under Idaho law, you may not drive any vehicle that is mechanically unsafe. If your vehicle needs repairs, lacks vital equipment, or presents some other danger, you are responsible for correcting the problem.

Idaho does not require an annual safety inspection, but if you are stopped by a police officer who finds your vehicle is unsafe or lacks proper equipment, the officer may issue you a citation.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- **Brakes:** All vehicles must have two brake systems designed so that if one fails the other still works. Foot brakes must stop a vehicle that is traveling 20 miles per hour on dry pavement within a distance of 25 feet. The emergency or parking brake must stop the vehicle within 55 feet under similar conditions, and must hold the car stationary on a hill when parked.
- **Headlights:** Two headlamps (with high and low beams) are required and must be aimed to light the road without blinding oncoming drivers. High beams must allow the driver to see people and vehicles at least 350 feet away. Low beams must light the roadway at least 100 feet ahead. Must not cover headlights with any reflective, opaque, or non-transparent material.



- **Stop or Brake Lights:** All motor vehicles must have functioning red or amber brake lights visible for at least 100 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. Brake lights must be designed to come on when you apply the foot brake. Keep the brake light lenses clean.
- **Taillights:** Vehicles built before January 1, 1956, and motorcycles must have at least one red light mounted on the rear. All other motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers must have at least two red lights mounted on the left and right rear, visible from 500 feet to the rear.
- **Turn Signals:** All motor vehicles built after January 1, 1955, must have flashing electric left and right turn signals on the front and rear with a switch that can be controlled by the driver and be visible from 100 feet. The front signals must be white or amber and the rear signals must be red or amber.
- **Tires:** Each tire should have at least 2/32” or more of tread.
- **Horns:** All motor vehicles must have a horn that can be heard at least 200 feet away. Horns with unreasonably loud or harsh sounds are prohibited.

- **Windows and Windshields Must:**
  - Be made of approved safety glass
  - Be replaced when damage to the glass obstructs the driver's view
  - Be kept free of signs or stickers not required by law
  - Not be blocked by any object placed or hung in the vehicle
  - Be kept free of frost, snow, dirt or anything else that obscures the driver's visibility
  - Not be treated with a mirror surface or other substance that makes them difficult to see through, even from the outside.
- **Windshield Wipers:** All motor vehicles must be equipped with wipers to keep the windshield clear of rain, snow, or other moisture.
- **Mirrors:** All motor vehicles must have a rear view mirror that provides a view of the highway for at least 200 feet to the rear. If a load or trailer obscures the driver's normal view through the rear window, the vehicle must have two additional mirrors, one on each side of the vehicle. If no rear-view mirror is present, they must have 2 side mirrors (1 left, 1 right).
- **Mufflers:** All motor vehicles must have a muffler that is in good working order and prevents loud or unusual noise.
- **Fenders and Flaps:** All motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers must have fenders, wheel covers or flaps to prevent mud, water or other material from being thrown from the wheels up onto other vehicles.

CHILD RESTRAINTS ARE REQUIRED

Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for American children over one year of age. Some 1,500 children die in auto crashes each year. Another 100,000 are injured.

Most of these deaths and injuries can be avoided if parents take the time to buckle their children into an approved child

restraint system. Idaho law requires anyone carrying children 6 years of age or younger in a non-commercial motor vehicle to properly protect children in approved child car safety seats. The law applies to cars manufactured with car safety belts after January 1, 1966.

Proper protection means:

- Using approved safety seats (seats that meet federal safety standards)
- Fitting children snugly into safety seats with the straps that are attached to the seat
- Securing safety seats to the vehicle
- Using safety seats on every trip.

Additional recommendations for child seat use from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration include the following:

- Always read child seat manufacturers' instructions and the vehicle owner's manual for important information on height and weight limits, and how to properly install the car seat using the seat belt or the LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) system.
- All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.
- Children in rear-facing car seats should never ride in front of an active passenger air bag.
- View National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's new child restraint guidelines. (https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats)

SEAT BELTS & SHOULDER STRAPS

Idaho law requires all occupants to wear safety belts and/or shoulder straps when riding in a motor vehicle equipped with these devices by the factory. Studies by the NHTSA show that when worn, safety belts:

- Reduce your chances of serious injury in an auto crash by 50%
- Are 60-70% effective in preventing fatalities in auto crashes

WARNING!!!

WHEN IT IS HOT OUTSIDE, DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN OR PETS IN AN UNATTENDED VEHICLE.

Safety belts also help drivers maintain control of their car on winding or rough roads or when trying to avoid a collision.

EQUIPMENT NOT ALLOWED

- Red or blue emergency lights. These are authorized for emergency vehicles only.
- Sirens, bells, and whistles.
- Any muffler cut-out or bypass that makes the exhaust system amplify or increase noise.
- More than two spotlights.
- More than two auxiliary lights in front.
- More than two fog lights in front.
- More than two cowl or fender lights.
- Studded Snow Tires
    - Studded snow tires may be used only from October 1 to April 30. Some years, the Idaho Transportation Department adjusts the dates due to weather conditions.

OTHER LAWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Lights:** Headlamps and tail lamps must be lighted from sunset to sunrise and when poor visibility makes them necessary for safety. Headlamps must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting and 200 feet before overtaking another vehicle. When lights are needed for driving, use headlamps, not parking lights.
- **Keep Windows and Windshield Clear:** Windows and windshields must be kept clean of signs, posters, and stickers except those required by law. You must also clean windows of ice, snow, or dirt before driving to ensure that you have maximum visibility in all directions.
- **Obstructing Driver's View:** It is illegal for passengers or freight to obstruct a driver's view or interfere with the operation of a vehicle.
- **Overhanging Loads:** When vehicle loads extend four feet or more beyond the rear of a vehicle, a red flag at least 18 inches square must be displayed at the end of the load. At night, the flag must be replaced by a red light visible for at least 500 feet. The vehicle's load must not extend outside the fenders on the left side or more than six inches outside the fenders on the right.
- **Reckless Driving:** You must not recklessly drive a vehicle with willful disregard for the safety of people or property either on a public road or private property.
- **Inattentive Driving:** While driving, you must give your full attention to the safe operation of your vehicle. Failure to do so may cause you to be cited for inattentive driving.

ANTIQUE VEHICLES & STREET RODS

Equipment requirements for antique vehicles and street rods may vary from the requirements for regular passenger vehicles. Please contact ITD in Boise at 208-584-4343 for additional information.

HIGHWAY & VEHICLE KNOWLEDGE

SIGNS, SIGNALS, & PAVEMENT MARKINGS

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

TRAFFIC SIGNS

There are several types of traffic signs including regulatory, warning, work zone, guide, and other types of signs. You should learn to recognize them by color and shape as well as the messages or symbols they carry.

Regulatory Signs: Regulatory signs are generally black and white, although some are red and white.

Stop: When approaching a stop sign, you must stop at a clearly marked stop line. If no stop line, then stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. If no crosswalk, then stop at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering it.

Yield: Yield right-of-way. You must slow down and yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection you are crossing or highway you are entering. If necessary, stop before crossing the intersection or entering the highway. If pedestrians are in or about to enter the

crosswalk, stop until they have crossed the highway, then proceed. Slow down, so that you may safely yield the right-of-way to other vehicles or pedestrians.

Do Not Enter: You may not enter this section of highway from the direction you are traveling.

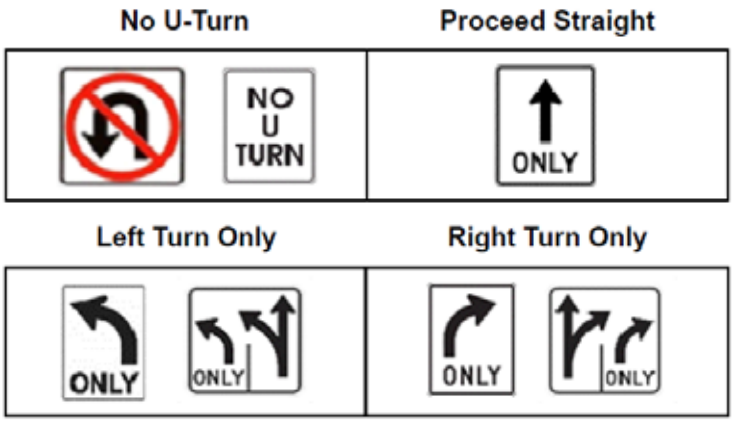
Speed Limit: The maximum speed limit on a section of road (under ideal driving conditions).

Keep Right of Island: The road ahead is divided. Stay on the right side of the island or barrier.

TURN PROHIBITION & LANE CONTROL SIGNS

No Left Turn

No Right Turn



WORK ZONE SIGNS

Work zones are hazardous areas for both workers and motorists. These are commonly identified with orange signs, cones, drums, barricades, or flashing arrow panels. Here are some tips for travel through work zones:

- **Pay attention:** Be aware of hazards, like uneven pavement, narrow lanes, heavy equipment, and gravel.

- **Watch for signs:** Regulatory signs are generally black and white or red and white. Warning signs in a work zone are orange and black. Do not go around or move any barriers or signs to cross over a road that is closed to traffic.

Lane Shift: All lanes will shift according to the sign. Stay in your lane as it shifts slightly.

Be Prepared to Stop: Slow down and be prepared to stop for road work ahead.

Slow Moving Vehicle Sign: You are approaching a slow moving vehicle. You should slow down and approach the vehicle with caution. This sign is primarily used on off road vehicles (farm equipment, construction equipment, etc.).

"Road Closed" signs mean that the work zone cannot be entered, except by authorized personnel.

"Road Closed To Thru Traffic" or "Road Closed, Local Traffic Only" signs mean that the work zone is open to local residential or commercial traffic, but the traffic must not use the work zone as a travel route unless they have a reason to stop within the work zone. When closure signs are properly placed, continuous trips through a work zone are prohibited. Other signs should be available to direct you around the work zone.

Slow down. Fines for speeding are increased in work zones where the signage indicates.

- **Watch where you are going.** Workers are just inches away from traffic, working both night and day.

- **Do not follow too closely.** Leave plenty of space between you and the car ahead.

- **Plan ahead.** Speeding, inattentive driving, failing to yield the right-of-way, and improper lane changes also contribute to crashes in work zones. Allow for the few extra minutes and minimize distractions, such as a cell phone and the car stereo.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLS

You must follow any directions issued by a school safety patrol official while driving your motor vehicle. These officials are appointed by the school and will have a badge, appropriate clothing, or insignia marked “School Patrol”, while in performance of their duties. They will display “STOP” or other proper directional signs at school crossings or other points where school children are crossing a public street or highway.

WARNING SIGNS

Most warning signs are black on yellow and diamond-shaped. They also include the fluorescent yellow/green school warning signs. These signs warn you about an unexpected condition. You may need to slow down or take other action. Some common warning signs follow.

Open Range: You are traveling in an area where livestock have the right-of-way and are allowed to roam freely and unfenced.

3-Way Intersection: You are approaching a 3-way “T” intersection and will have to turn either to the right or the left. You must stop and yield to drivers approaching from the other two directions.

Intersection/Crossroad: There is another road ahead which crosses the road you are on. Watch carefully for cross-traffic in your path.

Traffic Signal Ahead: These signs are used on roads with higher speeds or where the view of the intersection or light is blocked. Be ready for an intersection and a stop light.

Merging Traffic: If you are on the main road and see this sign, be prepared for other cars and trucks entering into your lane.

Two-Way Traffic: This sign warns about a transition from a multi-lane divided highway to a two-lane, two-way section of highway.

Lane Ends/Merge Left: Two lanes of traffic will soon become one lane of traffic. Merging traffic must yield.

Added Lane: Two highways are converging. Watch for traffic in the left lane which may move into the right lane. Before moving into the left lane (if needed) check to make sure it is clear while signaling before changing lanes.

School Zone: You are nearing a school area with a crossing. Watch for children and the marked school crossing. There are increased penalties for violation of school zone speed limits. The color of this sign may be yellow or fluorescent yellow/green.

School Crossing: Watch out for children, reduce speed, and obey crossing guard signals. The color of this sign may be yellow or fluorescent yellow/green.

Pedestrian Crossing: Watch out for people crossing the road. Pedestrians have the right-of-way, and you may have to stop for them. The color of this sign may be fluorescent yellow/green. The sign may have flashing lights that indicate a pedestrian is crossing.

Divided Highway Begins: You are getting close to the place where two-way traffic will be divided by a center strip.

Divided Highway Ends: Two-way traffic ahead will no longer be divided by a center strip. Watch out for oncoming cars.

Low Clearance: Indicates the overhead clearance above the highway is very low.

Railroad Crossing: This sign gives you early warning of a railroad crossing(s) ahead. Be prepared to stop before you get to the tracks if a train is approaching the crossing.

Slippery When Wet: Road ahead may become slippery in wet weather. Slow down under these conditions.

Hill: This sign is a warning to all vehicles that the road goes down a steep hill. You should check your brakes before going down the hill.

No Passing Zone: This pennant-shaped sign will be on the left-hand side of the road or highway in addition to a “DO NOT PASS” sign or pavement markings. It warns you of a no passing zone for your lane of traffic.

