

# Texas Driver Handbook

Revised September 2014



Website: [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov)

## Introduction

The Texas Department of Public Safety, Driver License Division, is committed to creating a faster, easier, and friendlier driver license experience and a safer Texas. One step toward achieving these important goals is to improve the *Texas Driver Handbook* by providing you with accurate information on traffic laws, clear images of road signs, examples of common driving situations, and general safety tips. We have also included special tips to emphasize important information you need to know.

Although the *Texas Driver Handbook* has been revised, its primary purpose remains the same: 1) to help you qualify for a Texas driver license, and 2) to help you become a safer driver.

The information contained in this handbook is not an official legal reference to Texas traffic laws. The information provided is only intended to explain applicable federal and state laws you need to understand in order to successfully operate a motor vehicle in Texas. If you would like to know the actual language of any traffic laws referenced in this handbook, please refer to the Texas Transportation Code and for any criminal laws refer to the Texas Penal Code.

Once you receive your Texas driver license, keep this handbook as a reference on traffic safety and update it as needed. The Texas Legislature meets every two years and regularly makes changes to traffic laws. For the most current information on driver licensing visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).

## Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this handbook or if you need additional information.

**Phone Number:** (512) 424-2600

**Customer Support page:** [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/customer\\_service](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/customer_service)

**Mailing Address:** Texas Department of Public Safety  
Driver License Division  
PO Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0300

If you prefer, you can contact your local driver license office directly. Please refer to Appendix B in this handbook to locate a driver license office in your area.

If you would like to provide feedback on the information in this handbook visit, [www.survey.utexas.edu/txdps/](http://www.survey.utexas.edu/txdps/).

## ADA Accommodations

If you need to make special arrangements to accommodate a disability prior to visiting a driver license office, you can e-mail us using our secure website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/customer\\_service](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/customer_service) or call us at (512) 424-2600. Please contact us five to seven days prior to your visit to allow us time to accommodate your request.

If you are in need of assistance but fail to receive reasonable accommodations, you may have grounds for a grievance.

DPS Grievance Procedures can be found in the 37 Texas Administrative Code §1.41, [www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml) and on our website at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).

The Texas Department of Public Safety does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

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Dear Texas Resident:

The ability to operate a motor vehicle is an important privilege in a state as large as Texas with over 310,000 miles of public roadways. Whether you are a new driver or a new resident of Texas, always remember that driving a motor vehicle is one of the most dangerous things most people do. Every year, in Texas, approximately 3,000 people are killed in traffic crashes and over 80,000 are seriously injured.

Today more than ever, you need to be alert for distracted and impaired drivers operating motor vehicles. A two-second distraction can kill and permanently injure you and others.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven C. McCraw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Steven C. McCraw, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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## Chapter 1: Your License to Drive

### Who May Drive a Motor Vehicle in Texas?

Individuals who meet the following criteria may drive a motor vehicle in Texas.

1. Texas residents who have a valid Texas driver license.
2. New residents who are properly licensed have 90 days after entry into Texas to secure a Texas driver license.
3. Any person while driving or operating any road machine, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry temporarily operated or moved on a highway is exempt from having a Texas license, unless the vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle.
4. Any nonresident who is at least 16 years of age and possesses a valid driver license issued in the nonresident's home state. Nonresidents at least 16 years of age who meet this criteria may drive a vehicle permitted to be operated with a Class C or Class M driver license in Texas.
5. Nonresidents who are at least 18 years of age may drive any vehicle in Texas if they are legally licensed to drive such a vehicle in their home state or country, and their home state or country grants like recognition (reciprocity) to citizens of Texas (Please reference the Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Sections 15.91 and 15.92).
6. The driver of an official U.S. or state military service motor vehicle may drive a vehicle without a valid Texas driver license unless the vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle.
7. A nonresident on active duty in the armed forces of the U.S. who has a valid license issued by his/ her home state.
8. A nonresident's spouse or dependent son or daughter who has a valid license issued by such person's home state.
9. Any person on active duty in the armed forces of the U.S. who has in his/her possession a valid license issued in a foreign country by the armed forces may drive a motor vehicle in Texas for a period of time not to exceed 90 days from the date of his/her return to the U.S.
10. Unless a license is suspended, cancelled, revoked, or denied a Texas driver license held by any person who enters or who is in the U.S. armed forces will remain valid as long as the:
  - a. Service continues; and
  - b. Person remains absent from Texas and the absence does not exceed 90 days from the date the licensee is honorably separated from the service or returns to Texas.

*Special Note:*  
You may not receive a Texas driver license until all valid driver licenses issued are surrendered.

### Types of Texas Driver Licenses

#### Learner License (Instruction Permit)

A learner license, also known as an instruction permit, allows a student driver to legally practice driving when accompanied by a licensed driver. The licensed driver must be at least 21 years of age with at least one year of driving experience, must occupy the seat beside the driver, and cannot be intoxicated, asleep, or engaging in any activity that prevents him/her from observing and responding to the actions of the driver.

Table 1: Learner License

Minimum Age	Fee*	Expiration
15 with driver education	\$15 for license + \$1 fee = \$16	If applicant is under 18 years of age, license expires on the applicant's 18th birthday or six years from next birthday if over 18. License is not renewable as a learner license. The license must be renewed at regular fees upon expiration or at the time the driving test is passed and restrictions removed.

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

If you are under 18 years of age and applying for your first Texas driver license or learner license, you must provide evidence that you:

1. Have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
2. Are a student enrolled in a public school, private school, or home school and attended school for at least 80 days in the fall or spring semester preceding the date of application; or
3. Have been enrolled for at least 45 days and are enrolled at the time of application in a program to prepare individuals to pass the high school equivalency exam.

The certificate issued by the school may not be dated more than 30 days before the date of application during the school year or more than 90 days before the date of application during the summer.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has developed a *Verification of Enrollment and Attendance Form (VOE)* you must obtain from your school. Ask school officials to complete and sign the form then present it to the customer service representative (CSR) at the driver license office when applying for or renewing your license or removing permit restrictions.

### **Hardship License**

A hardship license (previously also known as Minor Restricted Driver License or MRDL) may be issued to a minor who establishes the necessity to drive. A hardship license is issued for a maximum of one year and may have restrictions based on the qualifying hardship.

An application for a hardship license must be executed by an authorized adult on behalf of the minor. Both the adult and the minor must sign the form (DL-77) and present it in person at the driver license office. Only a parent, guardian, or person having custody of a minor may make application on behalf of a minor. If the minor does not have a parent, guardian, or custodian then an employer or county judge may apply on behalf of the minor.

A person applying for a hardship license must:

1. Be at least 15 years of age but not more than 18;
2. Complete and pass a driver education course (a driver education course includes both the classroom and behind the wheel phase), vision test, knowledge test, and driving test; and
3. Meet all other requirements for a first time driver license (original) applicant, please visit our website [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense) for additional information.

DPS may require supporting documentation or conduct an investigation to confirm the information provided on the application.

DPS will issue a hardship license if it is determined that:

1. Failure to issue the hardship license will result in an unusual economic hardship for the family of the minor applicant;
2. The hardship license is necessary due to an illness of a family member; or
3. The hardship license is necessary because the minor applicant is enrolled in a Vocational Education program and requires the license to participate in the program.

### **Graduated Driver License (GDL)**

Teenagers and young adults have the highest crash rates of all drivers, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Young drivers make up 6.5 percent of the driving population but are responsible for 13 percent of fatal crashes. In 2002, the Texas Legislature created the Graduated Driver License (GDL) program to ease teens into the driving experience by phasing in driving privileges and minimizing exposure to high-risk situations.

The GDL program applies to driver license applicants under 18 years of age and has contributed to a decrease in fatal crashes in recent years. As a part of this program, all new driver license applicants are required to pass a driving skills test conducted at a driver license office or authorized testing facility.

The GDL program consists of two phases. Phase One applies to learner licenses. Phase Two applies to provisional licenses. All drivers under 18 years of age must meet the licensing requirements for a learner license or provisional license, but they are also subject to additional requirements, including driver education and the GDL program.

**Phase One:** This phase requires applicants under 18 years of age to hold a learner license or a hardship license for a minimum of six months prior to the issuance of a provisional license. Phase One requirements do not apply to Class M (motorcycle). Under the GDL program, there is no minimum time a person must hold a restricted motorcycle or moped license before he/she can apply for a Class M license. Phase One does not apply to hardship license holders. The learner license must remain valid during the mandatory six-month period to meet this regulation.

If your license is suspended during Phase One then the initial six-month period is extended by the number of days of the suspension because your license is invalid during this time.

A Texas learner license will be issued to individuals who are at least 15 years of age, present an out-of-state instruction permit, and submit a VOE form. A Texas learner license must be held for six months from the date of issuance before the individual is eligible for Phase Two.

**Phase Two:** Phase Two restricts the driving privileges of individuals until their 18th birthday following the issuance of a provisional license.

During Phase Two these individuals may not drive a motor vehicle:

1. With more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member

2. Between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the driver to work, to attend or participate in a school-related activity, or due to a medical emergency

Individuals who are under 18 years of age are restricted from using a wireless communication device, including a hands-free device, except in case of an emergency.

### **Provisional License**

A provisional license is a driver license issued to a person 16 to 18 years of age. DPS is required to designate and clearly mark each driver license issued to a person who is under 18 years of age as a provisional license. All original licenses, other than a learner license, issued to any individual who is under 18 years of age will have "PROVISIONAL" printed on it. The license will expire on the individual's 18th birthday, and a minimum \$15 fee is required. Non-commercial driver licenses issued to any individual who is 18 years of age or older will be valid for six years. A \$24 fee is required for the license, and a \$1 administrative fee will be added to transactions made in-person or online.

### **Out-of-State License Holders**

Applicants who are at least 15 years of age but less than 18 who present a valid out-of-state instruction permit will be issued a GDL Phase One learners license. Applicants 16 years of age but less than 18 who present a valid out-of-state driver license will be issued a Phase Two provisional GDL with passenger and time restrictions. Applicants must meet all other requirements for a first time (original) applicant.

Individuals who are under 21 years of age will have "UNDER 21" printed on their license.

## **Classified Driver Licenses**

Class A, B, C, and M driver licenses are issued to individuals who are exempt or not required to obtain a commercial driver license (CDL).

Individuals who operate any of the following vehicles are exempt from obtaining a CDL but may need a Class A or Class B non-commercial driver license because the type of vehicle driven still meets the definition of a commercial motor vehicle. For more information on what is considered a commercial motor vehicle, CDL endorsements and requirements for a CDL, please see Section One in the *Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook* or you can also download a copy of the handbook online at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/DL-7C.pdf](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/DL-7C.pdf).

1. A fire-fighting or emergency vehicle necessary for the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions whether operated by an employee of a political subdivision or by a volunteer fire fighter.
2. A military vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle when operated for military purposes by military personnel, members of the Reserves and National Guard on active duty including personnel on full-time National Guard duty, personnel on part-time training, and National Guard military technicians.
3. A recreational vehicle driven for personal use.
4. A vehicle that is owned, leased, or controlled by an air carrier, and is driven or operated exclusively by an employee of the air carrier only on the premises of an airport, on service roads to which the public does not have access.
5. A vehicle used exclusively to transport seed cotton modules or cotton burrs.
6. A vehicle:
  - a. Controlled and operated by a farmer;
  - b. Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;
  - c. Not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier; or
  - d. Used within 150 miles of the person's farm.

### **Class A Driver License**

A Class A driver license permits a person to drive:

1. Any vehicle or combination of vehicles described under a Class B or a Class C driver license; and
2. A vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 lbs. or more, provided the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle(s) towed is in excess of 10,000 lbs.

A Class A driver license does not permit a person to drive a motorcycle or moped.

**Table 2: Class A Driver License**

Minimum Age	Fee*	Expiration
18 or older (Applicants 18 to 24 are required to successfully complete an approved driver education course.)	\$24 for license + \$1 fee = \$25	Six years
17 with completion of an approved driver education course	\$15 for license + \$1 fee = \$16	On applicant's next birthday

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

**Class B Driver License**

A Class B driver license permits a person to drive:

1. Any vehicle included in Class C;
2. A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 lbs. or more and any such vehicle towing either a vehicle with a GVWR that does not exceed 10,000 lbs. or a farm trailer with a GVWR that does not exceed 20,000 lbs.; and
3. A bus with a seating capacity of 24 passengers or more including the driver.

A Class B driver license does not permit a person to drive a motorcycle or moped.

**Table 3: Class B Driver License**

Minimum Age	Fee*	Expiration
18 or older (Applicants 18 to 24 are required to successfully complete an approved driver education course.)	\$24 for license + \$1 fee = \$25	Six years
17 with completion of an approved driver education course	\$15 for license + \$1 fee = \$16	On applicant's next birthday

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

**Class C Driver License**

A Class C driver license permits a person to drive:

1. A single vehicle or combination of vehicles that are not included in Class A or Class B; and
2. A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of less than 26,001 lbs. towing a trailer not to exceed 10,000 lbs. GVWR or a farm trailer with a GVWR that does not exceed 20,000 lbs.

A Class C driver license does not permit a person to drive a motorcycle or moped.

**Table 4: Class C Driver License**

Minimum Age	Fee*	Expiration
18 or older (Applicants 18 to 24 are required to successfully complete an approved driver education course.)	\$24 for license + \$1 fee = \$25	Six years
16 with completion of an approved driver education course	\$15 for license + \$1 fee = \$16	On applicant's 18th birthday
15 with the approval of a hardship license	\$ 5 for license + \$1 fee = \$6	On applicant's next birthday

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

**Class M Driver License**

A Class M driver license permits a person to drive a motorcycle or moped. For more information on a Class M driver license, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/motorcycleLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/motorcycleLicense.htm).

**Minimum Age**

Motorcycle: 16 with completion of the classroom phase of a driver education course (32 hours) and a DPS approved motorcycle operator training course (16 hours);

Moped: 15 years of age with completion of the classroom phase of a driver education course (32 hours) and a DPS approved motorcycle operator training course (16 hours);

Motor-driven cycle of 250 cc or less: 15 with DPS approval for a hardship driver license or completion of the classroom phase of a driver education course (32 hours) and a DPS approved motorcycle operator training course (16 hours).

Motorcycle training course providers will require drivers who are under 18 years of age to hold a learner license or a valid Class C license prior to enrolling in a motorcycle operator training course.

Table 5: Fees and Expiration for Class M Driver License

Type	Amount	Expiration
18 and older	\$24 for license + \$1 administrative fee = \$25	Six years
Under 18	\$15 for license + \$1 administrative fee = \$16	On applicant's 18th birthday
Add M	Add M to current license requires a \$15 test fee + \$1 administrative fee = \$16	Expires with license
Renewal	An additional \$8 is required when renewing a Class M license + \$1 administrative fee = \$9	Varies

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

## Fees and Driver Licenses for Veterans

Veterans who are honorably discharged and receive compensation for a service-related disability of at least 60 percent are exempt from paying driver license and ID card fees. Individuals applying for a CDL and those individuals who are required to register as a sex offender are not eligible. The veteran must meet all other licensing requirements.

### Veteran's Designation on Driver License

DPS offers a "VETERAN" designation on the face of the driver license and identification card (ID) for qualifying veterans. For more information on the veteran designation, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/vetServices.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/vetServices.htm).

### CDL Variances and Waivers – Nonresident CDLs

Individuals who are interested in obtaining a CDL but do not meet all of the requirements may be eligible for a variance or waiver. For more information on the types of variances and waivers available, please visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) or you can also download a copy of the *The Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook* online at [www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-7C.pdf](http://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-7C.pdf)

For more information on the issuance of a nonresident CDL or for eligibility requirements, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/nonresidentCDL.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/nonresidentCDL.htm).

*Special Note:*  
Effective April 1, 1992, you may not drive a commercial motor vehicle unless you have in your immediate possession a valid CDL that is appropriate for the class of vehicle being driven.

## Identification (ID) Cards

In addition to driver licenses, DPS issues ID cards with a photograph of the applicant. ID cards have a distinguishing number similar to a driver license and are maintained in the driver record file. ID cards are displayed in a vertical format for individuals who are under 21 years of age and are horizontal for individuals who are 21 and over. Applicants must provide documents in accordance with DPS ID card policy requirements. Visit the Driver License website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/identificationrequirements.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/identificationrequirements.htm) for a list of documents that will be accepted to verify who you are.

Table 9: Identification (ID) Cards

Minimum Age	Fee*	Expiration
ID cards can be issued to any person of any age. Anyone under the age of 21 will have "Under 21" printed on the card.	\$15 card + \$1 fee = \$16 (59 or younger)	Six years
	\$5 card + \$1 fee = \$6 (60 or older)	No expiration

\*A \$1 administrative fee is included in most fees. However, if you are completing multiple transactions at the same time either in-person or online then you will only be charged the \$1 administrative fee once. A \$1 administrative fee is not charged for transactions made through the mail.

## Medical and Emergency Information

On the reverse side of the card, state law requires DPS to print the statement "**Directive to physician has been filed at telephone #**" and "**Emergency contact number**". Space is provided on the surface for the license holder to write a telephone number and a box to the left of the statement to indicate why the telephone number is provided.

Space is also provided on the back of the card to allow individuals to voluntarily list health conditions which may impede communication with a peace officer.

In addition, an application for an original, renewal or replacement driver license or ID allows an applicant to provide the name, address and telephone number of two individuals that may be contacted in the event of injury or death to the applicant.

### Allergic Reaction to Drugs

DPS does not print medical information on driver licenses or ID cards. To add medical information to the back of your driver license or ID card, use a permanent ink pen and write the following information:

1. Name of your physician
2. Emergency contact number
3. Name of medication that may cause an allergic reaction

## Organ Donation

DPS offers “Donate Life Texas” pamphlets to any person who visits a driver license office. The pamphlets provide general information on the Donate Life Texas program. If you choose to be an organ donor, a small red heart with the word “donor” will be printed in the lower right corner on the front of the card to indicate your desire to be an organ donor. Cards issued after August 31, 2005, which indicate a person’s wish to be a donor shall be conclusive evidence of a decedent’s status as a donor and serve as consent for organ, tissue, and eye donation. You can register to be an organ, tissue, and eye donor online [www.DonateLifeTexas.org](http://www.DonateLifeTexas.org).

### Voluntary Contributions

If you are applying for an original or renewal driver license or ID card, you can make a \$1 voluntary contribution to either or both of the following programs:

1. The Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program administered by the Texas Commission for the Blind which provides screening and treatment for those individuals who are without adequate medical coverage; and
2. The Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Program which manages the donor registry and statewide donor education projects.

You may now make a voluntary contribution, in any amount, to the Veteran’s Assistance Fund. This fund provides grants to local government and nonprofit organizations to enhance or improve veteran assistance programs that address the needs of veterans and their families.

## How to Obtain a Texas Driver License

If you are applying for a Texas driver license, you must comply with the following procedures.

### Application for a Texas Driver License

Application for a driver license must be made in person. You can obtain an application at any driver license office or download an application from our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm).

All in-person applicants are provided an opportunity to complete a voter registration application and registration for selective service.

### Needed Documents and Information for Application

To apply for a Texas driver license be prepared to provide the following documents and information.

1. Your full name, proof of residential address (for a list of documents that will be accepted, visit [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm) or contact your local driver license office), mailing address, place of birth, and date of birth
2. Identification documents (for a list of documents that will be accepted, contact your local driver license office or visit [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm))
3. Social security card or other acceptable evidence of a social security number (See the *Social Security Number (SSN)* section in this handbook for more information)
4. Fingerprints
5. Physical description
6. Answers to the medical status and history questions listed on the application. Individuals with certain medical limitations may have their cases reviewed by the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) before the license is issued
7. Surrender any valid out-of-state driver license
8. Current county of residence and U.S. citizenship status or lawful presence (for a list of documents that will be accepted, visit [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm) or contact your local driver license office)

### Driver Record

A complete record of your examination will be recorded on your application and scanned into the Driver License System where it becomes a part of your permanent driving record. Any convictions for moving traffic violations or crashes, including out of state records of convictions, will be recorded on this permanent record.

### Evidence of Financial Responsibility (Insurance)

If you apply for an original driver license you must provide evidence of financial responsibility or a statement that you do not own a motor vehicle which requires the maintenance of financial responsibility.

Evidence of financial responsibility must meet at least the minimum amount required by Texas and cover each motor vehicle the applicant owns that requires maintenance of financial responsibility.

**Vehicle Registration**

A new Texas resident must submit with a driver license application evidence that each motor vehicle owned by the person is currently registered in Texas, or indicate they do not own a motor vehicle required to be registered. A registration receipt issued by the county tax assessor-collector of the county in which the new resident resides is satisfactory evidence that your motor vehicle has been registered in Texas.

**Fees**

The required fee(s) must be submitted before any tests will be given for an original Texas driver license. The fee allows you to take three tests for each type of exam required. If you fail after three attempts, a new application and fee must be submitted before any additional tests can be taken. The required tests must be completed within 90 days. The application fee is valid at any driver license location.

**Driver Education**

Individuals who are under the age of 25 are required to successfully complete an approved driver education course. For more information on licensing requirements for applicants who are under the age of 25, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm).

**Minors**

If you are under 18 years of age, your application must be signed under oath by the parent or guardian with custody. If there is not a guardian, your employer or county judge may sign the application. The person who signs, before your 18th birthday, may ask DPS to cancel your license. This request must be in writing and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. In addition, the minor applicant and cosigner must acknowledge receipt of information that explains the zero tolerance law. *See Chapter 10: Alcohol and Drugs Impact on the Driving Ability* for more information.

**Social Security Number (SSN)**

All applicants who apply for a Texas driver license are required to present evidence of their SSN. The purpose of requiring individuals to provide evidence of their SSN is to assist DPS in verifying the identity of each license holder. Any of the following documents will be accepted to verify a SSN. The document presented can be expired or unexpired but must have the individual's full SSN printed on it. Documentation must be unaltered originals, not copies.

- Social Security card
- Pilot license
- Military identification (active, reserve or dependent status)
- Peace officer's license—Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
- DD-214
- Medicare or Medicaid card
- Health insurance card
- Certified college or university transcript
- IRS form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement
- Form 1099-MISC
- Pay stub (stub must include name and SSN)

The complete list of documents is also available on our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm).

**Testing**

Before any tests are given, you must pay the required fee. Your picture will be taken and you will be given a payment receipt. If you do not pass the knowledge and driving tests on your first attempt, your application will be held in the driver license office for 90 days. After 90 days or three failed tests, a new application and fee will be required.

The knowledge and driving tests are not required for applicants who surrender a valid out-of-state license. After you have passed all applicable tests you will be issued a temporary license, which you may use for 45 days or until you receive your permanent license in the mail. If you do not receive your license in 45 days contact our customer service center at (512) 424-2600 or [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/customer\\_service/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/customer_service/).

**Part 1: The Knowledge Test**

As part of the *Less Tears More Years Act*, all applicants who are under 25 years of age are required to take a driver education course to apply for a driver license. Upon successful completion of certain courses, the person is not required to take the Class C knowledge test, also known as the written test.

There are three types of knowledge tests.

1. Class C – Knowledge test for all original applicants

2. Class M – Motorcycle road rules for motorcycle and moped applicants
3. Class A or Class B – Rules for operators of Class A and Class B vehicles

You need a grade of 70 percent or better to pass the knowledge test.

### Part 2: The Vision Test

Your vision will be tested when you are at the driver license office. Depending on the results, you may be required to wear corrective lenses, while driving, if the lenses improve your vision and help increase the safety of your driving. If the results are inconclusive, you may be referred to your doctor.

### Part 3: The Driving Test

The driving test is given only after all other tests have been passed and evidence of financial responsibility is presented or the vehicle is exempt under the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act. The type of vehicle that must be used for the driving test depends on the class of license applied for. No one under the age of 18 is exempt from taking the driving test.

Individuals who complete the DPS-approved motorcycle operator training course are not required to take a driving test for a Class M license if the person already has a valid, unrestricted Texas license except for persons under the age of 18. Also, the driving test is not required for anyone applying for a learner license.

A \$10 test fee is required when changing from a lower to a higher class license, or when removing restrictions from a license. The cost of adding a Class M to an existing license is \$15.

### Description of Driving Test

During the driving test you will not be asked to do anything illegal. You must follow all of the instructions given by the customer service representative (CSR). Do not carry on a conversation during the driving test.

If you are not eligible to drive in Texas a licensed driver should drive the car to the test area. If you are not issued a driver license then the licensed driver should also drive you away from the driver license office.

Upon completion of the driving test, the CSR will tell you of any errors you may have made and let you know how to correct those errors.

Your application for a license will not be approved if you:

1. Violate the law
2. Refuse to follow instructions
3. Drive dangerously or have a crash
4. Have more than 30 points deducted on the driving test

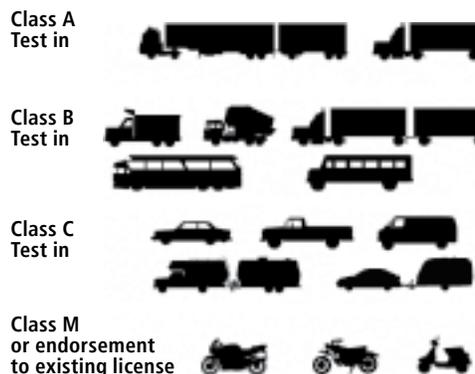
All drivers are graded on four basic skills, regardless of the type of driving test.

1. Control – Your ability to make your car do what you want it to do.
2. Observation – Your ability to see what other traffic is doing and other things which may create problems in traffic.
3. Positioning – Your ability to drive in your lane.
4. Signaling – Your ability to use turn signals as required.

You may be graded on your performance on the following skills so it is good to practice before taking the driving test.

- a. Parallel parking (you may use the back-up camera on your vehicle for parallel parking; however, the use of an automated vehicle parking function to parallel park will not be allowed)
- b. Quick stop – You may be asked to stop your car as quickly as possible at about 20 mph without skidding your tires.
- c. Backing – Your ability to back the car for a distance of about 60 feet at a slow rate of speed and as straight and smoothly as possible. Turn and look back at all times while backing or you may use the back-up camera and mirrors on your vehicle while backing; however, the use of an automated vehicle parking function for backing will not be allowed.
- d. Stop signs
- e. Traffic signals
- f. Use of clutch – On standard transmissions, hold the clutch all the way down when starting the motor, shifting gears, and when speed drops below 10 mph when stopping. Do not ride with your foot resting on the clutch.

### Examples of Vehicles for Road Test



#### Special Note:

The vehicle must have a valid inspection sticker attached and must pass inspection by the customer service representative before the driving test is given.

- g. Intersection observance – Use the proper lane; slow down and look both ways before entering the intersection.
- h. Turns
- i. Right-of-way
- j. Following, passing, and proper lane observance
- k. Posture – Keep hands on steering wheel; don't rest your elbow on the window.

### Pass or Fail Driving Test

If you do not pass the driving test you will be told when you can return for another test. If you pass the driving test:

1. Write down the number of your original license in case it gets lost.
2. Always carry your license with you when driving and upon request, show it to:
  - a. Any peace officer, sheriff, constable, judge, justice of the peace, or state trooper
  - b. Anyone with whom you are involved in a crash

### Penalties for Driving Without a License

During a stop, a law enforcement officer will determine if you have a valid driver license as required.

**Table 10: Penalties for Driving Without a License**

Conviction	Penalty*
1st conviction	A fine of up to \$200.
2nd conviction in one year	A fine of \$25 to \$200.
Driving without a license, operating a vehicle without insurance at the time of the offense, and driver causes a crash resulting in serious bodily injury or death	Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$4,000 and/or confinement in jail for not more than 365 days.

\*Additional suspensions and surcharges may apply.

### Restrictions Placed on a License

A restriction may be placed on your license. This is not meant to interfere with your driving but to make you a better driver. Below is a complete list of the restriction codes

**Table 11: Restriction Codes**

Code	Description	Code	Description
A	With corrective lenses	W	Power steering
B	LOFS 21 or over	X	Vehicle not to exceed Class C
C	Daytime only	Y	Valid Texas vision or limb waiver required
D	Not to exceed 45 mph	Z	Applicable vehicle devices
E	No expressway driving	P1	For Class M TRC 545.424 until MM/DD/YY
F	Must hold a valid learner license to MM/DD/YY	P2	To/from work/school
G	TRC 545.424 applied until MM/DD/YY	P3	To/from work
H	Vehicle not to exceed 26,000 lbs. GVWR	P4	To/from school
I	Motorcycle not to exceed 250 cc	P5	To/from work/school or LOFS 21 or over
J	Licensed MC Operator age 21 or over in sight	P6	To/from work or LOFS 21 or over
K	Moped	P7	To/from school or LOFS 21 or over
L	Vehicle without air brakes (applies to vehicles requiring CDL)	P8	With telescopic lens
M	CDL intrastate commerce only	P9	LOFS 21 or over bus only
N	Ignition interlock required	P10	LOFS 21 or over school bus only
O	Occupational license (no CMV); see court order	P11	Bus not to exceed 26,000 lbs. GVWR
Q	LOFS 21 or over vehicle above Class B	P12	Passenger CMV restricted to Class C only
R	LOFS 21 or over vehicle above Class C	P13	LOFS 21 or over in vehicle equipped with air brake
S	Outside mirror or hearing aid	P14	Operation Class B exempt vehicle authorized
T	Automatic transmission	P15	Operation Class A exempt vehicle authorized
U	Applicable prosthetic device	P16	If CMV, school buses interstate
V	Medical variance documentation required	P17	If CMV, government vehicle interstate

**Table 11: Restriction Codes (continued)**

Code	Description	Code	Description
P18	If CMV, only transport personal property (interstate)	P26	If CMV, for operation of mobile crane
P19	If CMV, only transport corpse/sick/injured (interstate)	P27	HME expiration date MM/DD/YY
P20	If CMV, privately transport passengers (interstate)	P28	FRSI CDL valid MM/DD/YY to MM/DD/YY
P21	If CMV, fire/rescue (interstate)	P29	FRSI CDL MM/DD/YY – MM/DD/YY or exempt B vehicles
P22	If CMV, intra-city zone drivers (interstate)	P30	FRSI CDL MM/DD/YY - MM/DD/YY or exempt A vehicles
P23	If CMV, custom harvesting (interstate)	P31	Class C only: no taxi/bus/emergency vehicle
P24	If CMV, transporting bees/hives (interstate)	P32	Other
P25	If CMV, use in oil/water well service/drill		

### Removing or Adding Restrictions

Contact your local driver license office for more information concerning the removal or addition of any restrictions from your driver license or learner license.

### A Replacement (Duplicate) Card

You should apply for a replacement license or ID card at your local driver license office if your license or ID card has been lost or destroyed, or for any change in information. Please bring the required application (DL-43) and documents to verify your citizenship. For more information on the types of documents that will be accepted, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/).

A change of name or address must be reported to DPS within 30 days. A license expiring in less than 12 months, or in less than 30 days for a provisional license, should be renewed not duplicated.

Fee (replacement license or change of address): \$10 for license + \$1 fee for transactions made in-person or online = \$11

### In-State Licenses

To change your name, you must apply in-person at any driver license office and bring the required documents. For more information visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/).

To change the address on your Texas driver license or ID card you can visit any driver license office, apply online at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/) (you must have your card in your possession to apply online), or mail an Application for Change of Address Certificate (DL-64). If you do not have the required DL-64, you can download one from our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/InternetForms/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/InternetForms/).

**Mailing Address:** Texas Department of Public Safety  
License and Record Service  
PO Box 149008  
Austin, TX 78714-9008

Upon receipt of a \$10 fee and proper notification, a new license or ID card with the correct address information, with your previous photograph or valid without photo, will be mailed to you.

A CDL cannot be issued online, by phone, or through the mail. Applicants must apply in person for a CDL.

### Out-of-State Licensees

If you are out-of-state but maintaining a Texas driver license, you can apply for a duplicate license by mail. Download the Out-of-State Packet (DL-16P) or Out-of-Country Application (DL-16) from the website. Complete the required application and submit the application with a \$10 fee to:

**Mailing Address:** Texas Department of Public Safety  
License and Record Service  
PO Box 149008  
Austin, TX 78714-9008

Applicants must apply in person for a CDL. A CDL cannot be issued online or by mail.

### Renewing a License

A renewal notice invitation may be mailed to you about six weeks before your license expires. The notice will be mailed to the last address you provided to DPS. If you do not receive this notice, it is up to you to renew your license.

### Application for Renewal

An application for renewal must normally be made in person at any driver license office but you may be eligible to renew online at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/), by mail, or by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW. To check your eligibility to renew, visit us online or call the number provided.

Some of our larger office locations offer the ability to get in line on-line. Please check the website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/) to find out if this service is available at a location near you.

Alternate methods to renew will not be extended to:

1. Any person whose license is suspended, cancelled, revoked, or denied
2. Commercial driver license (CDL) holders
3. Holders of an occupational license, provisional license, or learner license
4. Licensees restricted because of driving ability or a medical condition that requires periodic reviews, including any medical or physical condition which may result in progressive changes to a licensee's ability to safely drive a motor vehicle
5. Driver license or ID card holders who are subject to sex offender registration or driver license holders who are 79 years of age or older
6. Driver license holders who do not have a social security number or photo on file

When you are at the driver license office you will be asked questions concerning your medical history. If you have certain medical limitations, your case will be referred to the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) for their opinion about how your condition may affect your driving. For more information on MAB, visit our website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/MedicalRevocation.htm>

### Individuals Returning to Texas from Military Service

Military personnel returning from duty must present a Texas driver license and separation papers to obtain a renewal license without taking a test when the license has been expired for over two years.

### An Out-of-State Texas Licensee

Most out-of-state Texas licensees may mail in their application for renewal. However, the following individuals who live out-of-state are not eligible to renew by mail and must renew in-person.

1. A person subject to sex offender registration requirements.
2. A person 79 years of age or older.
3. A person holding a commercial driver license (CDL).