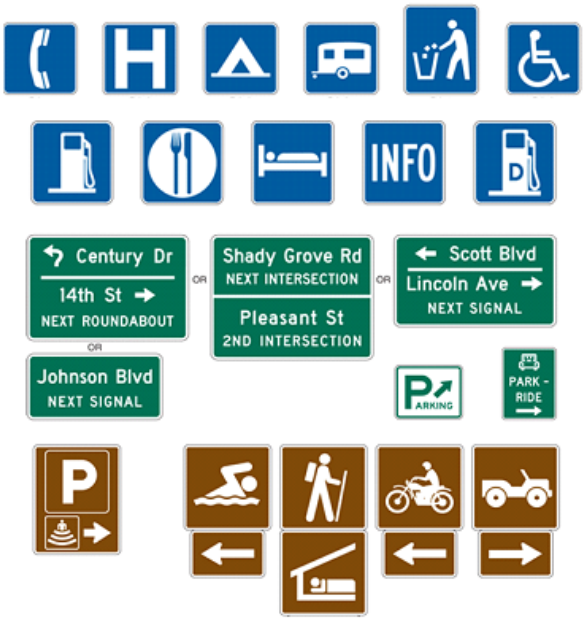
Share the Road: This sign is placed below a bicycle symbol sign and is used on highways where bike lanes are not provided. It serves as a warning to drivers and bicyclists that they need to share the highway. The signs may be placed where there are narrow lanes, narrow shoulders, high traffic volumes or speeds.

Animal Crossing: Watch for animals crossing the highway.

Emergency Notification System Sign: This sign is posted at or near a railroad crossing and lists the railroad's phone number along with the location specific crossing number. The sign displays information needed to notify the railroad of an emergency situation or of a warning device malfunction.

GUIDE SIGNS

Guide signs are either white on green for directional and distance, white on blue for motorist's services, or white on brown for cultural, historical, or scenic points of interest.



BARRICADES

Highway departments and construction crews often perform work that requires traffic lanes or entire roads to be temporarily or permanently closed. If a lane or road is closed to traffic, one of three types of barricades will be placed in the road as a warning to drivers. Barricades are either red and white (permanent) or orange and white (temporary). Even though barricades can be of different colors, the instructions they give to drivers are the same.

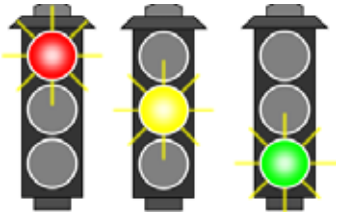
The V-shaped pattern on this barricade means that the road is closed and traffic can proceed no further.

The lines on this barricade angle down to the left, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the left side.

The lines on this barricade angle down to the right, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the right side.

The barricades may have flashing lights on them especially at night.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

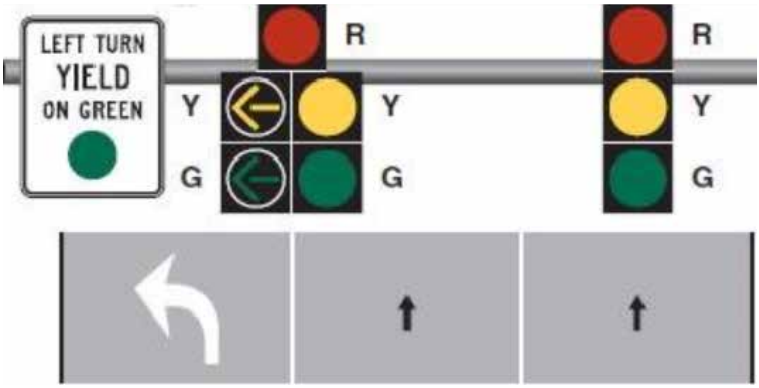


Traffic signals are lights that regulate the flow of traffic mainly through intersections. Vertical traffic lights have a red light at the top, a yellow light in the middle, and a green light at the bottom. Horizontal traffic lights have a red light on the far left, a yellow light in the middle, and a green light on the far right.

- **Red Light:** A steady red circular indication means stop. Come to a complete stop before you reach the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. You can make a turn on a red light unless posted “no turn on red.”
- **Flashing Red Light:** A flashing red indication means stop. You must come to a complete stop, yield to cross traffic or pedestrians, and then proceed when clear.
- **Steady Red Arrow:** While the steady red arrow indication is displayed, no turn is permitted in the direction of the arrow until a green or yellow light indication allows movement.
- **Yellow Light:** A yellow light means caution. An amber or yellow circular indication warns that the signal is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection and can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.
- **Flashing Yellow Light:** A flashing circular yellow indication means caution. You should slow down, look carefully for hazards, and proceed with caution.
- **Solid Yellow Arrow:** The solid yellow indication with an arrow means the signal for the turn is changing. If you have not entered the intersection and you can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue the turn and clear the intersection safely.

- **Flashing Yellow Arrow:** The flashing yellow arrow means turns are allowed after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians in crosswalks.
- **Green Circular Light:** A green circular indication means "go." You may proceed forward. If you are in the left-turn lane, you must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians in crosswalks before turning left. You should not enter the intersection unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection for your vehicle to completely pass through the intersection, so you are not blocking the intersection, regardless of a traffic control signal to proceed.
- **Doghouse Signal:** Most commonly used to indicate protected left turns. The yellow light indicates that the protected left turn movement is ending.

Note: Whenever a traffic signal is not functioning, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Pedestrian crossing beacons allow pedestrians to cross the highway and permit drivers to proceed as soon as the pedestrians have passed. The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (sometimes called HAWK) consists of two red lenses positioned over a single yellow lens. The traffic lights are located on a mast arm over the highway and on the roadside. Unlike a standard traffic signal, intersections with pedestrian hybrid beacons do not have any traffic signals facing the side

street approaches. Any side street that is controlled by a stop sign will continue to be controlled by a stop sign when a pedestrian hybrid beacon is in place. Before turning a corner, watch for people about to cross the street.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Operation

	DRIVERS		PEDESTRIANS	
	Will See ...	Will Do ...	Will See ...	Will Do ...
1		Proceed with caution.		Push the button to activate the system.
2	FLASHING	Proceed with caution. A pedestrian has activated the system.		Wait.
3		Stop if safe to do so.		Continue to wait.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Operation

	DRIVERS		PEDESTRIANS	
	Will See ...	Will Do ...	Will See ...	Will Do ...
4		STOP. A pedestrian is in the crosswalk.		Start crossing when all vehicles are stopped.
5	FLASHING	STOP. Proceed with caution if the crosswalk is clear.	09	Continue crossing; the signal will count down.
6		Proceed if the cross-walk is clear.		Push the button to activate the system.

1. The signal light the driver sees is unlit until the pedestrian pushes the crosswalk button.

2. Then it turns to a flashing yellow light that warns drivers approaching the crosswalk to slow down.

3. The flashing yellow light is followed by a solid yellow light, telling drivers to prepare to stop.

4. Two solid red lights indicate to drivers to stop at the stop line. Vehicles must stop completely when the signal lights are steady red.

5. When the red lights flash alternately, the driver must stop, yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, and proceed when the crosswalk is clear. Normal vehicle traffic can resume when the light turns dark again.

6. The signal light the driver sees is unlit and they may proceed if the crosswalk is clear.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

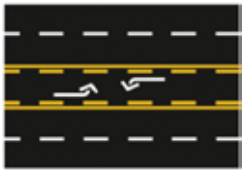
The lines and symbols that are painted on the highways divide lanes, tell you where it is not safe to pass other vehicles, where you may not change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, where pedestrians may walk, and where you must stop for signs or traffic signals.

A Dashed Yellow Line – A dashed yellow line means that vehicles in either lane can cross the line if it is safe to do so.

Double Solid Yellow Lines – Two solid yellow lines mean that neither lane of traffic can cross the lines unless they are turning (if it is safe to do so). A driver can cross a double yellow line when turning left into or out of a driveway or entrance to a business. No passing is allowed.

A Solid Yellow Line and A Dashed Yellow Line – One solid yellow line and one dashed yellow line means that only vehicles in the lane with the dashed line (lower lane in this drawing) can cross the lines to pass other vehicles.

Shared Lanes – Center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) from either direction of travel. Shared center lanes are marked on each side by a solid and yellow dashed lines. You may not travel in the shared turn lanes or interfere with another vehicle preparing to make a turn from the center turn lane.



Edge Lines – Solid white lines may be located along the side of the road to show where the edge of the road is located. At night or in bad weather, they help you stay on the road.

A Solid White Lane Line – Avoid changing lanes where a solid white line separates lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.

A Solid White Line With a Bicycle Insignia – Located along the side of the road, this indicates the area is designated for bicycle traffic only. Bicycles must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic.

Dashed White Lane Lines – On highways with more than one lane moving in one direction, traffic lanes are separated by broken white lines. Drive within these lines. Never straddle them. Cross over them only when it is safe to change lanes.

Double Solid White Lane Lines – Lane changes are prohibited in areas where this type of marking is present.

Dashed Bike Lane Lines – The dashed bike lane line indicates that drivers turning right can merge to the right and bicyclists turning left can merge to the left. These are always found at intersections or some driveway areas. Bicyclists should move

left, out of the bike lane, if they are going straight, to prevent a turning car from colliding with the bicycle. Both users must be aware of each other, and if a bike is already in that area, right turning drivers must yield. If a car is already there, the bicyclist must move to the left.

Green Pavement in Bicycle Lanes Green paint emphasizes where two movements cross over each other. Some bicycle lanes and bicycle lane extensions through intersections are painted green for additional emphasis. Drivers must be aware that bikes may be present and bicyclists must be aware that vehicles cross the bike lane in this area.

INTERSECTIONS

Railroad Crossings

Railroad (RR) crossings should always be considered dangerous. Drivers should listen and look both ways for an approaching train and for signals indicating an approaching train. Never proceed until you are certain it is safe to do so. When required to stop, you should do so within 50 feet but no less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing.

The chance of death or serious injury in a collision between a train and a motor vehicle is 40 times greater than for other highway crashes. The stopping distance for a 150-car freight train traveling 50 miles per hour is 7,000 feet or 1 and 1/3 miles. It is up to you to protect your life and the lives of your passengers at a railroad crossing.

Learn the signs and devices that highway departments and railroad companies put up to warn you of danger at a RR crossing:

- Many times, pavements are marked in advance of a crossing with an X and the letters RR.
- Railroad cross buck signs can be found at most crossings.
- Flashing-light signals are often combined with cross buck signs at crossings on busy streets and highways. You must stop when the lights are actively flashing and may only proceed when you can do so safely.
- Gates are used to stop automobile traffic at many particularly dangerous crossings. You must never drive through, under or around a crossing gate that is lowered or being lowered.

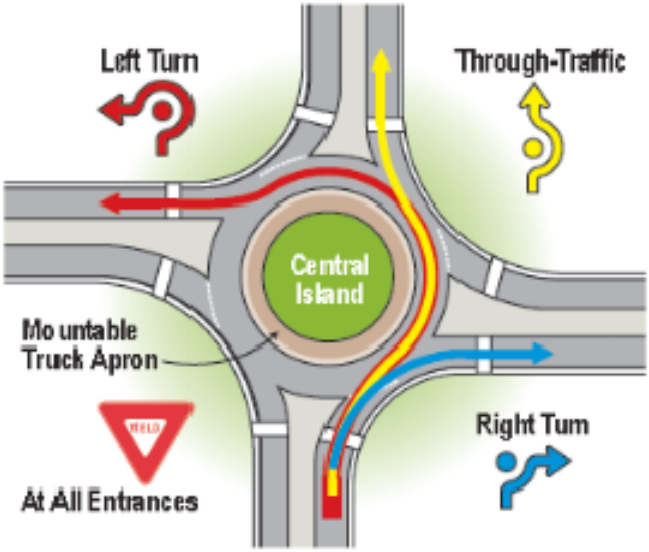
You can avoid a tragedy by following a few safety tips:

- Expect a train at any time. Always be careful at a crossing.
- Never stop your vehicle when any part of your vehicle is on the track.
- When in traffic, never proceed across the tracks unless there is adequate room for the full length of your vehicle.
- Never drive around lowered gates or fail to heed a warning signal, even if you can't see a train approaching.
- Never shift gears while driving through a crossing; this may cause your vehicle to stall on the tracks.
- Never race a train to a crossing.
- Watch out for a second train. Do not proceed until you are sure no train is approaching on another track.
- Watch out for vehicles that must stop at crossings. Some buses and trucks are required to stop at all railroad crossings.
- Look both ways as you approach a railroad crossing, even if the flashing-light signal is not functioning.

Roundabouts (aka Rotary or Traffic Circle)

The roundabout is a one-way circular intersection where you must always turn right to enter and exit. The most common sign seen when approaching a roundabout is a warning sign with an arrow in a circle pattern. In a roundabout intersection, all drivers must yield the right-of-way to vehicles that are already in the circle.

Drivers must enter the roundabout counter-clockwise and merge into the circle, whether they need to make a right turn, a left turn, a U-turn, or continue forward straight through the intersection.



How do I drive it?

- Slow down.
- Obey all traffic signs and pavement markings.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists when entering and exiting the roundabout.
- Yield to traffic on your left already in the roundabout.
- Keep your speed low.
- As you approach your exit, turn your right turn signal on.

Thru-Turn

A thru-turn is a method of managing intersection traffic by prohibiting direct left turns.

How do I drive it?

To complete a left turn in a thru-turn intersection, continue through the intersection, perform a U-turn downstream at the next traffic signal from the traffic signal/intersection you just went through, as directed by lane markings, head back toward the intersection, and make a right turn.

Single Point Urban Interchange

A single point urban interchange or SPUI (pronounced SPOO-EE), gets its name from the traffic signals that control turns from a “single point” at the center of the interchange.

How do I drive it?

Make sure to stop at the stop lines so you won’t be too far out in the intersection where you might impede cross-traffic.

Going Straight (Orange Arrow)

- Stay in one of the two through lanes.
- Turning left onto highway (green arrow)
- Enter the left-turn lanes (marked with a left arrow).

Exiting Highway (Blue Arrow)

- The exit ramp divides traffic into lanes for turning left and right.
- If you exit the freeway by mistake, you cannot travel straight across the highway and get on at the other side. You need to turn left or right onto the intersecting highway and find a safe place to turn around to return to the correct entrance to the freeway.
- Exit the highway to travel on the cross street (yellow and blue arrows).
- Turning right – Drivers will stay in the right lane when exiting the interstate. Yield, turn right, and merge onto the highway. Watch for pedestrians.