The proper fee and the results of your vision test performed by an eye specialist or an authorized driver license employee must be included with your application. The license will be renewed and will be “**valid to expiration date shown or until 45 days after return to Texas, whichever comes first.**”

Make check or money order made payable to: TX DPS. Do not send cash. Mail to:

**Mailing Address:** Texas Department of Public Safety  
Central Cash Receiving  
PO Box 15999  
Austin, TX 78761-5999

## Suspensions and Revocations

Operating a motor vehicle is a privilege. If this privilege is abused it may result in a driver license suspension or revocation.

Mandatory suspensions, revocations, and convictions for certain offenses involving fraudulent government records require an additional \$100 reinstatement fee. Administrative License Revocations (ALR) require an additional \$125 reinstatement fee. Some mandatory suspensions also require filing a *Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (SR-22)*.

### Mandatory Suspension

Convictions for the following offenses will result in the automatic suspension of your license and driving privilege. See the *Texas Commercial Driver License Handbook* for additional information about disqualifications. For minors, see the *Suspensions and Revocations (Under 21)* section in this chapter.

1. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) by use of alcohol or drugs
2. Drug offense
3. Intoxication manslaughter or intoxication assault

4. Failure to stop and render aid
5. Causing the death or serious injury of anyone while operating a motor vehicle; involuntary manslaughter
6. Any offense punishable as a felony under the motor vehicle laws of Texas
7. Overtaking and passing a school bus (subsequent conviction)
8. Boating while intoxicated
9. Evading arrest
10. Driving while license invalid
11. Altered/unlawful use of a driver license
12. Displaying or possessing a fictitious or altered driver license or ID card
13. Lending a driver license or ID card to someone
14. Possessing more than one valid driver license or ID card
15. Providing false information or documents when applying for a driver license
16. Making, selling, or possessing a document deceptively similar to a driver license or ID card issued by DPS
17. Graffiti
18. Fictitious license plate, registration certificate, or safety inspection sticker
19. Fraudulent government records
20. Racing a motor vehicle on a public highway or street

#### **Administrative Suspensions and Revocations**

DPS has the authority to suspend or revoke the driver license or privilege of any driver, after an opportunity for a proper hearing, for any of the reasons listed below. (See the *Texas Commercial Driver License Handbook* for information on disqualifications.) A reinstatement fee is required for all discretionary suspensions and revocations.

1. Driving while license invalid
2. Causing a serious crash while driving a motor vehicle
3. Becoming incompetent to drive
4. Repeated violations of traffic laws, including:
  - a. Four or more traffic convictions occurring separately within any 12-month period or
  - b. Seven or more traffic convictions within any 24-month period
5. Failure to complete a drug education program as required upon conviction of a drug offense
6. Failure to provide medical information when requested
7. Failure to take or pass a test when requested
8. Fleeing or attempting to flee from a law enforcement officer
9. Person has committed an offense in another state, which if committed in this state would be grounds for suspension or revocation
10. Fail to stop for a school bus (second conviction)
11. Violates a probation order set by a previous hearing

#### **Suspensions and Revocations (Under 21)**

Convictions or failure to comply with the following offenses will result in the automatic suspension of the driving privilege of individuals who are under 21 years of age (See Administrative License Revocation (ALR) section for more suspension information regarding minors.)

#### **Alcoholic Beverage Code Offenses**

1. Minor in possession
2. Attempt to purchase alcohol by a minor
3. Purchase of alcohol by a minor
4. Consumption of alcohol by a minor
5. Misrepresentation of age by a minor

6. Driving or operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol by a minor
7. Failure to complete an alcohol awareness class

**Health and Safety Code Violations**

1. Failure to complete a tobacco awareness class when required
2. Drug offense
3. An offense under the Controlled Substance Act
4. A felony under Chapter 481 that is not a drug offense

**Family Code Violations**

1. Delinquent conduct by a minor or juvenile
2. Truancy

**Suspend or Revoke After Hearing of Minor**

DPS has the authority to suspend or revoke the license or driving privilege of a minor after a proper hearing, for:

1. Failure to appear or default in payment of a fine for a traffic or a non-traffic violation;
2. A juvenile court order;
3. Failure to pay a fine or juvenile contempt; and
4. Two or more traffic convictions occurring separately within any 12-month period for a driver who has a provisional driver license.

**Administrative License Revocation (ALR)**

The Administrative License Revocation (ALR) law became effective January 1, 1995. A \$125 reinstatement fee is required for all ALR suspensions.

DPS is authorized to suspend a license or driving privilege:

1. For individuals who are over 21 years of age who fail a breath or blood test (the blood alcohol content indicates a level of 0.08 or more);
2. Of any person who refuses to submit to a breath or blood test; or
3. For individuals who are under 21 years of age for any detectable amount of alcohol.

**Cancellations**

DPS is authorized to cancel the driver license or ID card of individuals who do not meet certain qualifications. The following types of cases require cancellation of a driver license or ID card:

1. Suspension and revocation action from another state
2. Parental authorization withdrawn (for individuals who are under 18 years of age)
3. Failure to give the required information on the application for the license or ID card
4. Person was not entitled to the license or ID card
5. Incomplete driver education
6. Voluntary surrender for medical or insurance purposes
7. False statement on an application for a license or ID card

**Court-Ordered Suspensions, Revocations, and Cancellations**

Upon receipt of a court order, DPS will suspend, revoke, or cancel a license or driving privilege for:

1. Delinquent child support
2. Requirement for an ignition interlock device (see [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/IgnitionInterlock.htm](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/IgnitionInterlock.htm) for more information)
3. Failure to repay any overpayment of food stamps or financial assistance
4. Mentally incapacitated
5. Chemically dependent
6. Failure to renew their license annually as required (classified sex offender)

## Denials

DPS is authorized to deny the issuance of a driver license to a person who is ineligible to receive a license in this state. An applicant may be denied a driver license for:

1. Suspension/revocation/cancellation/disqualification status in Texas, another state, or Canadian Province
2. Physical or mental incapacity preventing the safe operation of a motor vehicle
3. Acquiring motor vehicle fuel without payment
4. Certain criminal mischief (i.e. graffiti, etc.)
5. Purchasing or furnishing alcohol to a minor
6. Delinquent child support

**Special Note:**  
DPS may deny the renewal of a driver license of a Texas licensee who fails to appear in court for traffic violations or certain other offenses within the jurisdiction of a justice or municipal court.

## Driving While License Invalid (DWLI)

The penalties for driving a motor vehicle while your license or driving privilege is suspended, cancelled, denied, or revoked are provided in the *Penalties for Driving While License Invalid (DWLI)* table.

**Table 12: Penalties for Driving While License Invalid (DWLI)**

Offense	Penalty
Driving a motor vehicle while driver license or privilege is suspended, cancelled, denied, or revoked.	Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.
The person has a previous conviction for the same offense, was operating a vehicle without insurance at the time of the offense, or the person's license had been suspended because of an offense involving operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.	Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or confinement in jail for not more than 180 days.
The person was operating a vehicle without insurance at the time of the offense and caused a crash which resulted in serious bodily injury or death of another. The suspension will automatically be extended.	Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000 and/or confinement in jail for not more than 365 days.

## Penalties for Non-Driving Alcohol-Related Offenses by Minors

The Zero Tolerance law provides penalties for minors who commit offenses under the non-driving alcohol related offenses. A minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, falsely state he/she is 21 years of age or older, or present a document indicating he/she is 21 years of age or older to a person engaged in selling or serving alcohol beverages. A minor may not consume, or possess an alcoholic beverage.

**Table 13: Penalties for Non-Driving Alcohol-Related Offenses - Minors**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 8 to 12 hours of community service, and mandatory alcohol awareness course attendance. The driver license will be suspended (or privilege will be denied if not licensed) for 30 days.
2nd offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500, 20 to 40 hours of community service, and the minor may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course. The driver license will be suspended (or privilege will be denied if not licensed) for 60 days.
3rd offense (At least 17 years of age but less than 21)	Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$2,000; minor may also be required to attend an alcohol awareness course. The driver license will be suspended (or privilege will be denied if not licensed) for 180 days. Minors are not eligible for deferred disposition on the third conviction or any conviction after.
3rd offense (Under 17 years of age)	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500, 20 to 40 hours of community service, and the minor may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course. The driver license will be suspended (or privilege will be denied if not licensed) for 60 days, or the case can be transferred to Juvenile Court as delinquent conduct.

A minor who is convicted of driving while his/her license is suspended because of a non-driving alcohol related offense is subject to the penalties of Driving While License Invalid (DWLI).

### Other Non-Driving Penalties for Alcohol-Related Offenses

A person, who purchases, furnishes, or sells an alcoholic beverage to a minor is subject to the penalties as outlined in the *Penalties for Purchasing, Furnishing, or Selling Alcohol to a Minor* table.

**Table 14: Penalties for Purchasing, Furnishing, or Selling Alcohol to a Minor**

Offense	Penalty
Purchased or furnished alcohol to a minor	A fine of up to \$4,000 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year.
Sold alcohol to a minor	A fine of up to \$4,000 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year.

### Occupational License (Essential Need License)

An occupational license, also called an essential need license, is a special type of restricted license issued to individuals:

1. Whose driver license has been suspended, revoked, or denied for certain offenses (other than medical or delinquent child support); and
2. Who can prove to a court there is an essential need to drive.

Individuals may still qualify for an occupational license even if their driver license has been suspended for surcharges.

Application for an occupational license is made to the district, county, or justice of the peace court in the precinct or county of the licensee's residence or to the court of original jurisdiction, whichever is applicable. If the court determines an individual is eligible to apply for an occupational license then a court order will be issued. The court order is not the occupational license. A court order only authorizes DPS to issue the occupational license. The applicant must submit the court order and all required items to DPS before an occupational license can be issued. The fee for this type of license is \$10 per year.

A person issued an occupational license must also carry a certified copy of the court order when operating a vehicle and must allow a law enforcement officer to examine the order at the officer's lawful request. An occupational license may not be issued to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

For more information on occupational licenses, visit our website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/OccupationalLicense.htm>.

### Driver Responsibility Program (DRP)

The Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) establishes a system that authorizes the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to assess surcharges to an individual based on certain traffic offenses.

A surcharge is an administrative fee based on convictions reported to the driver record. A surcharge is in addition to other types of fees and does not replace a suspension, revocation, disqualification, denial or cancellation action resulting from the same conviction. To check your driver eligibility, visit [www.texas.gov/LicenseEligibility](http://www.texas.gov/LicenseEligibility).

Two criteria are used to determine if a surcharge will be assessed: Point system and Conviction based.

Individuals who have both points and convictions reported to their driver record will receive separate surcharges for each offense; a surcharge for the points and a surcharge for the conviction.

#### Point System

Points are assessed for traffic convictions. Once the conviction has been reported to the driver record, points are assigned and remain on your driver record for three years. A person will receive:

- Two points for a Texas or out-of-state traffic conviction
- Three points for a Texas or out-of-state traffic conviction that resulted in a crash

A surcharge is assessed when the driver has six or more points on his/her driver record within three years. The driver is required to pay an additional \$100 surcharge for the first six points and \$25 for every point after six.

#### Conviction Based

A driver who receives a conviction for one of the offenses listed in the *Conviction Based Surcharges* (DRP) table is assessed a surcharge every year for three years. Points are not assessed for these offenses because the surcharge is automatic upon conviction.

**Table 15: Conviction Based Surcharges (DRP)**

Type of Conviction	Surcharge
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) - 1st offense	\$1,000
DWI - Two or more offenses	\$1,500
DWI with blood alcohol concentration of 0.16 or greater	\$2,000
No insurance	\$250
Driving While License is Invalid (DWLI); license is cancelled, suspended, or revoked	\$250
No driver license (No license, expired license, no CDL, or endorsement violation)	\$100

**DPS Contracts with a Vendor**

DPS contracts with an outside vendor (Municipal Services Bureau – MSB) to collect surcharges. This vendor is legally authorized to charge the following service fees in addition to the surcharge:

1. A service fee of four percent of the original surcharge amount;
2. An installment plan payment fee of \$2.50 per partial payment;
3. A credit or debit card fee of 2.25 percent of payment plus \$0.25 (except where prohibited by law); and
4. An electronic check fee of \$2.00 per payment.

**Driver Record Review**

DPS reviews surcharge cases annually. The number of points on a record can vary each year based on convictions that are added or removed. Please be aware there is a lapse in time from the date you are convicted for an offense and the date your conviction is reported to DPS by the courts. As a result, a point may be added to your record for an offense committed in a previous year.

**Driver Notification**

A letter will be mailed to you notifying you of the surcharges you have been assessed. Letters are mailed to the address DPS has on record so it's important to notify DPS of any changes to your information. (To change your address online, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/))

**Payment of Surcharges**

Surcharges must be paid within 105 days or an individual's driver license will be suspended for failure to comply with the surcharge requirements. The individual's driving privileges will remain suspended until an installment agreement is established or all surcharges and related costs are paid in full.

Payments can be made online at [www.txsurchargeonline.com](http://www.txsurchargeonline.com) or by calling 800-688-6882.

Individuals may also mail a personal check, money order or cashier's check to the address below. Do not send cash. Individuals must write their name, driver license number and reference number on their payment so their record can be properly identified. Make check or money order payment to MSB and allow three days for processing.

**Mailing Address:** Surcharge Processing  
PO Box 16733  
Austin, Texas 78761-6733

**Indigency and Incentive Programs**

The Indigency program reduces the amount of surcharges owed for some individuals who have incomes at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

The Incentive program reduces the amount of surcharges owed for some individuals who have incomes above 125 percent and below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

A summary of additional features and requirements of this program are:

1. Only surcharges assessed on or after September 30, 2004, are eligible for a reduction.
2. Under the Indigency program the surcharge amount owed is reduced to 10 percent of the total or \$250, whichever is less.
3. Under the Incentive program the surcharge amount owed is reduced to 50 percent.
4. Customers are still required to pay the full amount of all other applicable fees.
5. Once approved for a reduction under either program, the individual must pay the reduced balance in full within six (6) months. All surcharge suspensions will be lifted during this period. If the individual does not pay the balance in full by the due date, their driving privileges will be suspended until the reduced balance is paid in full.

To learn more about program eligibility requirements, poverty guidelines, or the application process visit our website at: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/IncentiveProgram.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/IncentiveProgram.htm), [www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/IndigencyProgram.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/IndigencyProgram.htm) or call (866) 223-3583.

## Chapter 2: Vehicle Inspection and Registration

### Vehicle Inspection

All motor vehicles registered in Texas, including motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds must be inspected each year by an official motor vehicle inspection station. Evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle being inspected must be presented at the time of inspection. If evidence of financial responsibility is not presented an inspection sticker will not be issued.

When a vehicle passes inspection, an approved sticker must be placed on the windshield. Motorcycles and mopeds must have the inspection sticker displayed near the rear license plate. These inspection stickers are good for one year from the month of inspection. Any vehicle involved in a crash must be reinspected after repairs have been made.

In addition to the safety inspection, an emissions test is required for motor vehicles capable of being powered by gasoline, from 2 to 24 years old and registered in or required to be registered in and primarily operated in a designated county. Designated counties include Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Montgomery, El Paso, Travis, and Williamson counties.

### Required Equipment for Vehicles

You must have the following equipment in proper working order for your car to be considered safe.

**Table 16: Required Equipment for Motor Vehicles**

Item	Description
Brakes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foot Brake - Must stop car within a distance of 25 feet at a speed of 20 mph.</li> <li>2. Parking Brake - Should be adequate to stop and hold car.</li> </ol>
Lights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two Headlights (one on each side of the front) - A beam indicator showing when the high headlight beam is on.</li> <li>2. Taillights - All vehicles must be equipped with two taillights. Exception: Cars manufactured before 1960 are only required to have one taillight.</li> <li>3. Brake (Stop) Lights - All vehicles must have two brake lights. Exception: Cars manufactured before 1960 are only required to have one brake light.</li> <li>4. License Plate Light- A white light that lights the rear license plate when the headlights (or auxiliary lamps) are lighted.</li> <li>5. Parking Lights - White or amber on the front, red to the rear (may be combined with other lights).</li> <li>6. Reflectors - Two red reflectors, one on each side of the car (may be combined with taillights) must be placed at a height of 15 to 60 inches and be visible up to 600 feet; visible up to 350 feet on vehicles manufactured before 1960.</li> <li>7. Turn Signals - Every motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, and pole-trailer must have electric turn signals (except motorcycles and certain trailers). Exception: Passenger cars and trucks less than 80 inches in width and manufactured before 1960 are not required to have electrical turn signals.</li> </ol>
Horns	Horns must be heard for a minimum distance of 200 feet.
Muffler and exhaust system	All 1968 or later models must be equipped with an exhaust emission system to help reduce air pollution.
Safety glass	New cars must be equipped with safety glass. Replacements of glass for any car must be with safety glass.
License plates	Vehicles must have one valid plate at the front and one at the rear of passenger and commercial vehicles except dealer plates and commercial vehicles that are only issued one license plate.
Windshield wiper	Windshield wipers are necessary for safety in bad weather.
Rearview mirror	A rearview mirror must be able to reflect a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
Slow moving vehicle emblem	Farm tractors and machinery, road construction machinery, animal-drawn vehicles and certain other motor vehicles assigned to travel at 25 mph or less must display the slow-moving vehicle emblem.
Front safety belts	Front safety belts are required if safety belt anchorages were part of the original equipment of the vehicle.
Tires	All vehicles are required to have tires in proper and safe condition with a minimum depth of 2/32 of an inch.
Fuel cap	The fuel cap on gasoline-powered vehicles from 2 to 24 years old will be checked to determine if the fuel cap is missing or defective. Exception: Antique vehicles, circus vehicles, slow moving vehicles, motorcycles, and vehicles operated exclusively by a fuel other than gasoline and vehicles newer than 2 years or older than 24 years.