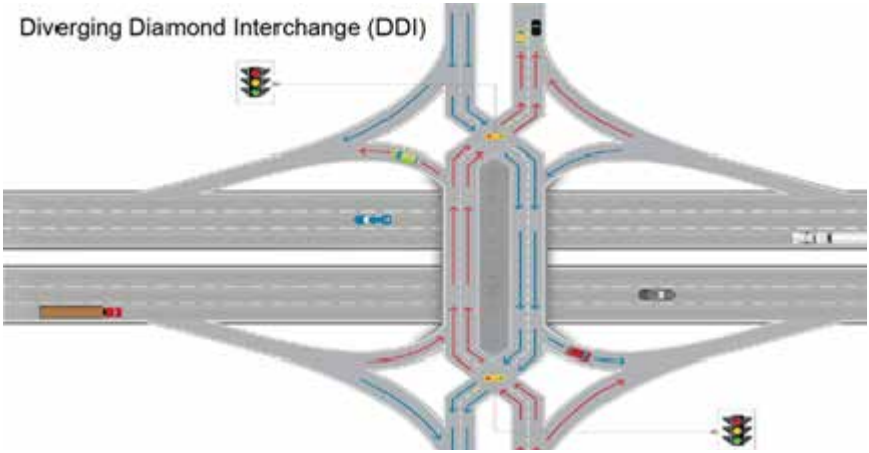
- Turning left – Drivers exit the interstate in the left lane and merge into traffic onto the highway. Watch for pedestrians.

Walking or Bicycling

The interchange includes crosswalks, bicycle paths, and pedestrian signals. Bicyclists and pedestrians use the signalized pedestrian crossing and then are directed to the center pedestrian island in the middle of the interchange.

Diverging Diamond Interchange – DDI

A Diverging Diamond Interchange, or DDI, temporarily channels traffic lanes to the left side of the highway in order to create direct access with the interstate.



How do I drive it?

Drivers will notice that opposing traffic crosses at the signals on each side of the bridge/overpass. Drivers will need to follow the road signs, signals, raised islands, and pavement markings. Motorists will need to stop at the stop lines to ensure they are not out in the intersection where they could impede cross-traffic, pedestrians, or bicyclists.

Going Straight over the Interchange

As drivers approach the intersection, they will proceed through the traffic signal at the entrance to the interchange and follow their lane to the opposite side of the overpass. They then proceed through the second traffic signal and follow their lane back to the right side of the road. Road signs, signals, and pavement markings will help guide drivers to where they need to go.

Turning onto the Highway

As drivers approach the interchange in the left lane, they will proceed through the traffic signal at the entrance to the interchange and follow their lane to the opposite side of the road. Once they cross the bridge, they will make a left-hand turn onto the highway.

MAP OF IDAHO HIGHWAYS

TRAFFIC LAWS & THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Idaho's traffic laws and safe driving practices are the "Rules of the Road" that allow the safe and orderly movement of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. They affect many driving activities such as stopping, driving speed, yielding the right-of-way, passing other vehicles, and parking.

SPEED LIMITS

The following are important aspects of Idaho law concerning speed limits.

- **Idaho's "basic rule" law:** Idaho law has a basic rule requiring you to drive at a speed that is "reasonable and prudent" at all times. This applies to all roads and highways where maximum and minimum speed limits are set by law or posted. Whenever you are driving, you need to think about how your speed affects other traffic (including pedestrians and bicycle riders). You also need to think about the road surface (the presence of ice, snow, rain, or rough pavement), hazards at intersections, visibility, oncoming traffic, curves, and any other conditions that may affect safety. If you drive too slow for existing conditions and are impeding the safe flow of traffic (even if under the posted speed limit), you are violating the "basic rule" law.
- **Maximum speeds:** 75 miles per hour on interstates unless otherwise posted. (80 may be allowed where posted). Vehicles with 5 or more axles and over 26,000 pounds, shall not exceed 10 miles per hour less than posted speed on non-urban interstate highways (65 or 70 miles per hour) and shall not exceed 65 miles per hour on urban interstate highways. Vehicles shall not exceed 65 miles per hour on state highways (70 may be allowed

where posted). 55 miles per hour up to 70 is allowed in other locations unless otherwise posted. Maximum speed in any residential, business, or urban district is 35 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.

- **Minimum speeds:** It is illegal to drive so slowly that you disrupt the normal flow of traffic. You may not operate a vehicle in the extreme left-hand lane for a period of time that impedes the flow of other traffic traveling at a lawful rate of speed.
- **School zones:** Observe posted speed limits in school zones.
- **Work zones:** Observe posted speed limits in designated work zones. Violating a work zone speed limit can result in an enhanced, fixed penalty.
- **Racing:** It's illegal to engage in any vehicle race, speed exhibition, or speed contest on any public road, street, or highway.

STOPPING

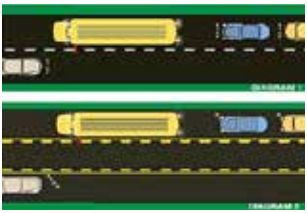
Idaho law requires you to:

- STOP at a clearly marked stop line or before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or at the point nearest the intersecting highway before entering it.
- STOP for any flashing red indication; it is the same as a stop sign.
- STOP for any steady red arrow indication; it is the same as a stop sign. You may not make a turn at the red arrow until a green or yellow light indication allows movement.
- STOP for any steady red circular traffic indication and remain stopped behind the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk. You may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross-traffic except where posted otherwise. You may turn left onto a one-way street after stopping and yielding to cross-traffic unless left turns are not allowed. In all other cases,

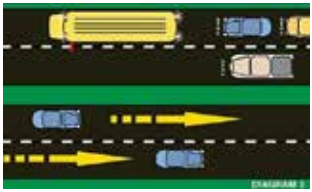
wait until the indication turns green before proceeding. When a green arrow is shown along with a steady red indication, you may proceed only in the direction of the green arrow.

- STOP or slow down at an intersection when necessary to yield right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- STOP at a railway crossing when a train is coming or when wigwag or flashing signals, gates, or a watchman indicate the approach of a train.
- STOP when entering a street from an alley, building, driveway, or private road. Stop before crossing the sidewalk and yield to pedestrians and traffic.
- STOP upon the request of any police officer.
- STOP for emergency or police vehicles sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights. Pull over to the nearest edge or curb on the right side of the highway and clear of any intersection, and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, or the police officer has indicated you may proceed.
- STOP when you are involved in a crash.
- STOP for a school bus that is loading or unloading students. Traffic must stop and remain stopped as long as the red lights near the top of the bus are flashing and/or the stop arm on the left side of the bus is extended.

You must stop when approaching a school bus that is displaying flashing red lights while stopped to pick up or drop off children. You must remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus.



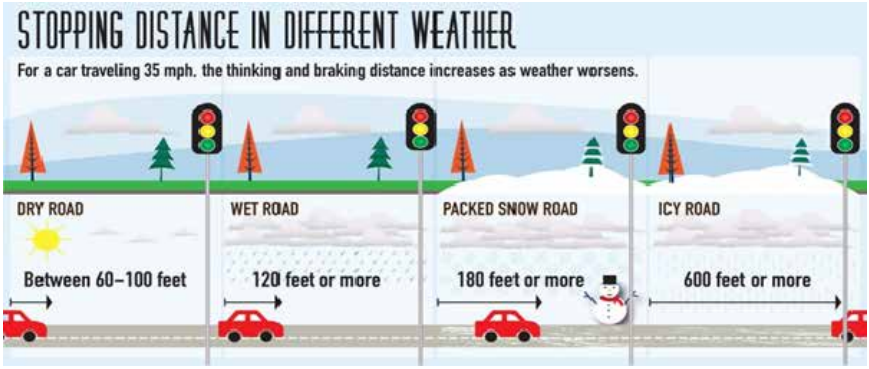
You do not have to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction on highways with four or more lanes if two lanes are going in each direction.



Stop signals: When slowing down or stopping, you must give a signal to other drivers. You may use either the brake-operated signal lights on the rear of your vehicle or an arm signal.

Speed & Stopping: The speed at which you are traveling determines how much time you have to react and how long it takes you to stop.

Driving too fast is a major cause of motor vehicle crashes. When combined with other violations, mechanical failure, or errors in judgment, speeding often leads to disaster.



Stopping Behind a Vehicle

When stopping behind another vehicle, a safe driving habit is to leave enough distance between the vehicles to see the rear tires (where they touch the ground) of the vehicle in front of you. This may keep you from hitting the vehicle in front of you if someone crashes into the rear of your vehicle or allow you room to go around a stalled vehicle without backing and causing a traffic hazard.

TURNS

Many motor vehicle crashes are caused by improper turns.

Always use a turn signal when you:

- Change lanes or pass another vehicle
- Exit a roundabout
- Turn at an intersection or into a driveway
- Enter or leave a freeway or interstate highway
- Pull away from a parked position along a road or street to enter the traffic lane
- Pull over to the side of the road

Proper signaling may prevent a rear-end collision. Signals must start at least 100 feet (in business or residential areas) or five seconds (on freeways or highways) before you turn or change lanes. If you plan to turn just beyond an intersection, signal just after you pass through the intersection so you won't confuse other drivers. You may use either electric turn signals or arm signals.

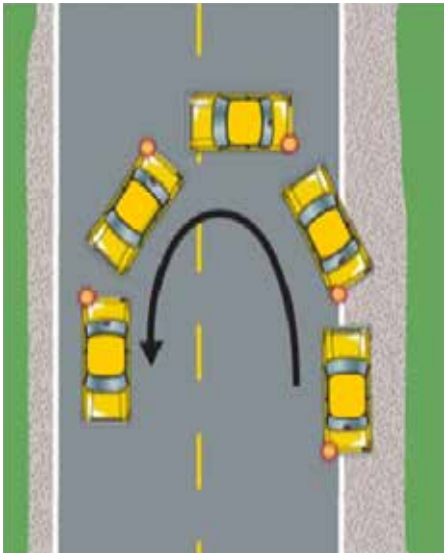
The correct arm signals are:

- **Left:** Your arm and hand extended straight out the window.
- **Right:** Your arm and hand extended upward out the window.
- **Slow or Stop:** Your arm and hand extended downward out the window (see illustration).

LEFT RIGHT STOP

- **Right Turns:** Signal and approach the intersection in the right-hand lane, staying as close to the right curb as is reasonable. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and vehicles that have the right-of-way. Watch for bicycles that are approaching from the right between your vehicle and the curb. Then turn into the right-hand lane of the cross street. Do not swing wide.
- **Left Turns:** Signal and approach the intersection in the lane closest to the left that is open to traffic going your direction. If you are on a two-lane road, you should move to the left side of your lane. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. When safe, turn into the nearest lane where traffic moves in the direction you want to go. Do not cut the corner.
- **Vehicles in the left lane must turn left:** Vehicles in the right lane may turn left or continue straight ahead. Vehicles turning left must remain in their lane of travel until after completing the turn.
- **Turning at a Red Light:** At a steady red light, you may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic, unless otherwise posted. When turning left, from a one-way street, onto a one-way street, you may proceed from a steady red light after stopping and yielding for cross-traffic, unless otherwise posted.
- **U-Turns:** U-turns are not legal if no U-turn signs are posted. U-turns may not be made on any curve, or the approach of or near the crest of a hill, where the vehicle cannot be seen by approaching vehicles from either direction within 500 feet, or a no passing zone. Stop and yield to all traffic before completing a U-turn.

Solid pavement markings in the center of the road indicate that a U-turn is prohibited.



1. Pull to the far right edge of the road and stop.
2. Check to the front and rear of vehicle, and your left-rear blind spot. If clear, signal and turn sharply left while moving slowly.
3. When your vehicle is headed toward the target area, recheck to the rear of the vehicle and accelerate to the speed of the traffic.

KEEP TO THE RIGHT

In most cases, the law requires that you stay as far to the right side of the road as possible. The exceptions are:

- When preparing to make a left turn
- When passing another vehicle going in the same direction
- When on a highway with more than two lanes where the right lane is designated for slow traffic
- When entering the left lane temporarily in order to avoid an obstruction, a pedestrian, or an animal
- When traveling on a road restricted to one-way traffic
- When traveling on a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction

RIGHT-OF-WAY & YIELD

Idaho law defines when a vehicle or pedestrian must yield the right-of-way, letting another vehicle or pedestrian pass through an intersection first. Always remember that right-of-way is something to be given, not taken.

PEDESTRIANS & RIGHT-OF-WAY

Motor vehicles must yield to a pedestrian when:

- The pedestrian is in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- The vehicle is entering a street from an alley or driveway.
- The pedestrian is a blind person walking with a white cane or guide dog.

Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles when:

- The pedestrian is crossing a street where there is no crosswalk or intersection.
- Directed to do so by a traffic signal at an intersection or crosswalk.

YIELDING TO OTHER DRIVERS

You must yield to other drivers:

- As you approach a yield sign, always slow down and be prepared to stop.
- When entering a street from an alley, driveway, or garage after stopping.
- After stopping for a stop sign at a two-way stop, yield to cross-traffic.
- At four-way stops , the first vehicle to arrive at a four-way stop has the right of way. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- At an unmarked or uncontrolled intersection (no signs or signals), if two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- At an unmarked or uncontrolled three-way “T” intersection where you will have to turn either right or left, you must stop and/or yield to any drivers approaching from the other two directions.

- When making a left turn, always yield to oncoming traffic in the intersection unless directed otherwise by a traffic-control device.
- In work zones, yield to all vehicles or pedestrians working on a highway construction project.
- When a stop light is not functioning due to a power outage, yield to other drivers in the same manner as four-way stops.

PASSING

Passing and being passed are normal parts of driving but can increase the chances of a crash. Idaho's mountains and winding river canyons make passing risky on many two-lane highways.

If you must pass, do so only when you won't interfere with oncoming traffic or the vehicle you're passing. Wait until you're certain you have enough time to pass safely. Before returning to your own lane, signal and wait until you can see the vehicle you're passing in your rear-view mirror.

If you start to pass but decide you can't make it, pull back and wait for another opening. "No Passing" signs and pavement markings can tell you where passing is prohibited or unsafe, but only you can tell when it is safe.

Passing is prohibited when you are in or approaching the following areas:

- Hills, curves, or other obstructions on two-lane roads that prevent you from seeing oncoming vehicles that might pose a hazard
- Within 100 feet of an intersection, unless otherwise indicated by traffic-control devices
- Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing, unless otherwise indicated by traffic-control devices

- Within 100 feet of a bridge or tunnel when the view is obstructed
- When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers
- When a vehicle ahead of you has stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to let a pedestrian cross
- When you must go off the pavement or roadway to pass

Passing Speed Limit Exception: If you are driving a passenger vehicle, motorcycle or pickup, not towing another vehicle, you may exceed the posted speed limit by up to 15 miles per hour while passing another vehicle that is traveling below the posted speed limit on a two-lane roadway. The posted speed limit must be 55 miles per hour or greater. This does not apply in work zones. You must return to the right-hand lane and reduce speed to the posted speed limit as soon as practicable.

Passing on the Right

You may pass a vehicle on the right only in the situations listed below and only if you can do so safely. This movement shall not be made by driving off the roadway.

Passing on the right is prohibited except:

- When the vehicle you’re overtaking on a two-lane, two-way road is signaling to turn left
- On a one-way or multi-lane street with two or more lanes going your direction

When Passing Other Vehicles

- Check your mirrors and blind spots, someone else may be trying to pass you. Turn on your left turn signal, then move into the left lane.
- Wait until you have passed the vehicle and can see it in your rear-view mirror before turning on your right turn signal and moving back into the right lane.

- If the vehicle you're passing begins to drift toward you, use your horn.
- Complete a pass before coming within 200 feet of oncoming traffic.
- Complete a pass before you reach a "No Passing" zone marked with signs or pavement markings.

When Being Passed

- Help other drivers pass you safely. Move to the right side of your lane to give them more room and a better view of the road ahead.
- Don't speed up. Maintain a steady speed or slow down.
- Watch for trouble. If the other driver miscalculates, your quick reaction can reduce the chances of being involved in a crash.

FUNERAL PROCESSIONS

If you see a funeral procession on the road, do not drive between or join vehicles in the formation unless you are authorized to do so by a police officer. Do not pass the procession in the right lane on a multi-lane highway unless the procession is in the farthest left lane.

You may not enter an intersection when the procession is proceeding through (regardless of the color of the traffic light) unless you can do so without crossing the path of the procession. Always give funeral processions the right of way.

All vehicles in a funeral procession are required to have their headlights and tail lights turned on. The first and last vehicles in the procession must also have their warning lights flashing to indicate the beginning and ending points of the formation.

SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE

Any vehicle traveling slower than the normal speed of traffic delaying three or more other vehicles in a rural area or on a two-lane highway must turn off the road wherever safe to let the other vehicles pass.

Slow-moving vehicles designed to travel no faster than 25 miles per hour may travel on public highways during daylight hours only (30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset), except for snow removal and farm equipment operated on non-interstate highways and equipped with flashing lights visible for 500 feet. All slow-moving vehicles must have a foot brake, turn signals, and must display the approved emblem for slow-moving vehicles.

FOLLOWING DISTANCES

“Tailgating” (driving too close to the car ahead) is a common cause of crashes. When following another car, you must leave yourself enough space to stop in any situation. You must also be sure your brakes are in good shape. Know how quickly they will stop you under any conditions. Test them often, particularly when the road is wet, icy or snowy.

The three-second following distance rule is the minimum recommended safest procedure to use. At high speeds or in bad weather you will need to increase your following distance.

The three-second rule is explained in the illustration below. It works like this:

- Choose a fixed object, such as a sign or tree ahead of the car in front of you.
- As the car ahead passes the object, count off three seconds (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three).

- If it takes at least three seconds before you pass the object, you have enough distance for a sudden stop.
- In bad weather, the three seconds should be increased several times to give an extra margin of safety.

KEEP A SPACE CUSHION

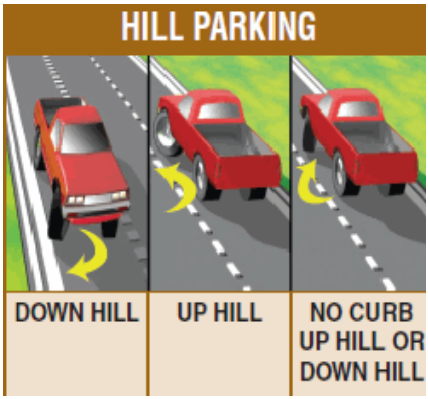
To avoid a collision, you need time to react to danger. Try to keep plenty of space between your car and others on all sides. Stay in the middle of your lane and always make sure there is enough room ahead to stop or pass safely. If a car follows too closely, slow down and let it pass.

PARKING

When parking on a public road, you must park parallel to and within 18 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway, facing in the same direction as traffic on your side of the road. Set the parking brake (only if the car is left running) and, if you have an automatic transmission, shift to park; if you have a manual transmission, leave the car in gear. Remove the keys and secure your car.

PARKING ON A HILL OR INCLINE

To keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic when parked on a hill, turn your front wheels (1) sharply toward and against the curb or edge of the road if you are facing downhill, or (2) if you are facing uphill, turn your wheels sharply away and against the curb (if there is no curb, turn the wheels sharply toward the edge of the road).



NO-PARKING ZONES

Parking is not allowed:

- In bike lanes
- On sidewalks
- On the street side of any parked vehicle. (This is known as “double parking”)
- In intersections
- Within 50 feet of railroad tracks
- On bridges or overpasses
- In front of a driveway
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk
- Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway
- On any controlled-access highway (freeway)
- Where prohibited by signs or a red-painted curb

HANDICAPPED PARKING

The symbol shown here indicates parking spaces reserved for handicapped persons. Vehicles displaying this symbol on their license plate or a special card may park in handicapped spaces. Non-handicapped drivers are prohibited from parking in such spaces and may be fined for violations. A handicapped person may park automobiles displaying the handicapped symbol in reserved parking spaces without paying and for unlimited time.

BACKING

Backing requires extra caution because it is difficult for drivers to see behind their vehicles. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back up:

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver's seat.
- Put your right arm on the back of the passenger seat and look over your shoulder directly through the rear window. Don't rely on your mirrors.
- Back slowly. Your vehicle is more difficult to control while backing. Continue looking back until you come to a complete stop.

Whenever possible, avoid backing up in traffic. If you have passed your exit on an interstate, never back or try to turn around; go on to the next exit.

Backing is always prohibited on freeways, expressways, and other controlled-access highways, including the shoulder. Elsewhere, backing is prohibited unless it can be done safely and without interfering with other traffic.

FREEWAY DRIVING

Freeways, interstates, expressways, and toll roads offer fast and efficient routes of travel. They're usually safer than other kinds of roads because they have one-way traffic, a limited number of entrances, and other special safety features. However, they can encourage boredom and fatigue that the driver must guard against. Where designated and as weather conditions permit, vehicles may travel at speeds up to 80 miles per hour on rural interstates (70 for heavy trucks), and up to 65 on urban interstate highways, unless otherwise posted. At these speeds, a single error can be disastrous.

TRAVEL PLANS

Before starting a long freeway trip, make yourself a travel plan. Plan for food, rest, and fuel stops. On short trips, know the name, route, entrance, and exit numbers. Let someone know your travel plans, your route of travel, the length of time you will be gone and when to expect you back.

ENTERING A FREEWAY

Freeway entrances usually have three basic parts: an entrance ramp, an acceleration lane, and a merging area.

While on the entrance ramp you have a chance to observe traffic conditions on the freeway. The ramp will straighten out into the acceleration lane where you should accelerate to the speed of freeway traffic. In the merging area, you must blend into the flow of traffic on the freeway's outside lane.

Follow these procedures:

- Before you enter the ramp, make sure it's the one you want. If you enter the wrong entrance by mistake, never try to back up or turn around through the median. Freeway median crossovers are for highway maintenance or emergency vehicle use only; it is illegal for any other vehicles to use them.
- If you need to get off the freeway or change directions, wait until the next exit to do so.
- Once on the ramp, check traffic around you and on the freeway. Signal and begin looking over your left shoulder for a gap in the traffic large enough for your vehicle to fit into without crowding anyone.
- As the ramp straightens, accelerate to the speed of the freeway traffic so you can blend in smoothly. Remember, you must yield to the traffic already on the highway.
- Once you're traveling at the speed of traffic, you can make a simple lane change, merge with the flow of vehicles, and turn off your turn signal.

POSSIBLE ENTRANCE PROBLEMS

The suggestions above were written with an ideal freeway entrance in mind. On older freeway entrances or freeways built with limited space, the ramp, acceleration lane, or merging area may be shorter than normal. In such places, or when traffic is heavy, you may have to take extra precautions.

For example, in heavy traffic, gaps are hard to find. If there's no opening, you may have to slow down before reaching the end of the acceleration lane.

Sometimes a short acceleration lane combined with heavy traffic will force you to stop. When that happens, be sure to leave enough room ahead so you can accelerate up to the speed of freeway traffic as you merge. Wait until there is a gap large enough for you to reach cruising speed without

interfering with oncoming vehicles. Then signal your entrance and accelerate as rapidly as you can to blend in with the traffic flow.

DON'T DRIVE TOO FAST OR SLOW

Once on the freeway, you should maintain a steady speed and keep up with the flow of traffic. Where designated and as weather conditions permit, vehicles may travel up to 80 miles per hour on rural interstate highways and 65 on urban interstates highways, unless otherwise posted. A minimum speed may also be posted. If you can't or don't want to drive at the posted speed on a freeway, choose another kind of road to travel.

CHANGING LANES

Most of the time you should drive in the far right or center lane of the freeway. The left lane is for higher-speed traffic and passing. During rush hours, you should avoid the right lane to allow room for drivers entering the freeway. Always signal for at least five seconds before making a lane change or exiting a freeway.

Median Strip: It's illegal to drive across a barrier or unpaved strip that separates two halves of a roadway, except at an authorized opening or crossover. This is not allowed on interstate highways (freeways); crossovers are for emergency vehicles only.

LEAVING THE FREEWAY

Getting off a freeway can be a simple maneuver if you know which exit to take and follow the signs marking the lane for that exit.

Follow these procedures:

- If you are not already in the correct lane, about a half mile before the exit, signal and move into the lane nearest the exit. Signal, then move into the deceleration lane provided to let you slow down without interrupting the flow of traffic.
- An exit speed may be posted. Adjust your speed accordingly as you drive through the ramp.
- As you leave the ramp and enter another thoroughfare, you may be driving in more complicated, dangerous traffic than on the freeway. Be alert and adjust to the new conditions and slower speeds.

THE DRIVING TASK

When you slide behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, you take responsibility for the lives of people around you. To be a safe driver, you must know the rules of the road and respect them. You must also know and follow proper driving procedures. Just as importantly, you must have a good attitude. Courtesy and consideration are essential to good driving.

Professional drivers will tell you it takes more than basic skills to make a good driver. After mastering those skills, a driver must still learn the fine points of good driving, including the mental and physical conditions that affect performance on the road.

Driver error causes more than 90% of highway crashes. Your ability to drive safely depends not only on what you know, but how you feel and what you were doing before you sat behind the wheel.

Most important, be patient. Try not to let heavy traffic get on your nerves. Never change your mind at the last minute or act too quickly. Don’t rely on warnings or signals from other drivers. Depend on your own alertness, not theirs.

Developing good driving habits is as easy as falling into bad ones. Start out by establishing sound habits, and you can drive safely all your life. Below are some tips on how to cultivate a safe-driving routine.

STARTING OUT

Before you get into your vehicle, always look in front and back of it to see if there is a child or obstacle you might run over. Once inside, take a moment to get ready for driving. Adjust your seat and mirrors, buckle your safety belt, and check to see that passengers are properly seated and buckled, so they won't interfere with your driving.

Develop a routine for starting your car, too. With the hand brake set, ensure the vehicle is in park or neutral and start the engine. Holding the foot brake (and clutch if you have one), shift to the proper gear. Then release the parking brake and prepare to pull out.

There is an important, five-step procedure to follow when you start from the curb, pull into a parking space or change lanes. Always:

1. Check mirrors.
2. Signal for the required five seconds or 100 feet before moving your vehicle.
3. Glance over your shoulder in the direction you're going to move.
4. When it is safe to do so, make your move gradually and smoothly.
5. Cancel the turn signal.

YOUR MOOD AFFECTS YOUR DRIVING

You should be aware of how getting behind the wheel can affect your behavior. Taking control of the power and speed of a car often reveals a person's character. To drive safely, you must find the maturity to share the road and help your fellow travelers.

If you're worried or distracted, you can't count on being alert enough to drive safely. Quarrels, misunderstandings, financial problems, illness in the family, personal fears, or over-confidence make you far more likely to have a crash. If you're upset, let someone else drive.

Concentration is vital to safe driving. The driver's seat is no place for daydreaming, window shopping, intense conversation, or looking at scenery. There have been too many crashes after which the surviving driver said, *"I don't know what happened."*

WATCH FOR PROBLEM DRIVERS

Give a lot of room to drivers who may not see you. These include:

- Drivers entering from intersections or driveways where the view is blocked by buildings, fences, trees, or other cars
- Drivers backing out of driveways or parking spaces
- Drivers whose windows are covered with ice or snow

Allow extra room for people who may be distracted by something they're doing. For example:

- Delivery and construction workers
- Children playing
- Drivers who are talking, tending children, or are otherwise distracted
- Tourists trying to figure out a complicated intersection
- Drivers looking for a house number.