For information on house trailer lights, flares, flags, etc., please see the special requirements section in the *Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Handbook*. For information on motorcycles, see the *Motorcycle Operator's Manual*.

## Equipment You Must Not Have

The following equipment is considered unsafe and is not allowed on your vehicle:

1. A red light showing from the front except an emergency vehicle.
2. A bell, siren, or exhaust whistle except on an emergency vehicle.
3. A muffler cutout.
4. Anything extending more than three inches beyond the left side or six inches beyond the right side of the body, running board, or fenders of your car.
5. Flashing red lights on the front except on emergency vehicles, school buses, and church buses.
6. A radar interference device designed, manufactured, used, or intended to be used to interfere with, scramble, disrupt, or cause to malfunction a radar or laser device used to measure a vehicle's speed.

### Minimum Road Clearance

A vehicle must not be modified or weighted in such a manner where the body is below the lowest part of the rims of the wheels.

## Optional Equipment for Vehicles

The following equipment is considered optional and is not required to be on your vehicle.

**Table 17: Optional Equipment for Motor Vehicles**

Optional Item	Description
Spotlight	Spotlights must be turned off for a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. If headlights fail, it may be used with the beam striking the road not more than 50 feet in front of the vehicle on which it is used.
Side cowl or fender light	Two of these types of lights are permitted; must show amber or white light without glare.
Running board courtesy lights	One running board courtesy light is permitted on each side; must show amber or white light without a glare.
Backup lights	Two backup lights are permitted separately or in combination with other lights. Do not use when vehicle is in forward motion.
Flashing lights	Widespread flashing lights may be used on any vehicle to warn of unusual traffic hazards; must show flashing amber or white to the front and flashing amber or red to the rear and must flash simultaneously.
Additional lights	Any motor vehicle may have up to three additional driving lights mounted on the front, not less than 12 inches but not more than 42 inches from the road surface.
Sunscreen or window tinting	If sunscreen or window tinting is used, it must comply with the appropriate state regulations for your vehicle make and model.

## Registration of Vehicles

All vehicles must be registered in the county of residency. Once the vehicle is properly registered, a registration sticker will be issued that must be displayed on the vehicle's windshield or on the rear license plate of a motorcycle or moped.

1. An owner must register a newly purchased vehicle within 30 days of purchase.
2. Nonresident truck owners may be issued 30-day temporary registration permits for certain movements of farm products and machinery during harvesting season.
3. Under certain conditions, temporary registration permits and reduced registration rates for special vehicles may be obtained (See your County Tax Assessor-Collector for more information).
4. Buyers' temporary tags are recognized for 60 days; dealers' metal registration plates may be used on any dealer-owned vehicle except for commercial purposes (vehicle inspection is required).
5. A manufacturer's metal registration plate may be used for testing purposes only; a vehicle inspection is required. Dealers temporary cardboard tags may be used for demonstrating a vehicle for sale, or for transporting or servicing vehicles without a motor vehicle inspection certificate.
6. Farm registered vehicles, in addition to use for farm and ranch purposes, may be used as a means of passenger transportation for members of the family to attend church or school, to visit doctors for medical treatment or supplies, or for other necessities of the home or family, but not for gainful employment.
7. For registration applications and detailed information, consult your County Tax Assessor-Collector or the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Additional information may also be obtained from DPS publications pertaining to commercial vehicles.

**Vehicles Not Required to be Registered or Inspected**

The following vehicles are not required to be registered, inspected, or to display a license plate when temporarily operated on highways:

1. Farm tractors
2. Farm trailers, farm semi-trailers, and certain fertilizer and cottonseed trailers weighing not more than 4,000 lbs. gross
3. Implements of agriculture
4. Power sweepers
5. Certain golf carts
6. Electric bicycles
7. Motorized and electric personal assistive mobility devices

When temporarily operated on highways, the following vehicles are not required to be registered or inspected if the owner annually secures a distinguishing \$5 license plate and complies with other special conditions in the law:

1. Machinery for drilling water wells and construction machinery.
2. Farm trailers, farm semi-trailers, cotton trailers, cottonseed trailers, and certain fertilizer trailers weighing over 4,000 lbs. but less than 34,000 lbs gross.

**Vehicle Registration for New and Nonresidents of Texas**

A new Texas resident must register every vehicle he/she owns before applying for a Texas driver license.

When a nonresident establishes residency in Texas or enters into gainful employment, his/her vehicle may be operated for 30 days. After 30 days, the vehicle must be registered in Texas.

New residents registering a vehicle must obtain a Texas vehicle inspection certificate and verification of the vehicle identification number (VIN) by a state-approved vehicle inspection station prior to registration. The vehicle owner will then be provided the necessary form for processing the vehicle registration. Evidence of financial responsibility for the vehicle being registered must be presented at the time of registration. If evidence of financial responsibility is not presented, the vehicle cannot be registered. The registration receipt issued by the county tax assessor-collector for each vehicle will be acceptable proof of the registration when applying for a Texas driver license.

## Chapter 3: Safety Responsibility

### The Liability Insurance Law

The *Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act* was enacted to ensure all drivers are financially responsible for the death, injury, or property damage they may cause while operating a motor vehicle. All owners and/or operators of motor vehicles in Texas must have at least the minimum amount of liability insurance.

Effective January 1, 2011, the minimum amount of liability insurance is:

- \$30,000 against injury or death of one person
- \$60,000 against injury or death of two individuals
- \$25,000 against property damage

To comply with the *Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act*, a driver, unless exempt, must maintain liability insurance or be self-insured under the provisions of the Act. Evidence of financial responsibility must be presented at the time a person applies for a driver license, registers a motor vehicle, or obtains a motor vehicle inspection certificate.

Every owner or operator of a motor vehicle in Texas is required to furnish evidence of financial responsibility to a law enforcement officer or to another person involved in a crash upon request.

### Evidence of Financial Responsibility

The following list includes items that will be accepted as evidence of financial responsibility.

1. A liability insurance policy in at least the minimum amounts.
2. A standard proof of liability insurance form prescribed by the Texas Department of Insurance and issued by a liability insurer that includes the:
  - a. Name of the insurer, insurance policy number, and policy period;
  - b. Name and address of each insured;
  - c. Policy limits or a statement the coverage of the policy complies with at least the minimum amounts of liability insurance required by this Act; and
  - d. The make and model of each covered vehicle.
3. An insurance binder indicating the owner and/or operator is in compliance.
4. A certificate or copy of a certificate issued by the state comptroller showing the owner of the vehicle has on deposit with the treasurer money or securities for at least \$55,000.
5. A surety bond issued by DPS showing the vehicle has a bond on file with DPS.
6. A copy of a certificate issued by the county judge of a county in which the vehicle is registered and shows the owner of the vehicle has on deposit with the county judge, cash or a cashier's check for at least \$55,000.
7. A certificate issued by DPS showing a person has more than 25 vehicles registered in his/her name, qualifies as a self-insurer.
8. An image displayed on a wireless communication device that includes the information required in a standard insurance form.

### Failure to Provide Evidence of Financial Responsibility

If an individual fails to provide evidence of financial responsibility when required, he/she may receive a citation. The court may dismiss the charge if the individual provides evidence that a liability insurance policy was in effect when the citation was issued.

Upon conviction of driving a motor vehicle without sufficient evidence of financial responsibility, when required, a driver is subject to penalties.

**Table 18: Penalties for Driving Without Evidence of Financial Responsibility**

Conviction	Penalty
1st conviction	A fine of \$175 to \$350.
2nd conviction and every conviction after	Suspension of driver license and motor vehicle registration, a fine of \$350 to \$1,000, and court-impoundment of the motor vehicle driven or operated by the person at the time of the offense provided the defendant was an owner of the vehicle at the time of the offense and is an owner of the vehicle on the date of conviction. The vehicle shall be impounded for 180 days. Before the court orders the release of the vehicle, evidence of financial responsibility must be presented to the court.

The vehicle registration, license or driving privilege of a driver will be suspended:

1. Upon conviction of a traffic violation providing for a suspension of a driver license, unless evidence of insurance is presented to the DPS;
2. If a judgment resulting from a crash has not been satisfied within 60 days of the judgment;
3. If an installment agreement arising out of a settlement of a crash is in default;
4. If, while uninsured, the individual was involved in a crash in which another person was killed, injured, or there was at least \$1,000 damage to a person's property and there exists a reasonable probability of a judgment being rendered against the driver; and
5. When required to maintain evidence of financial responsibility for two years from the most recent conviction date.

More specific information about compliance with the *Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act* may be found online at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/sr22InsuranceCertificate.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/sr22InsuranceCertificate.htm). You may also visit any driver license office or write to:

**Mailing Address:** Texas Department of Public Safety  
Enforcement and Compliance Service  
PO Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0320

## Chapter 4: Right-of-Way

Drivers, at times, must yield to others. There are certain rules to help determine the right-of-way, but if the other driver doesn't follow these rules, give him/her the right-of-way. Remember, in every situation, right-of-way is something to be given, not taken. All drivers should know and understand the rules that determine the right-of-way.

**Table 19: Penalties for Failure to Yield Right-of-Way**

Offense	Penalty
Driver commits any traffic offense of which failure to yield the right-of-way to another vehicle is an element and causes bodily injury to another.	A fine of \$500 to \$2,000.
Driver causes serious bodily injury to another.	A fine of \$1,000 to \$4,000.

### Right-of-Way at Intersections

#### Intersections Controlled by Signs and Signals

When signs and signals control traffic at an intersection, obey them. Know the meaning of each sign and signal. See Chapter 5 for more information.

#### Single or Two-Lane Road Intersecting a Multi-Lane Road

When driving on a single or two-lane road, yield to vehicles traveling on a divided street or road and to vehicles traveling on a road with three or more lanes.

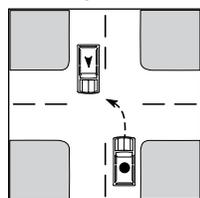
#### Unpaved Road Intersecting a Paved Road

If you are driving on an unpaved road that intersects with a paved road, you must yield the right-of-way to vehicles traveling on the paved road.

#### Intersections Not Controlled by Signs, Signals, Multi-Lanes, or Pavement

When approaching this type of intersection, yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that has entered or is approaching the intersection on your right. If the road to your right is clear or if approaching vehicles are far enough from the intersection to make your crossing safe, you may proceed. Since there are not any traffic controls at this intersection, make sure there are no approaching vehicles from the left. You may legally have the right-of-way but be sure the other driver yields to you before you proceed.

#### Turning Left



When turning left, yield the right-of-way to any vehicle coming straight through from the other direction.

#### Private Roads and Driveways

When entering or crossing a road, street, or highway from a private road, alley, building, or driveway after stopping prior to the sidewalk, you must yield the right-of-way to all approaching vehicles and pedestrians.

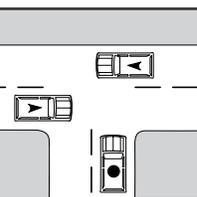
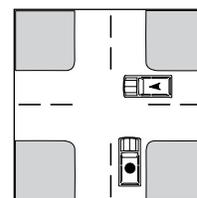
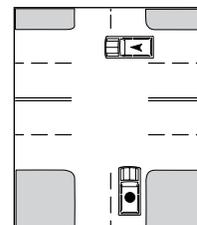
#### T-Intersection

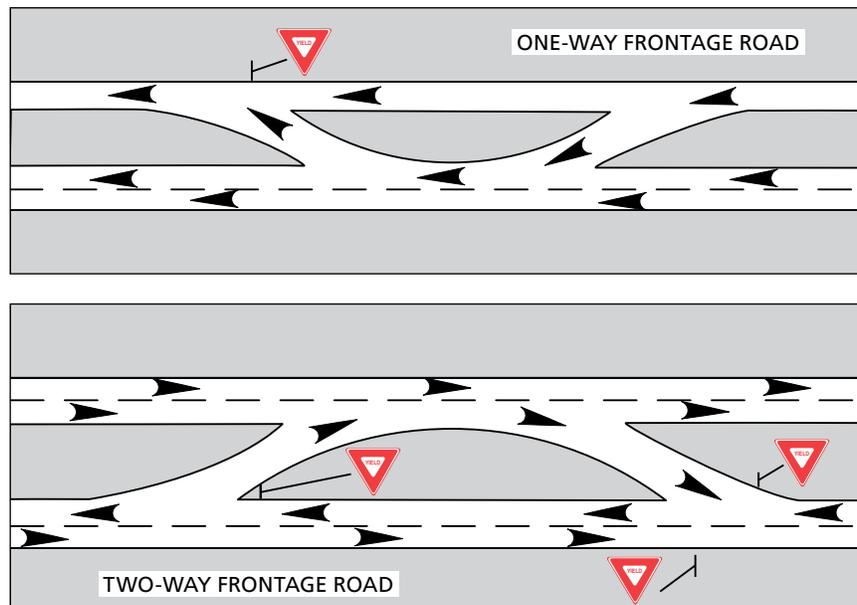
When approaching an intersection of a through street from a street that ends at the intersection, stop then yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the through street.

#### Enter or Leave Controlled-Access Highway

The driver proceeding on a frontage road of a controlled-access highway must yield the right-of-way to a vehicle:

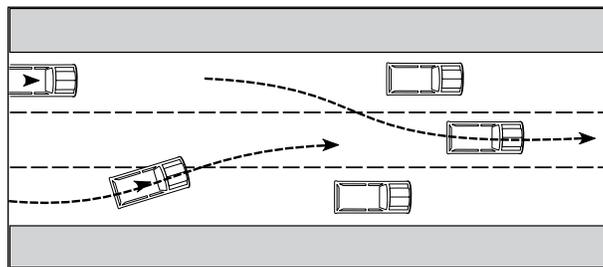
- Entering or about to enter the road from the highway; and
- Leaving or about to leave the road to enter the highway.





### Driving on Multiple-Lane Roads

On a road divided into three or more lanes providing for one-way movement, a vehicle entering a lane of traffic from the right must yield the right-of-way to a vehicle entering the same lane of traffic from the left.



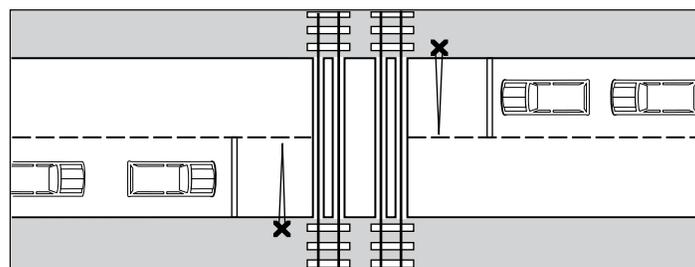
### Railroad Grade Crossings

When approaching a railroad grade crossing, stop between 15 feet and 50 feet from the nearest rail if:

1. A clearly visible railroad signal warns of the approach of a train
2. A crossing gate is lowered or a flag person warns of a train
3. The driver is required to stop by other law, a rule adopted under a statute, an official traffic-control device, or a traffic-control signal
4. An approaching train within about 1,500 feet of the crossing produces an audible signal and is an immediate hazard
5. An approaching train is visible and in unsafe proximity to the crossing

A person who fails to obey the law regarding railroad grade crossings is subject to a fine of \$50 to \$200.

You are required to stop at a railroad grade crossing and remain stopped until allowed to proceed or it is safe to proceed.



### Additional Safe Driving Procedures at Railroad Crossings

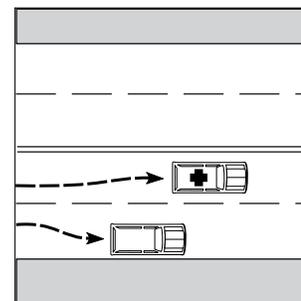
1. If a railroad crossing is marked only with a cross-buck sign, reduce speed, look both ways, and listen for a whistle. If a train is approaching, stop. If a train is not approaching, proceed with caution.

- If red lights are flashing at a railroad crossing, stop. If a train is approaching, remain stopped until the train passes and the lights stop flashing.
- If the railroad crossing gates have been lowered, stop. Remain stopped and wait until the train has passed and the gates are raised before crossing.
- Never stop on the tracks. If your car stalls on the tracks and you cannot restart it, get out and try to push the car off the tracks. If you cannot push the car off the tracks, get help. If a train is approaching and your vehicle is stalled, get out quickly and move away from the tracks. Run toward the approaching train to avoid flying debris. Stay clear of the tracks.
- Be sure the tracks are clear before you proceed to cross. There may be two or more sets of tracks. One train could be blocking the view of another.
- Remember, trains do not and cannot stop at crossings. Trains always have the right-of-way.
- Audible signs or whistles may be difficult to hear when approaching railroad crossings. Roll your window down, turn your radio down, and listen carefully.