Sometimes, you must also give extra room to a driver who gets in trouble. If other drivers make mistakes, help them out. Watch out for:

- Drivers who pass as you approach a curve, hill, or an oncoming car. Slow down and let them back into your lane quickly.
- Make room for any driver who is about to be forced into your lane by a car, pedestrian, bicyclist, obstacle, or a reduction in the number of lanes.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Most crashes are caused by driver error. Be prepared to react promptly to emergencies by driving with both hands placed on opposite sides of the steering wheel at approximately the nine o'clock and three o'clock positions. Check your owner's manual for proper hand-placement if your vehicle is equipped with airbags.

You can reduce your chances of crashing by knowing and using the standard crash prevention formula:

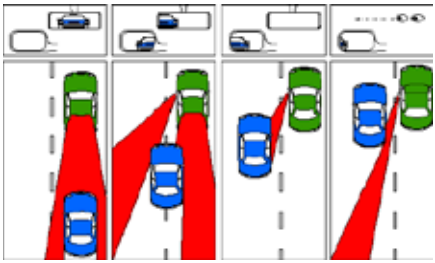
Scanning: To be a defensive driver, you have to see what is going on. Avoid a fixed, straight-ahead stare that may let you drift off in daydreams. Keep your eyes moving and learn to read the road.

Look Ahead: Good drivers keep an eye on what's happening about ten to 15 seconds ahead. That's about a block in city driving. By doing this, you'll avoid the kind of last minute lane changes, turns, and stops that often cause crashes.

Look to The Sides: As you approach any place where other cars, people or animals may cross your path, look to both sides. Don't rely on traffic lights or stop signs. Always watch

out for other drivers, they may run the light.

Look Behind: Check the traffic behind you frequently (several times a minute) so you'll know if somebody is tailgating, coming up too fast or trying to pass. Most rear-end collisions are caused by vehicles following too closely.



Blind Spots: These are areas near the left and right rear corners of your vehicle that are not visible in your mirrors (see below). If your vehicle does not have a right-side view mirror, the right blind spot will be larger than the one on the left. Never rely on your mirrors alone. Before you make any move to the side, quickly turn your head to see if your blind spot is clear. Also, avoid driving in someone else's blind spot. It's as important for other drivers to see you as for you to see them.

Identify: Scan the road ahead for potential hazards such as a vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or situation that could force you to slow down, speed up, or turn.

Predict: After spotting a potential hazard, predict what will happen; it's safest to predict the worst. For example, if you see children playing on a street corner, prepare for one of them to run in front of you.

Decide What To Do: The key to defensive driving is making a sound decision ahead of time rather than reacting to danger at the last second.

Execute: The final step is to execute your decision in a smooth, predictable manner in time to avoid a crash.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

If you do not give your full attention to driving a vehicle, bad things can happen very quickly. Seeing and reacting safely to sudden changes can keep you from being in a crash. To drive safely, you must pay full attention at all times. That will give you enough time to react. People's lives are in your hands.

THINGS THAT CAN DISTRACT YOUR ATTENTION

Anything that draws your attention away from the road can distract you. Distractions like the ones below can cause crashes:

- Texting or talking on phone
- Eating
- Reading or writing
- Changing the radio station or lighting a cigarette
- Applying makeup or shaving
- Looking for things inside your vehicle
- Dealing with children or pets

If something distracts you, even for a few seconds, you may not see a hazard that can cause a crash. Think how quickly a small child can run into your traffic lane from between parked cars. Think how fast a bicycle rider can zoom into your path. They need you to see them before it is too late. Think how quickly the car in front of you could brake and you run into them.

WAYS TO KEEP FROM GETTING DISTRACTED

- Pre-set your favorite radio stations before you begin to drive.
- Load your tapes or CDs before you begin to drive.
- Keep the stereo volume low enough so that you can still hear things outside your car. You must be able to hear emergency sirens, car horns, screeching tires, and other sounds outside your car. They can alert you to danger and keep you from getting in a crash.
- Have someone in the front seat act as your co-pilot. They can look at a phone or maps and tell you where to turn or what to look for ahead. If you are driving alone, make sure you know the route you want to drive “before” you get in the car.
- Do not eat while driving.
- Teach children to behave well while in a car. It’s hard to pay attention to the road while tending to children.
- Place pets in a pet carrier to make sure they do not cause problems while you are driving.

If you are lost in thought and not paying attention, pull the car to the side of the road and stop. Taking a short break can make your drive safer and much more enjoyable. This is the reason rest areas are placed along highways.

CELL PHONES

In Idaho, reading, writing, or sending of written communication (text messaging) while driving is illegal and considered an infraction. It does not apply to hands-free devices without the use of either hand. A ticket resulting in a conviction of this law will not result in points on a driver’s record. It will result in a fine, but will only be considered a moving violation when the driver is in operation of a commercial motor vehicle. Many crashes are caused by people who try to text or dial cell phones while

driving. Texting while driving is six times more dangerous than driving impaired. If you must use a cell phone, park in a safe place before making the call or engaging in text messaging.

FATIGUE & HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS

Stop driving when you feel drowsy. Pull off the highway at the first rest stop or service area. If you're feeling drowsy, get off the road and take a nap. Drowsiness is one of the greatest killers in interstate highway driving. Don't rely on "stay awake" drugs or energy drinks. They can make your driving even more dangerous. On long trips, exercise your eyes as you drive. Freeway drivers often suffer highway hypnosis, drowsiness brought on by monotony and the drone of wind and tires. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus them on various objects near and far, left and right.

UNATTENDED VEHICLES

Unattended vehicles on the traveled portion of a highway at any time create a potential danger to public safety and are subject to immediate removal (towing). Unattended vehicles that are off the traveled portion but are on the paved portion of a highway create a potential danger to public safety during darkness (especially if the vehicle has no lights on or lit warning devices nearby). Vehicles, if left unattended, must be removed prior to darkness or be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

ALIVE AT 25

Alive at 25 is a defensive driving course offered for those who are 15 through 24 years old. Law enforcement presents traffic safety strategies for young drivers who are over-represented in crash statistics, emphasizing responsible choices and decision-making while driving or riding as a passenger. To register for a course, visit www.aliveat25.us.

SHARING THE ROAD

At times, the experience of having a mix of cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians using the roadway complicates driving and increases hazards for everyone. The key to minimizing these hazards is being courteous and respectful of the rights of others and maintaining a heightened awareness of potential problems. Caution and awareness on your part may prevent serious injuries or death.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

When being approached by an emergency or police vehicle sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights, you must immediately pull to the nearest curb or the edge on the right side of the roadway and stop. Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed ahead of you.

When you are approaching an emergency or police vehicle that is stopped with lights flashing or a tow truck or incident response vehicle, you are required to immediately reduce your speed below the posted speed limit and proceed with caution. If you are traveling on a road with two or more lanes traveling in the same direction, you are also required to change lanes into a lane that is not adjacent to the emergency vehicle, as soon as possible, if it is safe to do so.

PEDESTRIANS

Vehicle-pedestrian collisions account for a significant number of traffic deaths. When driving a motor vehicle, you must be aware of pedestrian activity, particularly in residential areas, near schools, school crossings, trail crossings, parking lots, intersections, crosswalks, bus stops, playgrounds, and parks.

Always use extreme caution when driving in areas where there may be pedestrians, as they may walk in front of your vehicle unexpectedly.

Motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians when:

- The pedestrian is in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- The motor vehicle is entering a street from an alley or driveway.
- The pedestrian is carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a service dog.

Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles when:

- The pedestrian is crossing a street where there is no crosswalk or intersection.
- The pedestrian is directed to do so by a traffic signal at an intersection or crosswalk.

As a motorist, you must be alert for pedestrians who may unexpectedly crossing the street in front of you. Here are some examples to be aware of:

- A pedestrian is crossing where there is no painted crosswalk. You must stop and let them finish crossing, even if you technically have the right-of-way.
- You are waiting at a red light when a pedestrian steps into the crosswalk right before the light turns green. You must wait for the pedestrian to cross before proceeding.
- You are approaching an intersection on a street with two lanes going in the same direction. One vehicle in the right lane has stopped for a pedestrian to cross. You are in the left lane. DO NOT pass the other vehicle. You must wait for the pedestrian to cross and then be sure it is safe to proceed.
- You see some children playing or walking near the street, or you are in an area where children are likely to be (schools, neighborhoods, playgrounds, etc.). Slow down

and be prepared for them to unexpectedly run into the street.

- When driving at night, or when visibility is reduced due to rain, snow, fog or sun glare, realize that it will be difficult to see pedestrians entering the street. Exercise extreme caution in these conditions.

Many studies have shown that when pedestrians are hit by a motor vehicle, the rate of fatalities increases dramatically with an increase in the speed of a motor vehicle. Reducing your speed and watching carefully for pedestrians saves lives.

CHILDREN AT PLAY

Take extra care when driving in residential areas, school zones, and at times and places where children are likely to be found near the roadway. Before getting into your vehicle, walk around it to be sure no children are playing near it whom you may not be able to see from the driver's seat.

When backing out of a driveway, watch for children who may run behind your vehicle. Be alert when vehicles are parked along the roadway. Darting into traffic from between or around a parked car is a common cause of serious injury to children. They are often too short to be seen easily when playing near parked cars, so use extra caution when you see any children near the roadway. They may have an unseen playmate who cannot see you either.

HORSEBACK RIDERS

People riding horses are allowed to use most public roads. They also have the same rights as motor vehicle drivers and must obey the same rules.

When approaching someone riding a horse, take care to avoid frightening the animal—slow down and allow plenty of room

when passing. Never sound your horn because you may frighten the horse and cause an accident. If you encounter a rider who is having difficulty controlling an animal, be sure to use extreme caution when going around them. Stop if necessary to prevent becoming part of the hazard.

BICYCLISTS

Every year, the number of bicyclists increases on Idaho roadways. Cycling has become an important means of transportation as well as recreation.

Bicyclists are legally allowed to ride on all Idaho roadways and have the same rights as drivers, and are required to ride with the flow of traffic. They must ride as close to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway as safety allows, except when passing, turning left, avoiding an obstacle, or when the roadway does not allow a bicycle and motor vehicle to travel safely side by side.

To increase the safety margin when passing a bicyclist, move into the left lane if possible. If you are not able to change lanes, pass with as much clearance as possible. A safe margin is at least three (3) feet. This may require waiting for a break in oncoming traffic. When passing children on bicycles, slow down and be aware that they may unpredictably swerve into your lane.

In Idaho, bicyclists do not need to come to a complete stop at stop signs. They must, however, yield to the right-of-way of vehicles in, or already at, the intersection (or close enough to constitute a potential hazard), and then proceed with caution through the intersection.

Bicyclists may proceed with caution through a red light after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to vehicles already in the intersection (or close enough to constitute a potential

hazard). They do not need to come to a complete stop when turning right on a red light. However, they must yield the right-of-way to vehicles already in the intersection (or close enough to constitute a potential hazard).

Bicyclists are relatively unprotected compared to motor vehicle drivers and most collisions result in injury to the cyclist. Therefore, motor vehicle drivers should be alert and use extreme caution when encountering them.

The wide variety of road users requires drivers to always be alert. Taking your eyes off the road for just a second or briefly ignoring safe driving practices can result in a tragedy. Safely “sharing the road” with bicyclists requires cooperation, patience, and understanding.

Right Turns When Stopped: When stopped, never look only to the left before turning right. Always look left, right and to the rear, checking the right first. A bicyclist riding against traffic or on the sidewalk may be approaching on your right. Also, a bicyclist may be pulled up alongside to turn right. A crash is easily preventable if you look in all directions before turning.

Right Turns When Moving: If you are preparing for a right turn and a bicyclist is ahead of you, do not assume that you can beat the bicyclist to the turn. Misjudgment can result in a broadside crash called the “right hook.” Avoid right-hook crashes by slowing and remaining behind the bicyclist until they ride past the point where you will turn. On streets with bike lanes, remember that you are turning across a dedicated travel lane. Always look for and expect bicyclists.

Intersections: When proceeding through or turning at an intersection, always scan the corners of the intersection more than once. An approaching bicyclist can easily travel 50 to 100 feet in a few seconds, so what you saw on your first look

may change. Looking one last time before proceeding is a good safety practice.

Dashed Bike Lane Lines: Dashed lines indicate a merging movement is allowed and expected. Check for bicyclists first. When turning right at an intersection, you may occupy the bike lane in the dashed line area. This prevents bicyclists from approaching along your right side and forces them to blend into the lane of traffic that will best suit their intentions when going through the intersection.

Sidewalks: Bicyclists can legally ride on sidewalks in most communities, although there is no legal requirement to use them. Young children usually ride on the sidewalk, so be extremely cautious when pulling in or out of a driveway.

Children: Be aware that children riding along the street often change direction unexpectedly, so pass them with extra caution and distance.

Being in a Hurry: Never rush a turn or squeeze past a bicyclist just to beat traffic or a traffic light.

Be Patient: The design of some streets and highways requires that, for safety, bicyclists must occupy the travel lane by riding in the center, not to the right. Do not follow too closely to the bicyclist. These are usually brief stretches of narrow roadway where it is unsafe for a driver to pass a bicyclist.

Expect Bicyclists: Bicyclists are not as noticeable as motor vehicles. Their position on the road, smaller size, and slower speed, requires drivers to consciously look for them. Always drive with the expectation that bicyclists are on the road.

Passing Distance: A typical 12-foot-wide travel lane is not wide enough to safely share with a bicyclist. Cycling instructors and riding manuals teach bicyclists to ride at least three (3)

feet from the edge of pavement to avoid accumulated edge debris and have enough space to the right, away from traffic, for an emergency maneuver. Three (3) feet is the minimum passing space that drivers should leave when passing a bicyclist. Higher speeds require more passing space. Always wait until you can see oncoming traffic and then safely pass by moving partially or fully into the other lane. This delay is usually brief.