If you encounter a railroad grade crossing signal problem, call the Texas Department of Public Safety Communications Center at (800) 772-7677 or call your local police department or county sheriff's office. Each railroad crossing signal has an identifying number. Please note the number and be ready to provide it when reporting a problem.

### Yield Right-of-Way to Emergency Vehicles

Yield (or give) the right-of-way to police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles sounding a siren, bell, or flashing red light. If traffic allows, pull to the right edge of the road and stop. If you are unable to pull over to the right, slow down and leave a clear path for the emergency vehicle.

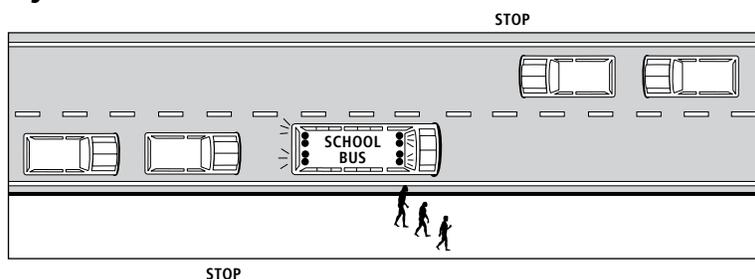


- You are not allowed to follow within 500 feet of a fire truck answering an alarm or an ambulance when the flashing red lights are on.
- Do not drive or park on the street where the fire truck has answered an alarm.
- Do not park in a location that interferes with the arrival or departure of an ambulance to or from the scene of an emergency.

Unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers who approach a stopped emergency vehicle with its lights activated must:

- Vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle if the highway has two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle;
- Slow to a speed not more than 20 mph less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 mph or more; or
- Slow to a speed less than 5 mph when the posted speed limit is less than 25 mph.

### Yield Right-of-Way to School Buses



You must yield the right-of-way to school buses. Always drive with care when you are near a school bus. If you approach a school bus from either direction and the bus is displaying alternately flashing red lights, you must stop. Do not pass the school bus until:

- The school bus has resumed motion;
- You are signaled by the driver to proceed; or
- The red lights are no longer flashing.

It is not necessary to stop when passing a school bus on a different road or when on a controlled-access highway where the bus is stopped in a loading zone and pedestrians aren't permitted to cross. A person who fails to obey the law regarding yielding the right-of-way to school buses displaying alternating, flashing lights is subject to the penalties listed in the *Penalties for Failure to Yield Right-of-Way to School Bus* table.

**Table 20: Penalties for Failure to Yield Right-of-Way to School Bus**

Conviction	Penalty
1st conviction	A fine of \$500 - \$1,250.
2nd conviction and every conviction after (within 5 years)	A fine not less than \$1000 or more than \$2000, possible suspension of driver license for up to six months.
Person causes serious bodily injury to another when passing a stopped school bus	Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000 and/or up to one year in jail.
Person causes serious bodily injury to another and has previously been convicted of passing a school bus and causing serious bodily injury	State jail felony punishable by 180 days to 2 years confinement and a possible fine of up to \$10,000.

## Yield the Right-of-Way to Pedestrians (Persons on Foot)

### Avoid Turning a Car into a Deadly Weapon

You should always be on the lookout for individuals who are on foot (pedestrians) whether they have the right-of-way or not. Drivers must give the right-of-way to pedestrians:

1. At an uncontrolled intersection (there are not any traffic signs or signals for the pedestrian to enter the crosswalk)
2. If the pedestrian has a WALK signal or
  - a. If there is not a pedestrian control signal, give the pedestrian the right-of-way on a green light.
  - b. If the light changes after the pedestrian has entered the crosswalk, still give the pedestrian the right-of-way.

### Yield Here to Pedestrian Signs



The “Yield Here to Pedestrians” signs are used when yield lines are used in advance of a marked crosswalk that crosses an uncontrolled multi-lane approach.

### In-Street and Overhead Pedestrian Crossing Signs

The “In-Street Pedestrian Crossing” signs or the “Overhead Pedestrian Crossing” signs may be used to remind road users of laws regarding right-of-way at a non-signalized pedestrian crosswalk.

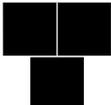
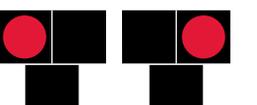
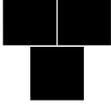
The “In-Street Pedestrian Crossing” signs are placed in the road at the crosswalk location on the center line, on a lane line, or on a median island. The “In-Street Pedestrian Crossing” signs will not be posted on the left- or right-hand side of the road.

The “Overhead Pedestrian Crossing” signs are placed over the roadway at the crosswalk.



### Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

A pedestrian hybrid beacon is a special type of hybrid beacon used with signs and pavement markings to warn and control traffic at locations where pedestrians enter or cross a street or highway. Pedestrian hybrid beacons are only installed at a marked crosswalk.

What Drivers See	What Pedestrians See
 <b>Dark</b>	 Push the button.
 <b>Flashing Yellow</b>	
 <b>Steady Yellow</b>	
 <b>Steady Red</b>	 Start crossing.
 <b>Alternating Flashing Red</b> Stop. Then go if clear.	 <b>Flashing</b> Continue crossing.
 <b>Dark</b>	

**In-Roadway Lights**

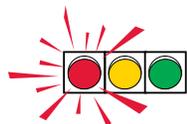
In-roadway lights are special types of highway traffic signals installed in the roadway surface to warn roadway users they are approaching a condition on or near the road they may not see or which might require them to slow down or come to a stop. Examples of when in-roadway lights are used include situations involving pedestrian crossings such as school crosswalks, marked crosswalks on uncontrolled approaches, or in advance of roundabouts.

Image source: Some images in this chapter are courtesy of The MUTCD, 2009 Edition, published by FHWA at [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf\\_index.htm](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf_index.htm)

## Chapter 5: Signals, Signs, and Markers

### Traffic Signals

Traffic signals help provide for the orderly movement of traffic. Drivers must obey these signals except when a law enforcement officer is directing traffic. You must obey a law enforcement officer at all times even if he/she is telling you to do something which is ordinarily considered against the law.



#### Steady Red Light (Stop)

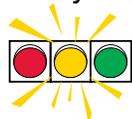
Stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection. You may turn right unless prohibited by law. You may also turn left if both streets are one way, unless prohibited by law. You must yield to all pedestrians and other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

#### A Flashing Red Light

Stop completely before entering the crosswalk or intersection then proceed when you can do so safely. Vehicles on the intersecting road may not have to stop.



#### Steady Yellow Light (Caution)



A steady yellow light warns drivers to use caution and to alert them a red light is coming up. You must STOP before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection if you can do so safely. If a stop cannot be made safely, then you may proceed cautiously through the intersection before the light changes to red.

#### A Flashing Yellow Light

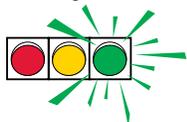
A flashing yellow light warns drivers to slow down and proceed with caution.

#### A Flashing Yellow Arrow For Left-Turns

A flashing yellow arrow allows a driver to turn left but the driver must yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic.



#### Steady Green Light (Go)



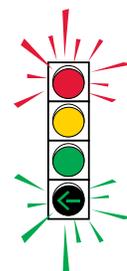
A steady green light means the driver can proceed on a green light if it is safe to do so. You may drive straight ahead or turn unless prohibited by another sign or signal. Watch for cars and pedestrians in the intersection. Be aware of careless drivers who may race across the intersection to beat a red light.

#### Green Arrow Displayed at the Same Time as a Red Light

A green arrow displayed at the same time as a red light means the driver can proceed carefully in the direction of the arrow after yielding the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians.

#### Left Turn on Green

You can turn left on a green light. However, you must yield the right-of-way if traffic is approaching from the opposite direction.



### Traffic Signs

Traffic signs can help you to be a better driver. Traffic signs help because they:

1. Warn of hazards ahead that would be difficult to see
2. Guide drivers to their destination by identifying the route
3. Inform of local regulations and practices
4. Regulate the speed and movement of traffic

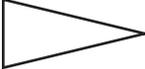
The *Standard Colors* table shows colors commonly used on road signs and explains what each color means.

**Table 21: Standard Colors**

Color	Description
	Red: Stop or prohibited
	Green: Indicated movements permitted, direction guidance
	Blue: Motorist services guidance
	Yellow: General warning
	Black: Regulation
	White: Regulation
	Orange: Construction and maintenance warning
	Orange (Retroreflective): Used on various types of signs
	Brown: Public recreation and scenic guidance

Know these signs by their shape so you will know what to do when you are approaching from a distance.

**Table 22: Signs by Shape**

Shape	Description
	Octagon: Exclusively for stop signs
	Horizontal Rectangle: Generally for guide signs
	Equilateral Triangle: Exclusively for yield signs
	Pennant: Advance warning of no pass zones
	Diamond: Exclusively to warn of existing or possible hazards on roads or adjacent areas.
	Vertical Rectangle: Generally for regulatory signs.
	Pentagon: School advance and school crossing signs.
	Round: Railroad advance warning signs.

## Warning Signs

Warning signs alert drivers to conditions that are immediately ahead and tell them what to look for. There may be road hazards, changes in direction, or some other situation you should know about. Not only must warning signs be observed for safety reasons but to disregard them may be a traffic violation.

When you encounter a warning sign:

1. Pay attention
2. Follow instructions
3. Reduce speed to at least the posted speed signs

The following table provides examples of common warning signs.

**Table 23: Warning Signs**

Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	Warns of a traffic control signal ahead.		Road ahead makes a sharp turn in the direction of the arrow (right). Slow down, keep right, and do not pass.
	Height of underpass from road surface is shown. Do not try to enter if your load is higher than the figure shown on the sign.		There is a winding road ahead. Drive slowly and carefully, and do not pass.
	Advises you are approaching a section of highway where the opposing flows of traffic are separated by a median island.		The divided highway you are traveling ends ahead. Be careful as you approach the point where two-way traffic begins again.
	You are approaching a point where two roads come together, but you are not required to merge, an additional lane begins. Watch for traffic in the new lane.		Slow down on wet road. Do not suddenly turn, speed up, or stop.
	The road curves one way (right) and then the other way (left). Slow down, keep right and do not pass.		You should drive in the right-hand lane and expect oncoming traffic in the left hand lane.
	Another road enters the road you are traveling on from the direction shown. Watch for traffic from that direction.		Road ahead makes a gradual curve in the direction of the arrow (right). Slow down, keep right, and do not pass.
	Slow down, the road surface ahead is in poor condition.		Cross road ahead; slow down and watch for cross traffic ahead. Look carefully in all directions for traffic.
	Cross traffic.		Gives advance notice of a reduction in the number of lanes of pavement ahead.

Table 23: Warning Signs (Continued)

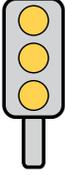
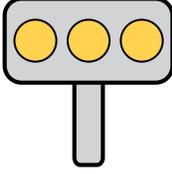
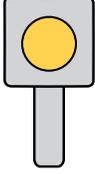
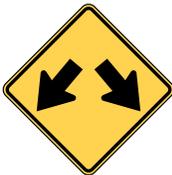
Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	T-Intersection.		You are approaching a "T" intersection and must turn left or right. Be prepared to yield the right-of-way at the intersection if necessary.
	Y-Intersection or side road traffic to the right.		There is a low place in the road. Slow down in order to avoid losing control of your vehicle or an uncomfortable jolt.
	You are approaching a point where other traffic lanes come together with the one you are in. Watch for traffic from that direction.		Use extreme caution to avoid running off the paved portion of the highway, because the dirt on the side of the pavement is soft and may cause you to lose control of the car.
	You are near an area where a large number of pedestrians cross the street. Slow down and watch for people crossing the street on foot.		The bridge ahead is not as wide as the road. Slow down and use caution.
	You are near a school. Slow down, and prepare to stop suddenly if necessary. Watch for children.		Two roads cross. Slow down, look to the right and to the left for other traffic, and be prepared to stop.
	The surface of the road is covered with loose gravel. Go slow enough to keep complete control of your vehicle. Do not apply brakes suddenly or make sharp turns.		The road ahead makes a sharp turn to the right and then a sharp turn to the left. Slow down, keep right, and do not pass.
	Mounted in front of an obstruction which is close to the edge of the road, such as culverts, or center piers on divided highways.		Warns of hazardous condition on bridge caused by ice. This sign will be displayed continuously during winter time periods. Drivers should slow down and avoid applying their brakes if icy conditions exist.
	Mounted immediately in front of an obstruction or at short changes in road alignment.		Used to indicate the alignment of the road as an aid to night driving.

Table 23: Warning Signs (Continued)

Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	Indicates traffic is permitted to pass on either side of a traffic island or an obstruction.		You are approaching a downgrade; all drivers approach with caution. It may be necessary to use a lower gear to slow your vehicle.
	This sign is used to mark the ends of the side rails of narrow bridges and other obstructions so they may be easily seen.		The sign will have yellow lights flashing (top and bottom) when the freeway ramp ahead is metered. The ramp meter (red or green) directs motorists when to enter the freeway.
	Slow your speed and watch for trucks entering or crossing the highway.		There is a sudden high place in the road ahead. Slow down in order to avoid losing control of your vehicle or an uncomfortable jolt.
	The pavement ahead narrows; reduce speed. Room for two cars to pass but with caution.		The road ahead curves sharply. Slow down, keep right, and do not pass.
	The hard-surfaced pavement changes to an earth road or low-type surface. Slow down.		The lane ends ahead. If you are driving in the right lane, you should merge into the left.
 	There is a significant drop from the pavement edge to the shoulder. If you must leave the pavement, slow down and steer firmly.		Be prepared for a stop sign ahead.
 	The pavement has been grooved to lessen the possibility of slippery pavement in wet weather. Motorcyclists should use caution.		
	Slow your speed and watch for individuals who may be disabled or who may be crossing the road in a wheelchair.		

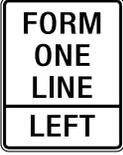
## Regulatory and Warning Signs

Regulatory signs tell us what we must do. Drivers are required to obey all regulatory signs in the same manner as traffic laws. These signs are one way that will help to protect your safety. The following table provides examples of common regulatory and warning signs.

Table 24: Regulatory and Warning Signs

Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	If you wish to turn at an intersection where this sign is posted, do so only in the direction indicated by the arrow.		Stop: A red stop sign with white letters or a yellow sign with black letters. Stop before the crosswalk, intersection, or stop sign. Do not block the pedestrian crosswalk. A stop sign means a car must come to a complete stop. Slowing down is not adequate.
			
	High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Preferential Lane: Buses and vehicles used for carpools may use this lane only between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday.		Advisory Speed Sign: This sign gives the highest speed which you can safely travel around the turn ahead.
	Do Not Cross Yellow Lines: The distance you can see ahead is so limited that passing another vehicle is hazardous and you may not pass.		Do not pass other vehicles.
	This sign indicates two lanes of traffic are permitted to turn left. The traffic in the left lane must turn left, traffic in the other lane has a choice.		Stay in the right-hand lane if you are driving slower than other vehicles on the road.
	Do not park, stop, or allow your vehicle to stand idling in a parking space reserved for disabled individuals unless your vehicle has a disabled license plate or windshield identification card.		Indicates the speed at which the exit ramp from a highway may be traveled safely.
	Turning left at an intersection where this sign is posted is prohibited.		This sign tells you the maximum speed (in mph) you are permitted to travel. Sign also indicates the maximum speeds permitted on the road for day time and nighttime.
	Making a U-turn at an intersection where this sign is posted is prohibited.		Trucks are prohibited from using or entering the street or road where this sign is displayed.
	If you see this sign facing you, you are driving the wrong way on a one-way street and you are directly opposing the flow of traffic.		Drive to the right of this sign. This sign is used in advance of islands and medians.

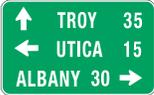
Table 24: Regulatory and Warning Signs

Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	The road or street ahead is for one-way traffic traveling in the opposite direction. You must not drive into it in the direction you are going.		This sign marks a place where you may cross over to the other side of the divided highway.
	This sign tells you the road you are on joins with another road ahead. You should slow down or stop if necessary so you can yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the other road.		The use of a wireless communication device is prohibited in the school zone.
	School Zone: The speed shown is in effect when the yellow light is flashing. Be extremely careful for school children.		These signs are added to a stop sign advising that all approaching traffic to this intersection must stop.
	Red light photo enforced.		
	Drivers should not change lanes or turn across the double white lines.		On roadways with more than one lane with vehicles traveling in the same direction and this sign is present, slower traffic should travel in a lane other than the farthest left lane. The farthest left lane is for passing only.
	Oncoming traffic must stop for vehicles at an intersection. Vehicles turning at a protected light should use caution.		The center lane is only used for vehicles turning left, not for passing or overtaking. The only time a vehicle should enter the center lane is at a point where the vehicle will have time to slow down or stop to make a safe left turn. This lane should never be used for passing or as a through traffic lane.
	This sign reminds drivers that the shoulder of the road should be used only by vehicles required to stop because of mechanical breakdown, tire trouble, lack of fuel, or other emergencies.		A green signal will indicate when you may turn left.
	The road ahead is not open to any traffic. Look for a detour or other route.		Vehicles driving in the right lane must turn right at the next intersection unless the sign indicates a different turning point.
	Instructs drivers that all traffic on the same roadway must merge into one lane.		Advisory Speed Sign: This sign gives the highest speed at which you can safely travel around the turn ahead.