Communication: If you want to make sure a bicyclist sees you, wave a hand or nod your head, and wait for the bicyclist's reaction.

Honking: Never honk when close to a bicyclist; it may startle the bicyclist and cause an unexpected reaction.

Parallel Parking: Ensure a bicyclist is not approaching before opening the driver's door. When you are about to exit the car, reach across your body for the door handle with your opposite hand. This forces you to turn toward the side view mirror and look over your shoulder to be sure a bicyclist is not coming. This maneuver will help avoid the most common type of accident involving bicyclists.

Be Predictable: Road safety depends upon predictability. Always use your turn signal. Bicyclists and other drivers will appreciate knowing your intent to turn or change lanes.

Bike Lanes: Parking in bike lanes is not allowed. These are designated travel lanes for bicyclists and should not be blocked.

Sharrows: A shared-lane marking or "sharrow" is a street marking placed in the travel lane to indicate where people should preferably cycle.

A shared-lane marking is used to:

- Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane

with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist impacting the open door of a parked vehicle.

- Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane
- Alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way
- Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by drivers
- Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling

The *Bicycles May Use Full Lane* sign may be used in addition to, or instead of, the shared lane markings.

Bicycle Publications

Bicycle use, whether for recreation or transportation, can be enjoyable and safe if you know and follow the basic rules of the road and understand sharing the road with motor vehicles.

Bicycle commuting is easy, but it may require some small adjustments to your daily routine.

For information, or to order copies of publications, go to itd.idaho.gov > Travel > Pedestrian/Bike, or email them at ITDBikePed@itd.idaho.gov. You can also obtain copies at your county driver's license office.

MOTORCYCLES

Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other highway users, and they must obey the same traffic laws.

Motorcycles are smaller and harder to see than cars. They're easily hidden in a car's blind spot. Because it may be hard to judge the distance to motorcycles, or to tell how fast they are moving, be alert to their presence and be extra cautious.

Approximately one-half of all motorcycle crashes involve another motor vehicle, so it is important to practice safe driving in order to help avoid collisions. Here are some situations that call for special attention when motorcycles are around:

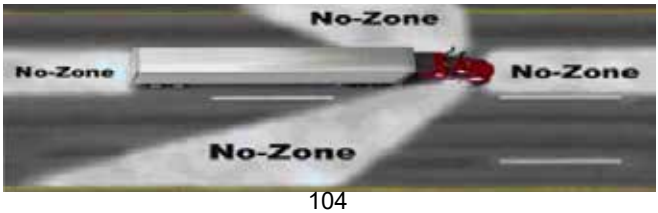
- **Left Turns:** Cars turning left in front of an oncoming motorcycle cause serious motor vehicle crashes. Drivers may fail to see a motorcycle rider in the traffic scene. Or a driver may fail to judge the speed of an oncoming motorcycle. As a driver, the correct precaution is for you to look and then look again. Make sure you see the motorcycle and know its speed before you make a left-turn.
- **Turn Signals:** Most motorcycles do not have turn signals that turn off automatically. At times, motorcycle riders may forget to switch the signal off. Before you make a turn in front of a motorcycle with a signal flashing, be sure the motorcycle is turning and not continuing straight into your path.
- **Lanes:** Motorcycles are entitled to the same full-lane width as all other motor vehicles. Good motorcycle riders are constantly changing positions within the lane so they can see and be seen, and to avoid objects in the road. Never move into the same lane alongside a motorcycle, even if the lane is wide and the motorcycle rider is riding far to one side.

- **Bad Weather:** Weather conditions and slippery surfaces can be serious problems for motorcycles. Allow even more following room when it's raining, or the road surface is slick.
- **Road Surface:** Unusual road surfaces and irregularities on the road that may not affect other vehicles may create problems for motorcycles. Gravel, debris, pavement seams, small animals, and even manhole covers may force a motorcycle rider to change speed or direction.
- **Visibility:** Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic or an intersection. Motorcycle riders are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look, due to their smaller size. Always use turn signals and brake lights to signal your intentions for turning, changing lanes, merging, slowing and stopping. This allows the motorcycle rider to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position. Allow more than three (3) seconds following distance between your vehicle and the motorcycle. This allows you and the motorcycle rider enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

LARGE VEHICLES

Safely sharing the road with large trucks and buses requires knowledge of their special limitations. Generally speaking, the larger they are:

- The larger their blind spots
- The more room they need to turn or change lanes
- The longer it takes them to stop
- The longer it takes them to pass



When you are near large vehicles on the road, pay special attention to the following:

- **Snowplows:** Use extra caution when you encounter snow removal equipment; snowplow blades force snow up and off the road, potentially causing blizzard-like conditions and reduced visibility for drivers following too closely.
- **Blind Spots:** Stay out of blind spots. If you are following a large vehicle and you are unable to see the driver's mirrors, then the driver cannot see you. There are blind spots behind and on each side of large vehicles. Avoid driving alongside large vehicles for prolonged periods.
- **Visibility:** Large vehicles can block your vision of the road ahead. When following large vehicles, adjust your following distance, so you can see most of the roadway ahead.
- **Passing:** When cars cut in too soon after passing, then quickly slow down, drivers of large vehicles are forced to react with little time or room to spare. Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should keep a steady speed when passing and be sure you can see the cab of the large vehicle in your rear-view mirror before merging back into the lane.
- **Speeding Up and Stopping:** Large vehicles are unable to gain speed or stop as quickly as smaller vehicles. For example, it takes a loaded truck with properly adjusted brakes 450 feet to come to a complete stop when traveling 55 miles per hour on a dry road. Allow extra space for large vehicles to speed up or stop. The drivers of these vehicles adjust the space between their vehicle and the vehicles ahead to allow for a safe following distance. When passing them, be sure to allow for this increased safety zone when returning to your lane of travel.

- **Turning Space:** When making sharp turns, large vehicles sometimes require more than one lane to complete the turn. Be sure to allow enough room for these vehicles to safely complete their turns. When turning right, these drivers may angle into the left lane, so they can make the right turn without running over the curb or hitting something. Do not try to squeeze by on the right side when a large vehicle is making this type of turn. It is a frequent cause of crashes involving large vehicles.
- **Hazardous Materials:** Be extra cautious near vehicles carrying hazardous materials. These vehicles will be placarded to identify what they are carrying. All vehicles carrying hazardous materials must stop at all railroad crossings, so be prepared to stop if you are following one.
- **Long, Steep Grades:** When traveling up or down steep grades, large vehicles travel slowly. On four-lane roads, they will use the right lane. Be prepared to encounter slow vehicles in the right lane, and do not park in or near “escape” or “runaway” ramps. These ramps should only be used to stop vehicles whose brakes have failed.
- **Large Loads with Pilot Vehicles:** When trucks with large loads reach certain dimensions, they are required to have one or more pilot vehicles, which are specially-marked vehicles with amber lights that warn oncoming and following traffic of the large load. They also help the large loads navigate bridges, curves, and other hazards. When you encounter an oncoming pilot vehicle, reduce your speed and position your vehicle as far to the right as possible. If you are following a pilot vehicle, increase your following distance. Be very cautious when passing a pilot vehicle or the large load.

IDAHO'S 511 TRAVELER SERVICES

For travel information, dial "511" or go to 511.idaho.gov for up-to-date information on:

- Emergency road closures
- Highway roadwork projects
- Tourism
- Traffic incidents and delays
- Weather-related road conditions

If your phone company does not support 511, call 1-888-IDA-ROAD (1-888-432-7623) to access the 511 system.

MOUNTAIN DRIVING

When driving in the mountains, you should:

- Pay special attention to speed limit signs and signs warning of curves, steep hills, or other hazards.
- Stay close to the right edge of the road, away from oncoming traffic.
- Use a lower gear to control speeds while going down long hills.
- Never coast downhill by shifting into neutral or disengaging the clutch.
- Watch for a solid yellow line in your lane, marking a no-passing zone.
- Sound the horn when approaching any curve on a narrow road where the view is obstructed.

WILDLIFE AREAS

When you see a small animal in the road, think of your own safety. Don't try to dodge it unless you are sure it is safe to do so. Big game animals, such as moose, elk, and deer, can cause severe damage to a vehicle. When you see a large animal on or near the road, slow down and proceed with caution. These are herd animals, and others are usually nearby.

Animals can move into the path of a vehicle so quickly that it's impossible to slow down enough to safely avoid hitting them. In this case, you must consider running over it as the safest alternative, even though the crash may damage your vehicle and will likely kill the animal. Concentrate on keeping control of the vehicle before, during, and after the collision.

Driving conditions change with the weather, light, and terrain. Study the following suggestions so you can react quickly and properly when the driving conditions change.

OPEN RANGE

Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and other livestock under controlled movement over a highway or road have the right-of-way in Idaho. When you meet or overtake any livestock herds, be careful and cooperate with the workers in charge. Drivers must be alert for animals grazing unattended on "open range," which means almost all areas outside of city limits and herd districts upon which livestock by custom, license, lease, or permit, are grazed or permitted to roam. The presence of fences does not necessarily mean that animals are not present or do not have the right-of-way. Be especially careful driving at night. If you strike and injure or kill livestock or domestic animals that are on the open range or under controlled movement, the owner of the animal(s) is not liable for damages to you or your vehicle. You may be liable for the injuries or death of the animal if you are found to have been negligent.

NIGHT DRIVING

About 90% of driving choices are based on what you see. At night, your vision is reduced. To make sure you have time to react to danger, always drive slowly enough so you can stop within the distance you can see ahead. This distance is about

350 feet when using the high beams of your headlights and about 100 feet when using the low beams.

To make your night driving safer:

- Increase the following distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
- Turn on your headlights (not just your parking lights) when driving between sunset and sunrise, or when visibility has been reduced to below 500 feet. The gray hours of twilight and dawn are the most dangerous times of the day.
- Watch for slow-moving or unlighted vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and animals.
- Allow more distance and time for passing.
- Don’t drive or keep driving if you’re tired.
- Never wear sunglasses when light levels are low.
- Keep your windshield clean, both inside and out.
- Keep your headlights clean. Dirt will dim their light and may distort the beam.
- Avoid looking into the headlights of oncoming vehicles. Instead, shift your eyes down to the lower right side of your traffic lane. This keeps the light from hitting your eyes directly.
- Dim your headlights to low beam when approaching or following another vehicle or on lighted roads.
- If you must park on a highway shoulder at night, turn on your emergency flashers or parking lights.

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

Use extra caution when encountering snow removal equipment; snowplow blades force snow up and off the road, potentially causing blizzard-like conditions and reduced visibility for drivers following too closely.

Use caution when driving in winter conditions, and cooperate with highway workers clearing the roads. Drivers should follow these tips for safe winter driving:

- Remain two car lengths behind snowplow trucks for every 10 miles per hour you drive. Sand being spread by trucks can damage your vehicle.
- Do not pass a snowplow unless it is absolutely necessary.
- If you must pass, do so only when you can clearly see the road ahead. Do not pass on the side where the plow is spraying snow. If you do, the snow's force can knock your car out of control.
- Do not cut back immediately in front of a snowplow truck. The plow blades are often covered with snow and can be difficult to see.
- Do not brake suddenly if you are traveling in front of a snowplow. The heavy vehicle cannot stop as quickly as your automobile.
- Do not abandon your car unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must, leave it as far off the road as possible. Abandoned cars can interfere with the road clearing process and can be extremely hazardous to snow removal equipment and the operators, if they are hidden or buried by snow.

FOG, SMOKE, DUST, OR RAIN

You are required to turn on your headlights in the daytime when vision is reduced to 500 feet or less. Low beams are best at such times. When you first turn on your headlights, be sure they are adjusted to low beams.

It is safest not to drive in fog, dust storms, or in heavy rain. If you must drive during these conditions, reduce your speed. For safety reasons, you should not use cruise control if the road is wet and/or icy. Slow down more when you see red taillights ahead. The vehicle may be stopped or creeping along.

If conditions get too bad, pull off the road and stop. Don't creep along; somebody else may crash into you. Also avoid using your emergency flashers while moving—other drivers may think you've stopped.

RAIN & HYDROPLANING

Wet roads can be as dangerous as icy roads. Always reduce your speed in wet weather. You'll need more distance for stopping and you may skid on quick turns.

Remember, roads are more dangerous at the start of a light rain when road oil and water mix to form a greasy film on the road.

At speeds up to 35 miles per hour, most tires grip the road surface even when it's wet. As speed increases, the tires can't grip the road as well. At 55 miles per hour, the tires may lose all contact with the road. They start to "hydroplane" or ride on top of a film of water like a set of water skis. When that happens, you can't brake, accelerate or turn. A gust of wind, a curve or even a lane change can cause a skid.

To reduce the chances of hydroplaning, you should:

- Slow down during rainstorms or when roads are slushy.
- Slow down if the road has standing water or puddles.
- Replace tires as soon as they become worn.
- Keep tires properly inflated.

If you are about to drive over a slippery area or you think your car has started to hydroplane:

- Maintain a steady speed and keep moving in a straight line.
- Slowly take your foot off the gas pedal.
- Don't try to stop or turn quickly until your tires are gripping the road again.
- If you have to use your brakes, pump them gently (unless your car has an anti-lock braking system [ABS]).

FLASH FLOODS

Flash floods are caused by intense rain that falls in a short amount of time. Idaho averages seven flash floods a year, and they generally occur during or right after a severe thunderstorm.

In some cases, small streams a few feet wide by a few inches deep can swell to over 12 inches deep and 80 feet wide in less than five minutes. As little as six inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet. Fast-moving water two feet deep can wash away a vehicle and reach the bottom of most passenger cars and cause loss of control or stalling.

If the National Weather Service issues a Flash Flood Warning, or you observe water rising quickly, you should take action immediately.

- DO NOT DRIVE through flooded areas. If you see a flooded roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to your destination.
- Get far away from areas subject to flooding (dips, low spots, canyons, dry creek beds, or along a stream). Seek higher, safer ground.
- Avoid areas near rivers or streams and areas that are already flooded. Roads that are underwater may no longer be intact. NEVER drive through flooded roadways.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and sweep it away.
- Be very careful at night when it is harder to see flood dangers.
- Do not park your vehicle or camp along streams or dry stream beds during threatening conditions.

WINTER DRIVING

Winter driving calls for special skills. On slippery roads, the keys to safety are slower speeds, gentler stops and turns, and longer following distances. Here are some safe-driving tips that will help you when roads are slick with ice or snow:

- Keep your vehicle in the best possible driving condition. The lights, tires, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster and radiator are especially important for winter driving.
- Keep your windows clear. Don't start driving until the windows are defrosted and clean—even if you're going only a short distance. Keep your windshield washer reservoir filled with a non-freezing solution all winter.
- For safety reasons, you should not use cruise control if the road is wet and/or icy.
- Buckle up. All occupants are required to wear safety belts and/or shoulder straps when riding in a vehicle equipped with them.
- Get the feel of the road by starting out slowly and testing your steering control and braking ability. Avoid spinning your tires when you start by gently pressing your gas pedal until the car starts to roll. Start slowing your car down at least three times sooner than you normally do when turning or stopping.
- When stopping, avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel and pump the brake gently. (Check your vehicle owner's manual; if the vehicle has anti-lock brakes, you may apply steady pressure to the brake pedal.)
- Use tire chains on very slippery roads. (Some states require chains to be carried during winter months; check for specific information before driving in other states.)
- Be aware of potential icy areas such as shady spots, bridges, and overpasses. Ice may form sooner or remain on bridges and overpasses longer, since they are exposed on their undersides and are deprived of ground

warmth. Snow and ice also stay longer in shaded areas.
- Studded snow tires may be used only from October 1st to April 30th. Some years, the Idaho Transportation Department adjusts the dates due to weather conditions.

GETTING STRANDED DURING WINTER WEATHER

Idaho winters can be severe, particularly in the mountains. When traveling in winter months, be prepared in case your vehicle breaks down or you get into a crash. You should keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car. The kit should include:

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- A first aid kit
- A pocket knife
- At least one blanket or sleeping bag
- An extra set of gloves
- Socks and a wool cap
- A small sack of sand or cat litter for generating traction under the wheels
- A small shovel
- Bottled water
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares
- Energy bars or other non-perishable food items
- A brightly-colored scarf to attract attention in case of an emergency
- Waterproof matches or cigarette lighter
- A map of the area where you plan to travel
- Phone charger

If you run your car for heat, make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow. If available, tie a scarf or bright cloth on the car antenna for snow crews to see.

Let someone know your travel plans, including estimated departure and arrival times, route, and where you will stay when you reach your destination. Make sure your cell phone is charged and you have access to emergency phone numbers. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle if heavy snow is falling. Most deaths occur when people leave their car, get lost, and freeze.

In case of medical emergencies in areas where roads have not been plowed, call the local or state police. These agencies will work with search and rescue personnel and the Idaho Transportation Department to respond to emergencies.

HANDLING EMERGENCIES

Emergencies appear suddenly, and you may have only a fraction of a second to make the right move. Lives may depend on your ability to react quickly. Be prepared for hazards and know what to do when they show up. Think before you act. Often, an instinctive reaction, such as slamming on your brakes while skidding, may be the wrong thing to do.

On the following pages are some tips on handling common driving emergencies.

SKIDDING

Prevention: Be alert to slick road conditions that may cause skidding, especially during the winter. When you must stop, slow down in advance. Never hit the brakes so hard you lock the wheels or you could lose control of your car.

In most skids, the rear wheels lose their grip on the pavement and slide left or right. Skidding occurs most often on ice or packed snow. It can also happen on wet pavement or even on dry pavement when traveling at high speeds or stopping quickly.

Recovery: When a skid starts, don't panic and don't hit the brake. Immediately take your foot off the gas pedal, then steer in the direction of the skid. For example, if your rear wheels slide to the right, turn your front wheels toward the right. Before traveling on ice or snow, prepare for trouble by practicing stops and skid recovery in a safe place, ideally on private property.

STOPPING QUICKLY

Many vehicles have an anti-lock braking system (ABS). Be sure to read the vehicle owner's manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS may allow you to stop without skidding. In general, observe the following if you need to stop quickly with ABS:

- During an emergency stop that requires hard braking, apply continuous pressure on the brake pedal. Do Not Pump the Brake Pedal as this will defeat the system's design, reduce the effectiveness of the ABS, and increase the distance required to stop the vehicle.
- The ABS will activate immediately, allowing you to retain full steering control during hard braking and on slippery surfaces; however, ABS does not decrease stopping distances.
- During hard braking with ABS, the system actually pumps the brakes for you at a higher rate than you could do yourself. This pumping action causes a noise from the ABS pump motor, and you may feel a noticeable pulse through the brake pedal.
- Do not be concerned by the noise and pulsation, because this is normal for ABS. Knowing you will hear the pump motor and feel the pulse will help you resist the natural instinct to remove your foot from the pedal.

Here are instructions for stopping quickly without ABS:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can without locking the brakes and bring the vehicle to a quick, safe stop. (You may lock the brakes and cause the vehicle to skid if you brake too hard.)
- If the brakes lock, you will feel the vehicle begin to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, press down on the brake pedal again and repeat this press and release cycle if necessary until the vehicle has stopped.

Be Prepared

IF YOU HAVE CAR TROUBLE

When your car breaks down on the highway, make sure other drivers can see it. Many crashes occur because a driver didn't see a stalled vehicle.

When your car stalls, follow these rules:

- If possible, pull all the way off the road.
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Lift the hood to let others know you have a problem.
- If you can't get off the road, stop where people have a clear view of you and your car from behind. Don't stop just over a hill or around a curve.
- If you have emergency flares, place them 200 to 300 feet behind your car to give others warning.
- If you don't have flares, stand by the side of the road and wave traffic around. Use a white cloth or flag if you have it. Stay off the roadway.

AVOIDING CRASHES

To avoid a crash, you have two choices, (1) change direction by steering, or (2) change speed by braking or accelerating.

- **Steering:** If you don't think you can stop in time, try to turn out of the way. If possible, stay off the brakes while you turn—you'll have more control.
- **Braking:** Many drivers slam on the brakes to avoid a crash. Don't, unless you have anti-lock brakes. Locking your brakes may throw you into a skid and make things worse. Instead, you should pump your brakes hard and fast. You'll have more control and stop faster.
- **Acceleration:** When another car is about to hit you from the side or rear, accelerating may soften the impact or prevent the crash.

PROTECTING YOURSELF IN A CRASH

If you can't avoid a crash, try to protect yourself in the following ways:

- The best protection is to properly buckle your seat belt BEFORE you start your trip. Your chance of avoiding serious injury or death is increased if you are wearing your seat belt properly.
- If you're about to be hit from the rear and have a headrest, press the back of your head against it. Be ready to brake to avoid hitting cars ahead of you.
- If you're about to be hit from the side, be prepared to steer to recover from the impact.
- If you're about to be hit from the front and you're wearing a seat belt, use your arms and hands to protect your face.

IF YOU HIT AN UNATTENDED VEHICLE

You must make a reasonable effort to find the owner of an unattended vehicle or other property damaged in a crash in which you are involved. If the owner cannot be located, leave a note telling about the crash with your name and phone number. You must also notify police if the damage was more than $1,500 or someone was injured.

A CRASH WITH AN UNINSURED DRIVER

If you have recently been in a crash with an uninsured driver and have been unsuccessful in collecting damages, you may request that the driving privileges of the uninsured driver be suspended. After a court judgment has been entered, the department may suspend the driving privileges of the uninsured driver until you have been paid, or for up to six years. For more information, contact any city, county, or state law enforcement agency, or the Idaho Transportation Department.

ONCOMING CAR IN YOUR LANE

If you're threatened with a head-on crash and have some time:

- Slow down and try to warn the other driver by flashing your lights and honking your horn.
- Pull to the right as far as possible. Don't go left. The other driver may recover and hit you broadside.

If you can't avoid a crash, steer so the cars will hit at an angle and avoid a head-on crash.

TIRE BLOWOUTS

Blowouts are unexpected and the driver's natural response is to hit the brakes hard. Instead of stomping on the brakes:

- Hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the car headed straight down the road.
- Ease your foot off the gas pedal, but do not apply the brakes until you have complete control.
- When the car is under control, brake gently and pull off the road at the nearest safe location.

RUNNING OFF THE ROAD

Know what to do if the wheels drop off the pavement:

- Grip the wheel tightly and steer straight ahead. Stay on the shoulder if there are no immediate obstacle.
- Take your foot off the accelerator and apply the brakes gently.
- Once you've slowed down, check traffic for an opening and then, when it is safe, steer onto the pavement. Be careful not to over steer and shoot across the center line.

AT THE SCENE OF THE CRASH

Someday, you may come upon a traffic crash where there are serious injuries and people need help. If police or medical help is already there, don't stop. Move on as officers direct. If you're the first one to arrive, you should stop and call 911 and assist if you are able.

CRASHES & THE LAW

No matter how safely you drive, chances are someday you may be in a crash. Even if you're not at fault, you must know what to do. If you're involved in a crash, you are required to:

- Stop as near to the scene as possible without blocking traffic. You may move vehicles that pose a traffic hazard before the police arrive. Idaho's "Quick Clearance" law requires anyone involved in the crash (on an interstate or major divided highway), that does not cause a death or injury, to safely move the vehicle to a shoulder, median, or emergency lane.
- Give any help you can if someone is injured. Idaho's Good Samaritan Law protects you from civil liability if you act in good faith. However, don't try to move an injured person from a wrecked vehicle unless you have the necessary medical training or there is an immediate danger, such as fire.
- Call for police and medical help as soon as possible. You must report to police any motor vehicle crash in which someone is injured or property damage is more than $1,500. Exchange information at the scene with the other people involved in the crash, including names, addresses, and driver's license numbers of the injured; names and addresses of any witnesses; and names, addresses, and insurance policy numbers of the other vehicle owners. If you provide false information you may be guilty of a misdemeanor. A police officer, when present, will help you exchange information with the other drivers.

WHAT AFFECTS YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGE AND RECORD

Your driving privileges can be suspended, canceled, or revoked if you break certain laws or become a careless driver, even if you have not been issued a driver's license.

Your future driving privileges can be affected because driving records are maintained even for drivers who have not been issued a license. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) keeps a record of your crashes and moving violations, including those occurring in other states. Your part may prevent serious injuries or death.

THE DRIVER LICENSE COMPACT

Idaho is a member of this compact, which is an agreement among states to promote driver compliance with driving laws, ordinances, and administrative actions in member states.

Membership is a major step necessary to maximize law enforcement efforts against drunk drivers and other serious traffic offenders. Under this compact, serious offenses and minor moving violations will be sent to a driver's home state, and action will be taken as if the violation occurred in the driver's home state.

If you are a licensed Idaho driver and are convicted of a traffic offense in another state, the information on that offense will be sent to Idaho and placed on your driving record. If it is a suspendable offense, your driving privileges will be suspended by the Idaho Transportation Department, Division of Motor Vehicles.

SUSPENSION & POINT VIOLATIONS SYSTEM

Your driving record is evaluated by a point system in which you receive one to four points for each moving traffic violation on your record. For additional information about point violations, visit our web site at dmv.idaho.gov.

Under the point system, the department may take the following action(s) against you:

NUMBER OF POINTS	PENALTY
8 to 11 in any 12 months	Warning letter
12 to 17 in any 12 months	30-day suspension
18 to 23 in any 24 months	90-day suspension
24 or more in any 36 months	6-month suspension

Points may be removed from your driving record once every three years by completing either an ITD-approved Defensive Driving Course (DDC) or a Traffic Safety Education Course (TSC), offered by law enforcement at the time of a stop and issuance of a citation in some cities in the state. Both courses only remove points from your driving record; they do not remove the conviction.

A maximum of three (3) points may be removed from your driving record upon completion of an ITD-approved DDC. Points must be on your driving record before completion of the course in order to be eligible for point reduction. Defensive driving courses are offered in several Idaho cities and online. Approved courses are found at dmv.idaho.gov or by contacting the Idaho Transportation Department at 208-584-4343.

A maximum of four (4) points may be removed from your driving record upon completion of a TSC. For points to be removed, the course must be offered by law enforcement and accepted by the driver at the time of citation. The course

must be completed within 45 days of the citation. The number of points removed will coincide with the number of points associated with the citation issued by law enforcement.

REASONS FOR SUSPENSION

The courts and the Idaho Transportation Department are authorized by law to suspend, disqualify, deny, cancel, or revoke the license of drivers convicted of breaking certain laws. Those violations include but are not limited to:

- Driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- Using a motor vehicle to commit a felony
- Leaving the scene of a crash in which you were involved, when the crash caused property damage
- Making false statements—oral or written—to the Idaho Transportation Department while under oath
- Reckless driving
- Failing to pay a judgment for damages in a crash
- Administrative license suspension – an automatic license suspension for failure of an evidentiary test (breath, blood, or urine)
- Refusing to take an evidentiary test
- Fleeing from or eluding a peace officer
- Leaving the scene of a crash resulting in injury or death
- Unlawful use of a driver's license or identification card
- Failure to carry motor vehicle insurance
- Violation of restriction (daylight only, lenses, etc.)
- Failure to attend school or comply with school requirements
- Failure to pay child support, or comply with visitation rights, or failure to comply with a subpoena for a paternity suit

GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSE (GDL) PENALTIES

All drivers under 17 years of age are subject to the following penalties:

- A warning letter upon the first conviction for a moving traffic violation (this letter provides warning that future violations may result in the suspension of your driving privileges).
- A 30-day suspension of driving privileges for a second conviction for a moving traffic violation.
- A 60-day suspension of driving privileges for a third or subsequent conviction for a moving traffic violation.