## Guide Signs

Guide signs are especially helpful when you are not in a familiar area. Guide signs tell you what road you're on, how to get where you want to go, and provide information making the trip more pleasant and interesting. The table below provides examples of common guide signs.

Table 25: Guide Signs

Sign	Description	Sign	Description
	The only place where you may lawfully throw your litter on the highway is in a litter barrel. This sign advises that such a barrel is one mile ahead. Litter barrels are also found at all rest/picnic areas.		The lane that has this sign above it exits ahead.
	Texas Route Marker signs tell you what road you are on. Plan your trip and know which road you want to take.		This sign tells you what road you are on. It is a short state highway in a city or urban area.
	Interstate Route Marker signs tell you what road you are on. Plan your trip and know which roads you want to take.		Indicates an officially designated highway that branches off the regularly numbered highway and goes through the business portion of the city.
	These signs are usually mounted above the road. The arrows indicate the lane or lanes to be used to follow a particular highway route.		Travel information: This sign tells you which way to go and how far you must travel.
	Mileposts provide a means of identifying the location of crashes, breakdowns, or other emergencies. Mileposts are erected every mile on interstate highways starting at the state line.		Lane-use control signals are overhead signals indicating if a motorist should drive in a specific lane. If a red X appears above a lane, a driver should not drive in that lane. A steady yellow X means a driver should prepare to safely vacate the lane over which the signal is located because a lane control change is being made. A steady downward green arrow means a driver is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal is located. Lane-use control signals can be used on streets or highways.

## Railroad Warning Signs

### Railroad Crossing



This sign means you are within a few hundred feet of a railroad crossing. Slow down and be prepared to stop. If you see a train coming, STOP. Never try to beat a train.

### Railroad Crossbuck



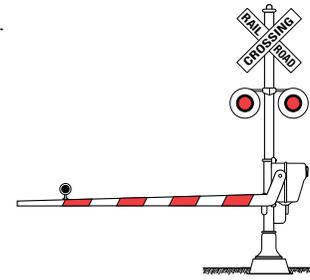
Railroad crossbuck signs are posted at every railroad, highway, road, or street grade crossing and show the location of the train tracks. If more than one track is to be crossed, the sign will show the number of tracks. Always slow down, look, listen, and be prepared to yield the right-of-way to an approaching train.

**Gate and Flashing Light**

Stop when the lights begin to flash before the gate lowers across your side of the road. Remain stopped until the gates are raised and the lights stop flashing.

At railroad crossings stop within 15 feet to 50 feet of the nearest rail when:

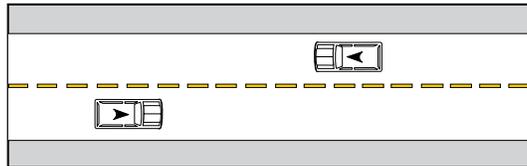
1. You are directed to do so by a flag person
2. There are flashing red lights or gongs sounding
3. There is any warning device telling you a train is coming

**Pavement Markings**

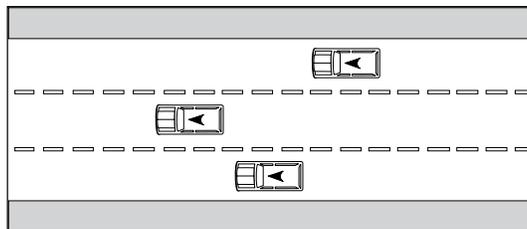
Pavement markings help you just like signs and signals. They are used to warn and direct drivers and to regulate traffic.

**Two-Lane Rural Road with Two-Way Traffic**

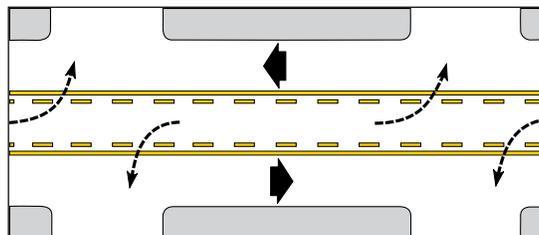
Keep to the right of the yellow center line. You may cross a broken line when passing another vehicle or when the right half of the road is closed. Do not cross the line if it is not safe.

**Three Lane One-Way Roads**

On a one-way road when each lane is marked with a broken white line you may drive in any lane. When turning from a one-way road, move into the proper lane well in advance of your turn.

**Left Turn Lane Only**

The only time a vehicle should enter the center lane is at a point where the vehicle will have time to slow down or stop in order to make a safe left turn maneuver.

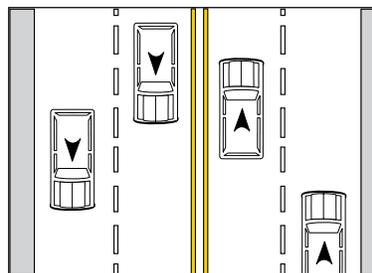


Left Turn Lane Only

*Special Note:*  
The center lane should never be used for passing or as a through-traffic lane.

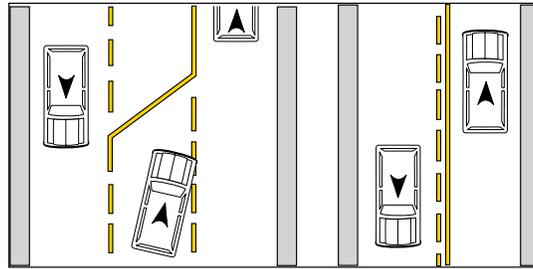
**Multi-lane Highway (Four or More Lanes)**

Do not cross the double yellow line to pass. Stay in your lane as much as possible. If you are driving slower, keep in the right-hand lane.



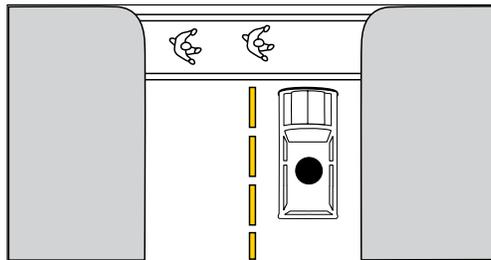
### Solid and Broken Lines

A solid yellow line on your side of the road marks a “no-passing zone.”



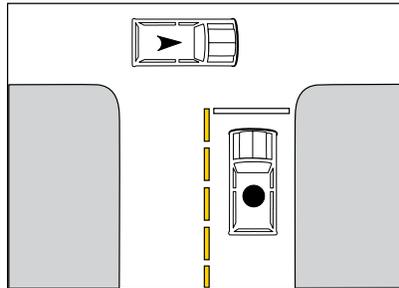
### Crosswalks

White crosswalk lines are painted across a road to indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Pedestrians should use these areas when crossing the road. At intersections where stop lines are missing, you must stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by traffic signs, traffic signals, or pedestrians.



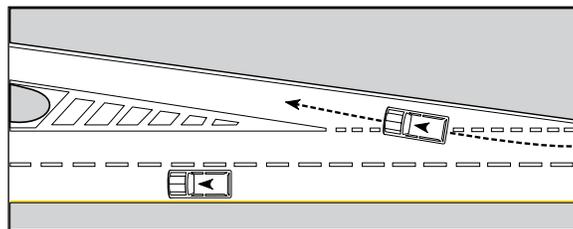
### White Stop Lines

White stop lines are painted across the pavement lanes at traffic signs or signals. Where these lines are present, stop behind the stop line.



### Solid White Lines

Solid white lines are used for pavement edge lines, shoulder markings, channelizing, transitions, and lane use control. Crossing a solid white line should be avoided if possible. The solid yellow line on the left edge of the road is a guide for drivers to indicate driving to the left of the yellow line is prohibited. This type of yellow line can be found on interstate highways.

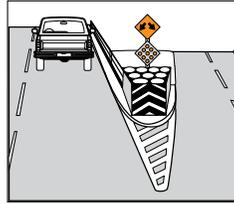


Crossing is prohibited where there is a pavement marking of double solid white lines.



### Barrels

Barrels that are engineered to act as an impact cushion reduce the seriousness of crashes. These barrels are usually installed in front of a solid obstacle and in an area of high crash frequency.



### Hearing Impaired

If you see this flag, slow down, the bicycle operator may have impaired hearing. This sign may also be displayed on vehicles to alert others the driver may be hearing impaired.



### Construction and Maintenance Devices

Various traffic control devices are used in construction and maintenance work areas to direct drivers or pedestrians safely through the work zone and to provide for the safety of the workers.

The most commonly used traffic control devices are signs, barricades, drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrow panels, and flag individuals. Orange is the basic color for these devices.

When you are in a construction and maintenance work area, be prepared:

1. To slow down or stop as you approach workers and equipment
2. To change lanes
3. For unexpected movements of works and equipment

*Special Note:*  
Traffic fines double for violations that occur in construction zones where workers are present.

### Construction and Maintenance Signs

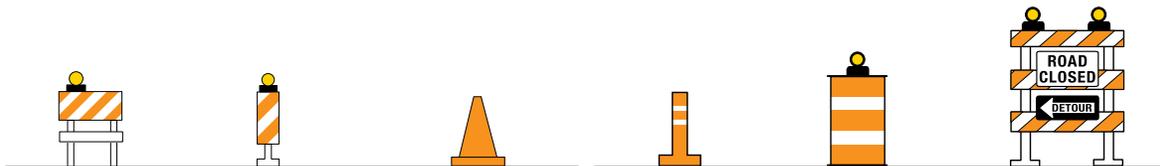
Construction and maintenance signs are used to alert drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in or near work areas. Most signs in work areas are diamond shaped, but a few are rectangular.

Table 26: Construction and Maintenance Signs

Sign	Sign	Sign	Sign

### Channelizing Devices

Barricades, vertical panels, drums, cones, and tubes are the most commonly used devices to alert drivers of unusual or potentially dangerous conditions in highway and street work areas, and to guide drivers safely through the work zone. At night channelizing devices are often equipped with flashing or steady burn lights.



When you encounter any type of channelizing device:

1. Slow down and prepare to change lanes when it is safe to do so.
2. Be prepared for drivers who wait until the last second to move to the open lane.
3. Maintain reduced speed until you clear the construction area. There should be a sign indicating you are leaving the construction area.
4. Return to the normal driving lane only after checking traffic behind you.

### Passing Traffic

The diagonal stripes on the barricade or vertical panel guide the driver towards the direction to where the traffic is to pass.



#### **Pass to the Right**

Stripes sloping downward to the right means the driver should bear to the right.



#### **Pass to the Left**

Stripes sloping downward to the left means the driver should bear to the left.

### Flashing Arrow Panels

Large flashing or sequencing arrow panels may be used in work zones day and night to guide drivers into certain traffic lanes and to inform them part of the road or street ahead is closed.



### Flag Person

A flag person is often provided in roadway work zones to stop, slow, or guide traffic safely through the area. A flag person wears an orange vest, shirt, or jacket and uses stop/slow paddles or red flags to direct traffic through work zones.

1. A flag person is used in cases of extreme hazard.
2. A flag person's instructions must be obeyed.
3. When instructed to stop, do so in your lane, do not veer right or left.
4. Do not attempt to go forward until the flag person instructs you to do so.
5. Proceed with caution, expect the unexpected.
6. Always be on the lookout for oncoming vehicles in your lane of traffic.



### Automated Flagger Assistance Device (AFAD)

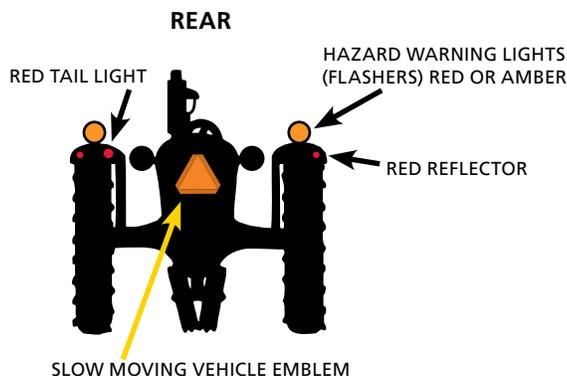
An automated flagger assistance device (AFAD) is used to control road users through temporary traffic zones. An AFAD is designed to be remotely operated, allowing a flag person to be positioned out of the lane of traffic.

## Obey Warning Signs and Barricades

It is a violation to disobey the instructions, signals, warnings, or markings of a warning sign, or to drive around a barricade.

The offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1 to \$200. Fines double in a construction or maintenance work zone when workers are present.

The offense is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail when a warning sign or barricade has been placed at a location where water is over any portion of a road, street, or highway.



## Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

This emblem is now a requirement for all slow-moving vehicles. Slow moving vehicles are those designed to operate at a maximum speed of 25 mph or less, and the term includes all vehicles, farm and other machinery, and road machinery being drawn by animals or by slow moving motor vehicles.

- a. The use of this emblem is prohibited on anything other than a slow-moving vehicle. It must not be used on other vehicles or on stationary objects.
- b. Exceptions. The following do not need the special emblem:
  - 1) A vehicle being used in actual construction work while traveling within the limits of a construction area marked as required by the Texas Transportation Commission;
  - 2) An implement or machinery being towed by a slow-moving vehicle bearing an emblem if this emblem remains visible.

Image source: Some images in this chapter are courtesy of The MUTCD, 2009 Edition, published by FHWA at [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf\\_index.htm](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf_index.htm)

## Chapter 6: Signaling, Passing, and Turning

### Signaling

A good driver always lets others know if he/she is going to turn or stop. Signaling helps others plan ahead. A surprise move often results in a crash. Be alert. Watch and give signals.

Always signal when you are going to:

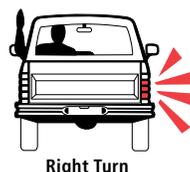
1. Change lanes
2. Make a turn
3. Pull away from a parking space parallel to the curb
4. Slow down or stop

#### How to Signal

You may use either signal lights or hand and arm signals. Make sure your signals can be easily seen by others. Extend your hand and arm well out of the car window and signal in plenty of time.

During non-daylight hours, hand and arm signals are usually not visible except in well-lighted areas. Be sure your signal lights are working properly. When signaling a stop, pump your brakes a few times to attract attention.

Signal continuously for at least 100 feet before you turn or stop. Be sure to turn off your signal light after you use it. Your unintended signal still means “turn” to other drivers.



### Passing

#### Keep to the Right

Never drive on the left side of the road when:

1. Pavement markings prohibit driving on the left (a “No Passing Zone”)
2. There are two or more traffic lanes in each direction
3. Within 100 feet of or crossing an intersection or railroad crossing
4. On a hill, curve, or any other place where vision is limited
5. Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel

Always keep to the right side of the road except when:

1. Passing another vehicle on a two- or three-lane street
2. Driving on a one-way street
3. The right side of the road is blocked

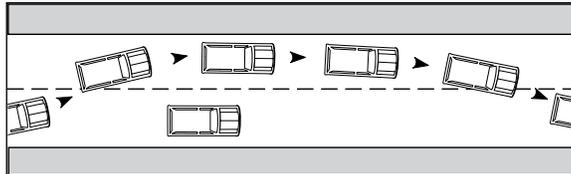
#### Basic Safety Rules When You Are Passing

It is not always safe to pass. Be patient and wait until the time is right. Crashes resulting from improper passing can be deadly.

1. Make certain the way is clear.
2. Give the proper signal before changing lanes.
3. Tap your horn when necessary to avoid surprising the driver ahead.
4. Avoid cutting in too quickly if you must return to your original lane.

### How to Pass on a Two-Lane Road

1. Keep enough distance between you and the car in front of you so you can see ahead clearly. Check the rearview and side mirrors. Turn your head and look back; someone may be passing you. Signal left.
2. Check well ahead for a “No Passing Zone” and for oncoming cars. Be sure you have enough time and space to overtake the car ahead and return to the right lane before an approaching car comes within 200 feet of you.
3. Tap your horn when necessary to alert the driver ahead.
4. Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until you have safely cleared the overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rearview mirror before returning to the right lane.
5. Signal right turn to return to the right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off after you have completed the lane change.



### Passing on the Right

In Texas, you can pass on the right only when conditions permit you to do so safely.

1. The road is clear of parked vehicles or other things and is wide enough for two or more lanes in each direction.
2. You are on a one-way road.
3. You may pass on a paved shoulder when the vehicle you are passing is slowing or stopped on the main traveled portion of the highway, disabled, or preparing to make a left turn.

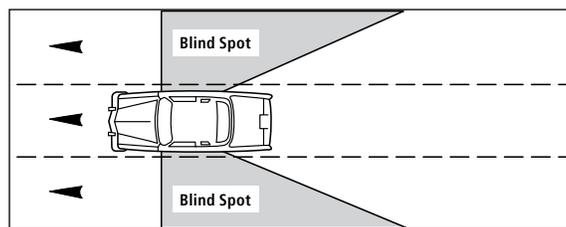
Do not pass on the right by driving off the paved portion of the highway.

### When You are Passed

1. Do not increase your speed.
2. Keep in your lane.
3. When being passed on the left and the lanes are not marked, move as far to the right as you safely can.
4. Make it as safe and easy as you can for the other driver to pass you.

### Blind Spot Driving

Don't drive in another driver's blind spot. Either pass the other driver or drop back. When you pass a car, get through the blind spot as quickly as you can. Approach cautiously but once you are alongside the other driver, speed up and get by quickly.



## Turning

Turning a corner appears to be a simple operation. However, much confusion in traffic and many crashes are caused by drivers who do not turn correctly.

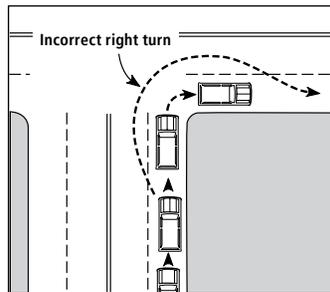
Study the diagrams showing the correct method of making right and left turns. There are seven steps in making a good turn.

1. Decide before you get to the turning point. Never make a last minute turn; it's dangerous.
2. Look behind and to both sides to see where other vehicles are before you change lanes.
3. Move into the proper lane as soon as possible. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should move into the proper lane. If you cannot get into the proper lane within one-half block before turning, do not turn, continue straight ahead.

4. Give the proper turn signal at least 100 feet before you turn. If using a hand signal, hold the signal until you are close enough to the intersection for others to know your intention. Do not hold the signal while making the turn, you need both hands on the wheel.
5. Slow down to a reasonable turning speed. Don't use the brake or clutch while turning.
6. Make the turn correctly. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and proceeding slowly enough at the time you begin to turn.
7. Finish the turn in the proper lane.

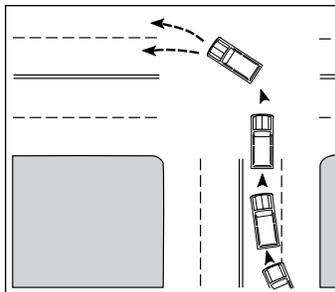
### How to Make a Right Turn

1. Signal for a lane change well ahead of the turning point. When it is safe, move your vehicle to the far right lane.
2. Use your right turn signal and slow down at least 100 feet from the corner.
3. Look both ways before starting to turn.
4. Keep as close as possible to the right edge of the road.
5. Turn using both hands on the wheel.



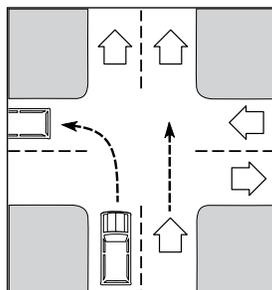
### How to Make a Left Turn

1. Well ahead of the turning point, signal for a lane change. When it is safe, move close to the center lane.
2. Use the left turn signal and slow down at least 100 feet from the corner.
3. Look in all directions before starting to turn. Stay to the right of the center line as you enter the intersection. Yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.
4. To complete a left turn you should be in the left portion of the lane you are turning into but still to the right of the center line.
5. Once you have completed your left turn, you may signal and change lanes if necessary.



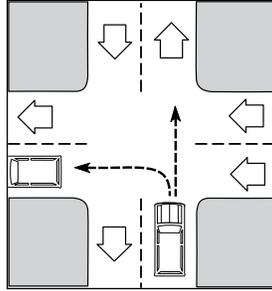
### Making a Left Turn From a One-Way Into a Two-Way Street

If you are turning left from a one-way street you should turn from the left lane.



**Making a Left Turn From a Two-Way Into a One-Way Street**

If you are turning left onto a one-way street, enter the street in the left lane.

**Other Turning Procedures**

Watch for pavement markings and signs which:

1. Permit turning right or left from or into two or more traffic lanes
2. Give other special turning or lane information

## Chapter 7: Parking, Stopping, or Standing

Not all crashes happen while vehicles are being driven. An improperly parked vehicle may also cause a crash. When you leave your vehicle, set the parking brake, stop the motor, and remove the key. Be sure to check over your shoulder for any oncoming traffic before opening your car door.

### Do Not Park, Stop, or Stand a Vehicle

Do not park, stop, or allow a vehicle to stand idling:

1. On the road side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street
2. On a sidewalk or crosswalk
3. Within an intersection
4. Between a safety zone and adjacent curb or within 30 feet of a place on the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone
5. Alongside or opposite of any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic
6. On a bridge or other elevated structure on a highway or within a highway tunnel
7. On any railroad track
8. At any place where an official sign prohibits stopping

### Do Not Park or Stand a Vehicle

Whether occupied or not, do not park or allow a vehicle to stand idling:

1. In front of a public or private driveway
2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
4. Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or other traffic control signal located at the side of a road
5. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of entrance
6. At any place where an official sign prohibits parking or standing

*Special Note:*  
Temporarily stopping to obey signs, signals, etc. is not considered parking or standing.

### Do Not Park a Vehicle

Do not park a vehicle, occupied or not, within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.

### Parking, Stopping, or Standing on a Highway Outside an Urban Area

Never park or leave a vehicle to stand idling on the paved part of any highway outside of a business or residential district when you can park off the road. If you cannot park off the road:

1. Leave plenty of room for others to pass
2. Be sure your vehicle can be seen for at least 200 feet from each direction
3. If at night, use your parking lights or leave your headlights on dim
4. A person may stop, stand, or park a bicycle on a sidewalk if the bicycle does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic on the sidewalk.

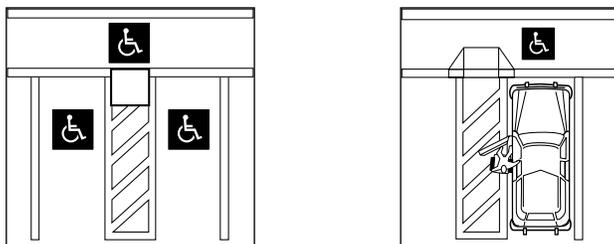
### Disabled Parking

It is a violation for a person to park, stand, or stop a vehicle in a parking space designated as disabled parking. Illegally parking in a space reserved for individuals with disabilities is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 to \$750 for the first offense. This fine increases with additional offenses up to \$1,250 for five or more offenses. Additional offenses also include community service.

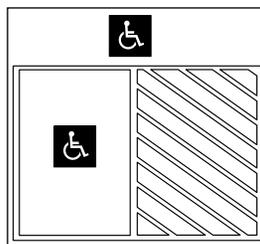
Texas law specifically states:

1. You may not park in a disabled parking space unless the vehicle has a disabled license plate or state issued removable windshield identification card.
2. You may not use a disabled parking windshield identification card unless transporting the disabled person to whom it was issued.
3. You may not lend your windshield identification card to someone else.
4. You may not block an access or curb ramp.
5. You may not make, sell, possess, or display a counterfeit disabled parking windshield identification card, or alter a disabled parking windshield identification card.

Certain municipalities also prohibit stopping or standing in a disabled parking space unless a disabled parking windshield identification card is visible or the vehicle has a disabled license plate.



Do not park in striped areas adjacent to handicap parking spaces or in a striped area in front of an entrance to a business adjacent to a disabled parking space. Striped areas are for wheelchair lifts.

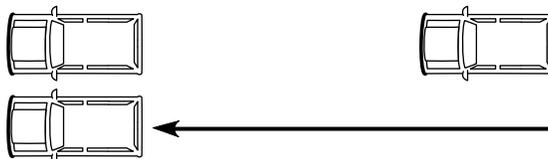


### Unattended Motor Vehicle

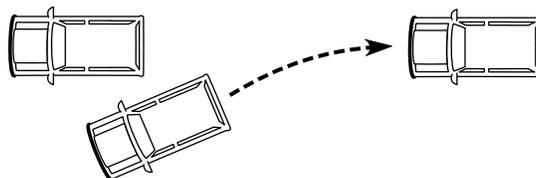
It is unlawful for any person in charge of a motor vehicle to permit the car to stand idling unattended without stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, and effectively setting the brake; and when standing on any grade, without turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the road.

### Parallel Parking

1. Choose a space large enough for your car to fit. Signal then stop even with the front of the car about two feet out from the space. To alert drivers who may be behind you be sure to signal before you pass the spot you want to parallel park in.



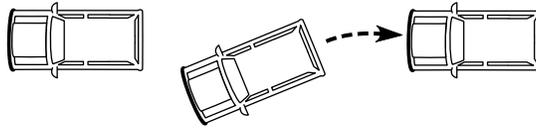
2. Make sure you will not interfere with oncoming traffic then turn your front wheels all the way to the right and back slowly toward the curb.



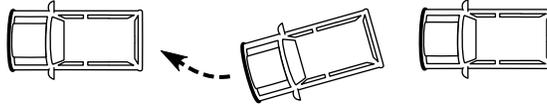
#### Special Note:

On a roadway that allows two-way traffic, the driver must park with the vehicle's right-hand wheels within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

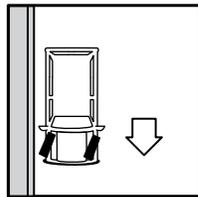
3. When your front seat is opposite the rear bumper of the car ahead, turn your steering wheel all the way to the left. Back slowly to the car behind you without touching it. You should be about six inches from the curb. Don't park more than 18 inches from the curb or edge of the road.



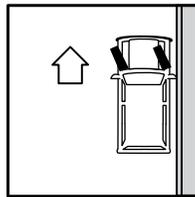
4. Straighten your front wheels and pull into the final parking position. Center your car in space.



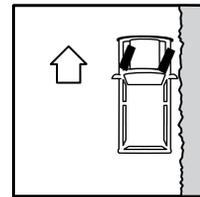
### Parking on Hills



Turn wheels to curb



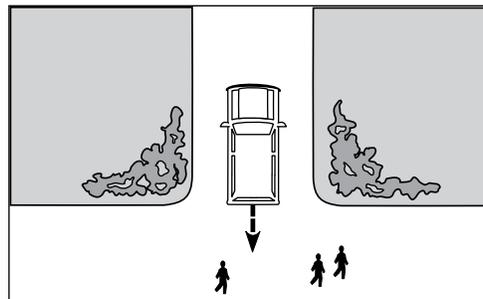
Turn back of wheels  
to curb



Turn wheels to right  
no curb

### Leaving a Parking Space

Use care when backing up. Children often play between parked cars. Look back before and while you're backing up. Be sure to use your signal to notify other drivers you are leaving your current parking spot.



Watch for children in residential areas

### Coasting

It is illegal to coast on a downgrade with the gears or transmission in neutral.

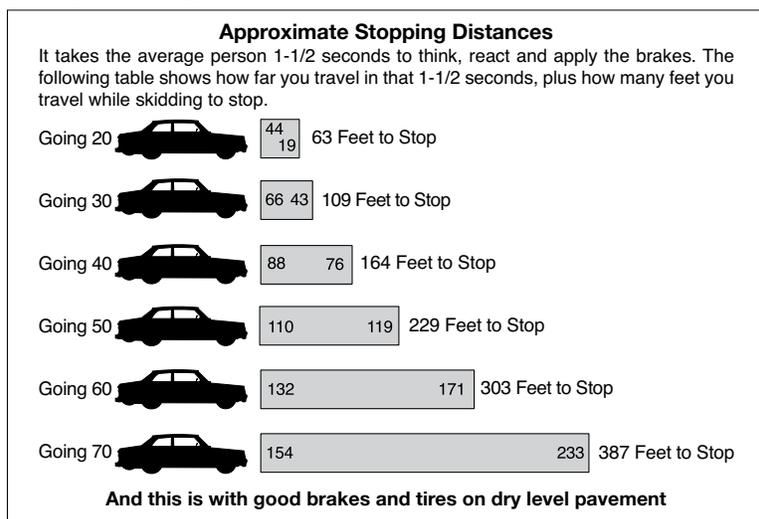
## Chapter 8: Speed and Speed Limits

### Speed

Generally, you should drive at the same speed as the main stream of traffic and always be aware of how fast you are traveling. You must always obey the speed limit but a good driver does even more.

1. A good driver always keeps a safe distance from the car in front of him/her. The faster you drive the greater the distance you should keep from the car ahead of you. For speeds under 30 mph, the minimum time with good road conditions is 2 seconds. For speeds above 30 mph, maintain 4 seconds (more for adverse conditions) of following time. Developing a four-second following interval is the best practice for a beginning or less experienced driver.

**Special Note:**  
When the vehicle ahead of you passes a fixed object and you reach the same fixed object in less than two seconds, you are following too closely.



2. A good driver always adjusts his/her speed and following distance according to his/her physical condition and the condition of the vehicle. If you are tired or not feeling well, do not drive. Never force yourself to drive.
3. A good driver knows when to slow down and increase the following distance.
  - a. Slow down and increase the following distance when the road is wet. Many drivers find out too late what a small amount of rain can do. Roads become slippery when wet, making your car harder to control. Slow down and make sure you have complete control of the situation at all times.
  - b. Slow down and increase the following distance when the road is crowded.
  - c. Slow down and increase the following distance when your vision is limited. You should always be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead of your car. In the dark or in bad weather, do not over-drive your range of vision.

### Speed Limits

Drivers are required to obey posted minimum and maximum speed limits. These limits are designed to provide for the orderly flow of traffic under normal driving conditions. During periods of heavy traffic, bad weather, low visibility, or other poor driving conditions, speed and following distance must be adjusted to avoid crashes.

The *Speed Limits* table shows the maximum speed limits for all vehicles under different conditions. Drivers must also be aware cities and counties have the authority to change these limits. Entities that establish or alter a speed limit must establish the same speed limit for daytime and nighttime.

Table 27: Speed Limits

Type of Roadway	Speed (MPH)
Urban District	30
Alley	15
Beaches and County Roads adjacent to a public beach (if declared by the commissioners court of the county)	15
Highway numbered by Texas or the U.S. outside an urban district including Farm to Market and Ranch to Market roads	70
Passenger cars, motorcycles, light truck, passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer, truck or truck-tractor, truck or truck-tractor towing a trailer or semi-trailer, buses, school activity bus.	60
School Buses which have passed a commercial vehicle inspection.	60
Highway not numbered by Texas or the U.S. and outside an urban district	60
Passenger cars, motorcycles, light truck, passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer, truck or truck-tractor, truck or truck-tractor towing a trailer or semi-trailer, buses, school activity bus.	60
School buses that have not passed a commercial vehicle inspection or are traveling on a highway not numbered by Texas or the U.S.	50

After meeting certain requirements, the Texas Transportation Commission has the authority to raise the speed limit to 75 mph on parts of the state highway system if the Commission determines the speed limit is a reasonable and safe speed for that section of the highway. The Texas Transportation Commission also has the authority, after meeting certain requirements, to raise the speed limit to not more than 85 mph on a part of the highway if that part is designed to accommodate travel at that speed and the Commission determines that speed is reasonable and safe.

The Texas Transportation Commission may also establish a speed limit of 80 mph on a part of IH-10 or IH-20 in Crockett, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kerr, Kimble, Pecos, Reeves, Sutton, or Ward County if the Commission determines 80 mph is a reasonable and safe speed for that section of the highway.

### Slow Down or Move Over

If an emergency medical vehicle, law enforcement vehicle, fire truck, tow truck, or a Texas Department of Transportation vehicle (TxDOT) is stopped on the road with its lights activated (the lights are on or flashing), then the driver is required:

1. To reduce his/her speed to 20 mph below the speed limit; or
2. Move out of the lane closest to the emergency medical vehicle, law enforcement vehicle, fire truck, tow truck or a TxDOT vehicle if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction.

### Street Racing

Street racing, also known as drag racing, is illegal and can result in serious injuries or fatalities. Illegal street racers put other drivers at risk because races are typically held on public roads. Due to the high speeds, drivers are unable to react to common road hazards or other driving situations, which often results in crashes.

Illegal street racing also causes unnecessary property damage, including extensive wear on roads (due to the high-powered engines damaging asphalt), which requires costly repairs at the expense to the tax-payer.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2011 there were 9,944 speeding-related fatalities nationwide, representing 30% of all motor vehicle fatalities in that year. Of these fatalities, 1,165 (11.7%) occurred in Texas. In 2011, 13% of all speeding-related fatalities occurred on interstate highways.

A person may not participate in:

1. A race;
2. A vehicle speed competition or contest;
3. A drag race or acceleration contest;
4. A test of physical endurance of the operator of a vehicle; or
5. In connection with a drag race, an exhibition of vehicle speed or acceleration, or to make a speed record.

The criminal penalty for a conviction of Speed Racing ranges from a Class B misdemeanor to a second-degree felony.

## Chapter 9: Some Special Driving Situations

It is much more dangerous to drive during the night than during the day. We do not see as well as we do during daylight. When taking a trip, drive during daylight hours - it's safer. Also, never drive when you are sleepy.

### Headlights

Slow down when driving at night and be sure you can stop within the distance lit by your headlights.