These penalties are in addition to the permit cancellation during the supervised instruction period, or any other suspension that may be ordered by a court or the department. The GDL penalty suspension periods are absolute and **do not allow driving privileges of any kind**.

ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE SUSPENSION

If you are arrested for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances and you fail an evidentiary test by having an alcohol concentration over the legal limit, a peace officer will serve you immediately with a Notice of Suspension; the notice may be sent if blood or urine results show you were driving under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances. This notice is an Idaho Transportation Department imposed administrative driver's license suspension (ALS), that is issued in accordance with Section 18-8002A, Idaho Code. You have the right to request an administrative hearing on the suspension within seven (7) days of the date on the notice of suspension, before a hearing officer designated by the department.

The ALS penalty is a civil penalty and is separate and apart from any criminal penalties imposed by the court system. If you receive an ALS, you must comply with the ALS requirements, and also appear in court on your appointed date regarding the criminal DUI charges brought against you.

Your notice of suspension becomes effective thirty (30) days after the date of service (the date you received the notice). For a first failure, your driving privileges will be suspended for a period of ninety (90) days. You will have absolutely no driving privileges during the first thirty (30) days of that ninety (90) day suspension. You will be required to have an ignition interlock device installed on any vehicle you drive for one (1) year after the end of your suspension period. Your driving privileges will be suspended for one year with absolutely no driving privileges of any kind for a second failure of the test within five (5) years.

TEST REFUSAL FOR ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR OTHER INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES

Implied Consent – In Idaho, any person who drives, or is in physical control of, a motor vehicle has given their consent to take a BAC or drug test if they are suspected of driving under the influence, under the provisions of Section 18-8002, Idaho Code. If you refuse to take the test when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer, you are subject to a driver's license suspension and a civil penalty of $250.00 under the provisions of Section 18-8002, Idaho Code.

If you refuse to take the test as requested, the officer will issue you a notice of suspension. If the court upholds the officer's findings, your license will be suspended for one year with absolutely no driving privileges of any kind if it is your first offense.

A second refusal within 10 years will result in a two-year absolute suspension. This penalty is in addition to any penalty you receive in court for a DUI conviction.

RESTRICTED DRIVING PERMIT

If your Idaho license is suspended, you may qualify for a restricted permit allowing you to drive to and from work, medical treatments, etc. If you were suspended by the department, you may apply for a restricted permit at the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise. If you are suspended by the court, you must apply for restricted driving privileges from the court that convicted you.

IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE

The ignition interlock device is mandatory on all administrative license suspensions, beginning after your suspension ends.

If you have been convicted of driving under the influence, you will be required to have an ignition interlock device installed in any vehicle that you drive, unless the court orders otherwise. This device requires the driver to provide a breath sample in order to start the vehicle. If the sample indicates an alcohol content at or above a preset level, the vehicle will not start. The cost of installation, maintenance, and monthly fees are paid by the driver.

GETTING YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGES BACK

When your suspension or revocation period ends, you may get your driving privileges back by applying to the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise. You will be required to pay a reinstatement fee of $25.00 to $285.00, depending upon the nature of the suspension. Multiple suspensions may carry multiple reinstatement fees. If your license was suspended

for certain serious offenses (reckless driving, driving under the influence, etc.) you must also provide proof of financial responsibility for three years. The acceptable form of proof of financial responsibility is a certified statement of liability insurance coverage from your insurer (an SR-22 certificate).

Additionally, if you violate Idaho's no-insurance laws, you will be required to provide proof of financial responsibility for one year for a first offense. If you commit a second offense in a five-year period, you will be required to provide proof of financial responsibility for three years. For more information, contact the Idaho Transportation Department in Boise at 208-584-4343.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH

You cannot trust yourself or your friends to judge your ability to drive safely after you've had a few drinks. Your ability to drive may be impaired long before you or anyone else notices outward signs.

If you drink enough to increase your alcohol concentration past .05, be careful. At slightly above .05, the risk of causing a crash doubles. At .10, the risk is six times as great. At .15, the risk is 25 times as great.

IS BEER SAFER THAN HARD LIQUOR

A jigger (1.5 ounces) of 80-proof hard liquor, five ounces of table wine, or 12 ounces of beer all contain approximately the same amount of alcohol—about an ounce each. Studies have found the greatest percentage of people arrested for driving under the influence had been drinking beer.

HOW DRINKING AFFECTS YOU

Alcohol passes directly through your stomach and small intestine into the bloodstream, where it flows to all parts of your body. On an empty stomach, this process takes place almost immediately. On a full stomach, it takes somewhat longer. In either case, when the alcohol reaches your brain, it promotes relaxation. In large amounts, it dulls the parts of your brain that control inhibition, judgment, and self-control. As a result, you may feel stimulated, lively, and a bit giddy or foolish. After two to four drinks, alcohol begins to impair your reaction time, coordination, and balance. Your vision and ability to judge distance suffers too, making it harder to react to dangers ahead.

Once alcohol is in your bloodstream, neither aspirin, black coffee, deep breathing, a slap in the face, exercise, nor eating will sober you up. Only time will return you to normal.

Alcohol can be a mood changer producing sudden shifts in mood, from elation to anger. Studies show a combination of alcohol and anger is responsible for much of the reckless, aggressive driving that often causes fatal highway crashes.

HOW DRINKING AFFECTS DRIVING

Drinking affects your thinking; it also slows your reaction time. By making you feel good, alcohol may also give you false confidence. Such factors affect your driving in ways that a trained law enforcement officer can detect. Some signs of drunken driving are:

- **Speeding:** Drinking drivers often think they can drive safely at high speeds.
- **Weaving:** Even though drivers may stay in their lane, they may have trouble steering straight.
- **Slow driving:** Drinking drivers may be overly cautious and drive slower than normal traffic.
- **Jerking motion:** Drinking drivers often have short mental lapses revealed by jerky steering or acceleration.
- **Quick stops:** Drinking drivers may make sudden stops at traffic signs or lights, rather than easing up to them.

OPEN CONTAINER LAW

Idaho's open container law prohibits both drivers and passengers from drinking or possessing an open beverage container of alcohol. To transport any unsealed alcoholic beverages in a vehicle, the container must be in the trunk or behind the last upright seat if there is no trunk.

DRUGS & DRIVING

If you have to drive, you should avoid taking any drug that might hamper your ability to operate your vehicle. If you drink alcohol while taking certain drugs or medications, you may feel and be more impaired, which can affect your ability to perform driving-related tasks.

- Prescription drugs: When your doctor writes out a prescription, ask the doctor if it will make you drowsy or otherwise affect your driving. If so, let someone else drive while you are taking the drug.
- Over-the-counter drugs: Over-the-counter drugs include such things as pain relievers, lozenges, and cough and cold remedies. By law, these drugs must provide directions for use. Read the label. If driving is discouraged, don't get behind the wheel.

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Illegal drugs are dangerous when mixed with driving. Driving while under the influence of legal or illegal substances is drugged driving. It is illegal in every state. Commonly used illegal drugs include marijuana, heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and methamphetamines, and club drugs.

Marijuana slows reaction time and impairs judgment of time and distance. Methamphetamine or cocaine causes aggressive and reckless behaviors. Opioids cause drowsiness and impaired memory and thinking skills. Sedatives (benzodiazepines, barbiturates, etc.) cause dizziness and drowsiness.

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT IMPAIRED DRIVING

- Offer to be a designated driver.
- Have a designated driver take all car keys.
- Get a ride to and from parties where there are drugs and alcohol.
- Avoid going to parties where alcohol and drugs are present.
- Talk with friends about the risks of drugged driving.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Under Idaho law you are considered to be driving under the influence if your blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) is .02 or more if you are under 21 years of age, .04 or more if you are operating a commercial vehicle, and .08 or more if you are 21 or older. An alcohol concentration of .20 or more carries even stiffer penalties. Even if your BAC is less than .08, you may be convicted of driving under the influence of other intoxicating substances.

If you're convicted, the criminal penalties are:

- For a first conviction: Up to six months in jail; up to a $1,000 fine; and mandatory driver's license suspension of at least 90 days and up to 180 days (one year if you are under 21), with absolutely no driving privileges for the first 30 days. An ignition interlock restriction will likely be required after the suspension.
- For a second conviction within 10 years: Mandatory jail sentence from 10 days to one year (30 days if you are under 21); up to a $2,000 fine; and a mandatory driver's license suspension of one year (two years if you are under 21). An ignition interlock restriction will likely be required after the suspension.
- For three or more convictions within 10 years: Mandatory jail sentence from 30 days to ten years (10 days to six months if under 21); up to a $5,000 fine (up to $2,000 if under 21); mandatory driver's license suspension from one to five years (if under 21, mandatory suspension for 1 year or up to age 21 whichever is greater). An ignition interlock restriction will likely be required after the suspension. This conviction is a felony.

There are enhanced penalties for CDL drivers who drive under the influence, up to the lifetime loss of CDL privileges.

WHAT TO EXPECT AND DO WHEN STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

When law enforcement stops you, stay calm, activate your turn signal, and pull off or to the side of the roadway as soon and safely as possible. Turn off the ignition and radio, and stay in your vehicle unless directed by the officer to exit. Keep your hands on the steering wheel so they are easily observable.

Cell phones and mobile devices should not be used by you or any of your passengers. Do not make sudden moves or

search for your driver's license or vehicle documents – wait for the officer to give you instructions. If you have a weapon in the vehicle, inform the officer upon first contact.

The officer may ask to see your driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration. If the documents are out of your reach, tell the officer where they are before you reach for them. If the officer asks you to exit the vehicle, stay safely away from traffic and keep your hands in plain view.

When the officer completes their interaction with you, they may issue a warning or a traffic ticket, which may include a fine. If you wish to contest the ticket, you will have the opportunity to explain your point of view of what happened in court. Your acceptance and signature on a traffic ticket is not an admission of guilt; however, the refusal to sign a traffic ticket may result in your arrest. If you believe the officer acted inappropriately, report it to the officer's agency in a timely manner. The name of the officer and law enforcement agency will be on the ticket, or you may ask the officer to provide this information.

Good communication from all involved parties can make a traffic stop a safe experience for all parties involved.

PRACTICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. When you park parallel to a curb or edge of the roadway you must not be more than:

a. 24 inches

b. 6 inches

c. 18 inches

d. Does not matter

2. When is it legal to pass a vehicle on the right without leaving the pavement:

a. On a two-lane, two-way highway and the vehicle you are passing is turning left

b. The vehicle is going below the speed limit and there is a large shoulder on the highway

c. It is never legal to pass on the right

d. Only during daylight hours

3. This sign means:

a. Okay to speed

b. Railroad crossing

c. Intersection/crossroad

d. 4 way stop

4. You do not have to stop for a school bus if:

a. You are traveling in a rural area

b. You are traveling in the same direction as the school bus on a four-lane highway with two lanes going in the opposite direction

c. You are traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus on a four-lane highway with two lanes going each direction

d. None of the above

5. Use of cell phones while driving:

a. Is not a problem in Idaho
b. Can distract you and cause an accident
c. Is an uncommon occurrence
d. Is highly recommended

6. When you change lanes it is important to:

a. Signal your intentions ahead of time
b. Check your blind spot
c. Make sure the lane is clear before entering it
d. All of the above

7. If traffic signals are not functioning due to a power outage you:

a. Park your vehicle as far off the road as possible and wait for the power to be restored
b. Use hand signals to indicate your intentions to the other drivers
c. Turn on your hazard lights and proceed through the intersection without stopping
d. Treat the intersections as a 4 way stop

8. Is it legal to pass when the pavement is marked with solid double yellow lines:

a. Yes
b. No
c. Only if there is no oncoming traffic
d. Only if the vehicle ahead of you is driving under the speed limit

9. A person walking with a white/silver cane or guide dog is likely to be:

a. A deaf person
b. A person involved with a traffic study
c. A blind person
d. None of the above

10. The most common color for warning lights is:

a. Red
b. Green
c. Blue
d. Yellow

11. This sign means:

a. Curve ahead
b. No u turn
c. No turning
d. None of the above

12. Is it legal to pass in an intersection:

a. Yes
b. No

13. What is Idaho's basic law for the driving speed:

a. Always drive the posted speed
b. Drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent at all times
c. Drive 5-10 mph below the speed limit just to be safe
d. Drive at the same speed as those around you.

14. Highways with dashed white lines, can be crossed over:

a. At any time
b. Only during daylight hours
c. When it is safe to do so
d. Only when passing another vehicle

15. Highways can be slick under what conditions:

a. When it has just started to rain, due to oil and water creating a greasy mix
b. When there is moisture on the road and the temperature is at freezing or below
c. Both of the above
d. None of the above

16. Many rear-end collisions are caused by:

a. Following the car ahead of you too closely
b. Poor road surface
c. Faulty steering control
d. Persons under the age of 16

17. As you prepare to merge with traffic on a freeway, you should do which of the following:

a. None of these
b. Stop to check traffic
c. Expect others to yield the right-of-way to you
d. Adjust your speed to merge smoothly

18. The driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing must:

a. Stop only if a train is in sight
b. Stop only if they choose to
c. Never stop
d. Stop within 50 feet but no less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing when required.

19. Normally, you should pass vehicles on the:

a. Left
b. Right
c. Whenever you get a chance
d. Only when the other driver signals it is safe

20. This sign means:

a. Divided highway ends
b. Divided highway begins
c. None of the above
d. Divided highway ends and begins

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DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

Visit us online at
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Published by
Idaho Transportation Department
Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 7129
Boise, Idaho 83707-1129

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01-9530906