Lower your dim lights when:

1. Within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle
2. Following closely (within 300 feet) behind another vehicle
3. Driving on lighted roads
4. Driving in fog, heavy rain, sleet, snow, or dust

If you must park on an unlighted highway at night, leave your parking lights or low beam headlights on.

1. You must use your headlights beginning 30 minutes after sunset and ending 30 minutes before sunrise, or anytime when individuals or vehicles cannot be seen clearly for at least 1,000 feet.
2. Avoid looking directly into the headlights of approaching vehicles; shift your eyes down to the lower right side of your traffic lane.
3. Turn signals flashing only on one side should not be used on parked or disabled vehicles.

### Highway Driving

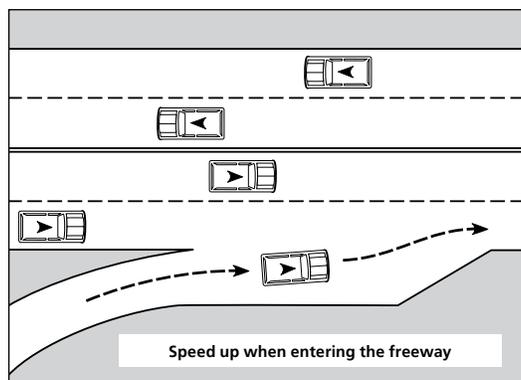
Within the past few years, thousands of miles of super highways have been built. They are known as freeways, toll-roads, throughways, turnpikes, and expressways. These roads are designed for maximum safety, but you must know how to use them properly. In Texas, a highway is defined as "the width between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained way any part of which is open to the public for vehicular travel".

#### Before Using a Highway

Plan your trip in advance so you know your entrance, direction, and exit. Make sure you and your car are in good condition. If you cannot or do not want to drive at or above the minimum speed limit, do not use the highway.

#### Entering the Highway

1. You must yield the right-of-way to vehicles already on the highway.
2. Enter the speed change lane, stay to the right, signal left, and when it is clear, increase your speed to merge with the flow of traffic.



#### Driving on the Highway

##### Choose the Proper Lane

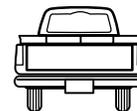
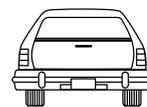
1. Use the right lane to drive at the minimum posted speed limit or below the normal flow of traffic.
2. Use the middle or left lane if you are traveling faster than other traffic.
3. If you plan to leave the freeway soon, change to the exit lane as soon as possible.

**Observe Specific Instructions**

Observe specific instructions indicating the lane you should drive in.

**Once the Lane Has Been Chosen**

1. Stay in the middle of your lane.
2. Do not weave in and out of traffic.
3. Maintain a constant speed. Keep pace with the traffic. Don't speed up and slow down unnecessarily.
4. Stay at least two seconds behind the vehicle ahead of you. In bad weather, increase the time to at least four seconds. Watch the cars ahead of you. Be prepared if one of the cars ahead of you stops suddenly.
5. Adjust your speed to allow others to enter the highway safely.
6. Vehicles in any lane, except the right lane used for slower traffic, should be prepared to move to another lane to allow faster traffic to pass.

**Leaving the Highway**

1. Move into the proper lane well in advance of the exit. The greater the amount of traffic the earlier you should move into the proper lane. Exit signs are usually placed at least 1,000 yards ahead of the exit.
2. Slow down on the exit ramp so by the time you are off the highway, you are within the new, slower speed limit. Until you become used to the new, slower speed, watch your speedometer.

**Fight Highway Hypnosis**

A condition of drowsiness or unawareness can be brought on by reduced activity and steady sounds of wind, engine, and tire hum. This is known as highway hypnosis. All drivers should be aware of its danger and of the methods for fighting it.

1. Stop often. Even if you are feeling well you should stop at least every two hours or every 100 miles. Get out of your car and walk around. Allow your muscles to relax.
2. Do not drive more than eight hours per day.
3. Keep shifting your eyes. Look at different objects; near and far, left and right. Read the road signs as you approach them. Check your rearview mirror.

**Highway Safety Tips**

1. Keep a window open so there is always fresh air in the car to help keep you alert and awake.
2. On bright days, wear good sunglasses. Never wear sunglasses at night.
3. Stay out of another driver's blind spot. Traveling where the driver ahead of you cannot see your vehicle can be dangerous. Stay behind or go around the other vehicle. Do not follow to the side.
4. Avoid using a cell phone while driving; use may cause distraction and driver inattention. If you must use a cell phone, safely pull off the road or use a hands-free headset. If you are under 18 years of age it is illegal to use a cell phone while driving even if it is a hands-free device except in the case of emergency.

**Vehicle Breakdown**

1. If you can't get the car off the pavement, get everyone out of the car and off the road. Portable warning devices should be used to warn oncoming traffic.
2. Move your car off the pavement to the side of the road. A car with a flat or blowout can be driven slowly off the road.
3. Turn on your emergency warning lights. If you do not have warning lights, use your taillights. At night, in addition to your taillights, turn the lights on inside of the car.
4. Tie a white cloth to your radio antenna, door handle, or some other place where it may be easily seen. If you do not have a white cloth, raise your hood.

**Controlling a Car in Special Situations**

There is one basic rule which applies in all driving situations, **think** before you **act**.

**Steering Out of a Skid**

An automobile skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. If the car starts to skid follow these safety tips.

1. Don't jam on the brakes. Take your foot off the gas pedal (accelerator).
2. Turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid. As you recover control, gently straighten the wheels.

3. Avoid a skid by slowing down when the road and weather conditions are poor. Also, check the tires. Poor tires are dangerous. (In the illustration below, the direction of the skid is to the right.)



### Brake Failure

When brakes fail, do not panic. Remember your parking brake and shift to a lower gear. Apply your parking brake cautiously so you do not lock the brakes and throw your car into a skid.

### Running Off the Pavement

If you run off the pavement:

- Do not hit the brakes suddenly and hard. Grip the steering wheel tightly and take your foot off the gas pedal.
- Use your brakes carefully and do not swing back onto the pavement. Wait until your speed is reduced, check the traffic behind you, and then carefully drive back onto the pavement.

### Flat Tire or Blowout

When the tires are cool, check the air pressure frequently. If you have a flat tire or a blowout:

- Do not slam on the brakes
- Take your foot off the gas and gently apply the brakes
- Steer straight ahead to a stop

### Driving Down a Steep Hill

Use a low gear to help slow your vehicle. Never coast in neutral or with your foot on the clutch.

### Winter Driving

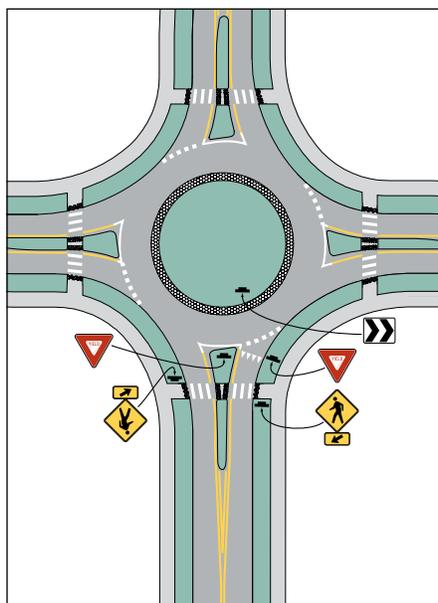
Most drivers realize winter creates additional hazards, but many drivers don't know what to do about it. Here are a few precautions you should follow during winter.

**Table 28: Winter Driving Safety Tips**

Safety Tip	Explanation
Maintain a safe interval	Increase the distance from the vehicle ahead of you according to the conditions of the pavement. Many rear-end collisions occur on icy streets because drivers don't leave space to stop. Snow tires will slide on ice or packed snow. To keep safe you must keep your distance.
Reduce speed to correspond with conditions	There is no such thing as a "safe" speed range at which you may drive on snow or ice. You must be extremely cautious until you are able to determine how much traction you can expect from your tires. Avoid locking of brakes on ice as it will cause a loss of steering and control. Every city block and every mile of highway may be different, depending upon sun or shade and the surface of the road.
Keep windows clear	Remove snow and ice before you drive, even if you're just going to the corner drugstore. Make certain the windshield wipers and defroster are working properly.
Watch for danger spots ahead	There may be ice on bridges when the rest of the pavement is clear. Snow melts more slowly in shady areas. Take precautions when approaching turns.
Get a feel for the road	Start out very slowly. It is useless to burn the rubber off your tires by spinning the wheels. Test your brakes gently after the car is in motion to determine how much traction you have. Start slowing down before you come to a turn.
Equip your vehicle with chains or snow tires	Chains are the most effective and should be used where ice and snow remain on the road. One word of caution, neither chains nor snow tires will permit you to drive on slick pavement at normal speeds so don't get a false feeling of security.

## Rotary Traffic Islands (Roundabouts)

Rotary traffic islands are also known as traffic circles or roundabouts. A driver moving around a rotary traffic island must only drive to the right of the island.



## Floods

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related.

These are the facts:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- Twelve inches of water will float many cars.
- Two feet of rushing water will carry away pick-up trucks, SUVs, and most other vehicles.
- Water across a road may hide a missing segment of roadbed or a missing bridge. Roads weakened under floodwater and drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded since the road may collapse under the vehicle's weight.

National Weather Service and Texas Division of Emergency Management officials say if your vehicle stalls in floodwater, get out quickly and move to higher ground. Better yet, when there's water on the road, Turn Around Don't Drown. Saving your life is as simple as choosing an alternate route.



For more information on Turn Around Don't Drown, visit [www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov) or on Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), visit [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org).

**Mailing Address:** National Weather Service  
 Southern Region Headquarters  
 819 Taylor Street  
 Fort Worth, TX 76102

Source: The materials from Turn Around Don't Drown were used with permission from the Southern Regional Headquarters, NOAA, per Larry Eblen (Larry.Eblen@noaa.gov) and Walt Zaleski, (Walt.Zaleski@noaa.gov), Warning Coordination Meteorologist Program, Manager NWS, Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas.

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## Share the Road with Trucks

Whether you are sharing the road with a passenger car, motorcycle, truck, bus, or other vehicle, it is important to obey traffic laws, abide by the rules of the road, and drive defensively.

### Passing

1. When passing a truck, first check to your front and rear, then move into the passing lane only if it is clear and you are in a legal passing zone. Let the truck driver know you are passing by blinking your headlights, especially at night. The truck driver should make it easier for you to pass by staying to the far side of the lane.
2. On a level highway, it takes three to five seconds longer to pass a truck than a car. On an upgrade, a truck often loses speed so it's easier to pass than a car. On a downgrade, the truck's momentum causes the truck to go faster so you may need to increase your speed. Complete your pass as quickly as possible and don't stay alongside the other vehicle.
3. If the driver blinks the truck's lights after you pass, it's a signal that it is clear for you to pull back in front of the truck. Be sure to move back only when you can see the front of the truck in your rearview mirror. After you pass a truck, maintain your speed.
4. When a truck passes you, help the truck driver by keeping to the far side of your lane. You'll make it easier for the truck driver if you slightly reduce your speed. Don't speed up while the truck is passing. After passing, the truck driver should signal to let you know he is returning to your lane.
5. When you meet a truck coming from the opposite direction, keep as far to the side as possible to avoid a sideswipe crash and to reduce the wind turbulence between the two vehicles. Remember, turbulence pushes vehicles apart; it does not pull them together.

### Following a Truck

1. Tractor-trailers take longer to stop than a car traveling at the same speed. The average passenger car traveling at 55 mph can stop in approximately 240 feet, which is about three-fourths the length of a football field. A fully loaded tractor-trailer may take more than 400 feet to completely stop; well over the length of a football field.
2. If you're following a truck, stay out of its blind spot at the rear. Avoid following too closely, and position your vehicle so the truck driver can see your vehicle in the truck's side view mirror. An excellent rule of thumb for motorists sharing the road with a tractor-trailer is, "If you can't see the truck driver in his side mirror, he can't see you." By avoiding the truck driver's blind spot, you will have a good view of the road ahead, and the truck driver can give you plenty of warning for a stop or a turn. This will allow you more time to react and make a safe stop.
3. When you follow a truck at night always dim your headlights. Bright lights from a vehicle behind will blind the truck driver when the lights reflect off the truck's large side mirrors.
4. If you are stopped behind a truck on an upgrade, leave space in case the truck drifts back when it starts to move. Also, keep to the left in your lane so the driver can see you're stopped behind the truck.

### Right Turns

Pay attention to turn signals. Trucks make wide, right turns and sometimes leave an open space to the right just before the turn. To avoid a crash, don't pass a truck on the right if there is a possibility the truck might make a right turn.

### Backing Crashes

Never cross behind a truck preparing to back up. When a truck driver is preparing to back the truck from a road into a loading area, the road is temporarily blocked. Wait for the truck to complete its maneuver before trying to pass. If you pass too closely behind the truck the driver or pedestrian enters the truck's blind spot and a crash may occur.

### Maneuverability

Trucks are designed to carry products to and from towns and cities; they are not designed to be as maneuverable as cars. Trucks have longer stopping and accelerating distances, a wider turning radius, and weigh more. On multi-lane highways, tractor-trailers stay in the center lane to help the flow of local traffic on and off the highway. Staying in the middle lane also increases the truck driver's options if he/she has to switch lanes to avoid a crash. Be aware of common mistakes drivers should avoid when driving around trucks and buses.

### Cutting Off a Vehicle to Reach Your Exit or Turn

Cutting into the open space in front of a truck or bus removes the driver's cushion of safety. Trying to beat a truck to a single-lane construction zone represents a particularly dangerous situation. Slow down and exit or pull behind the truck.

### Never Underestimate the Size and Speed of Approaching Tractor-trailer

Because of its large size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed than it is. A substantial number of car-truck collisions take place at intersections because the driver of the car does not realize how close the truck is or how quickly it is approaching.

## Share the Road with Motorcycles

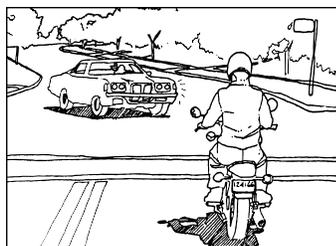
Individuals who operate a motorcycle have the same rights and privileges as any other vehicle on the road.

For various reasons, drivers may not see the motorcyclist. Approximately one-half of all motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle. A few of the most common reasons are provided below.

1. Many drivers tend to look for other cars, not for motorcyclists.
2. The profile of a motorcycle is much smaller than the profile of a car, making an approaching motorcyclist harder to see.
3. Estimating the distance and speed of a motorcycle is more difficult than it is for a car.
4. Motorcycle riding requires frequent lane movements to adjust to changing road conditions.

### Situations When Crashes Are Most Likely to Occur

Motorcycle crashes are most likely to occur in the high-risk situations described below.



#### Left Turns

The most common crash between cars and motorcycles is at an intersection when the driver of a car is making a left turn in front of a motorcycle. Over 40 percent of all motorcycle crashes occur at intersections. Nearly 66 percent of those crashes were caused by the other vehicles turning left in front of the motorcyclist.

#### A Car's Blind Spot

Motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

#### Hazardous Road Conditions

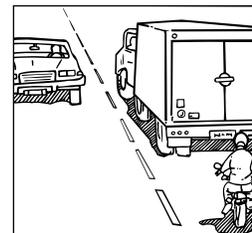
Road conditions that are a minor annoyance to you may pose a major hazard to motorcyclists. Motorcyclists may suddenly change speed or adjust their position within a lane in a reaction to the weather or road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, railroad crossings, and wet or slippery surfaces which impair the motorcyclists' braking and handling abilities. Expect and allow room for such actions by the motorcyclist.

#### Strong Winds

A strong gust of wind can move a motorcycle across an entire lane if the rider isn't prepared for it. Wind gusts from large trucks in the other lane can be a hazard.

#### Large Vehicles

A large vehicle such as a van, bus, or truck can block a motorcycle from a driver's view and the motorcyclist may seem to suddenly appear from nowhere.



#### How Can I Drive Aware?

##### Look Out for Motorcyclists

Although you may not see any cars, be aware there may be a motorcycle. Be careful at intersections, and always take a second look for a motorcycle before turning at an intersection, particularly when making left turns.

##### Signal Your Intentions

Always signal before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the motorcyclist to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position. Signal even if you don't see cars or motorcycles. Be careful when making left turns across lanes of approaching traffic. Look carefully in all directions for approaching motorcyclists. Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal. Motorcycle signals usually are not self canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.

##### Respect a Motorcycle

Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in the traffic lane for an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle is entitled to a full lane and may need the room to maneuver safely. Do not attempt to share the lane with a motorcycle.

##### Allow Plenty of Space When Following a Motorcycle

The slightest contact can mean a spill or injury for the rider. Allow more following distance, at least four to six seconds, when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. In dry conditions motorcycles can stop more quickly than a car.

The DPS Motorcycle Operator Training and Safety Program was created in 1983 by the legislature to improve rider skills and reduce the number and severity of motorcycle crashes in Texas. A portion of each motorcycle license fee is used to support this program. The program sets up and monitors motorcycle training classes throughout the state and promotes motorcycle safety and awareness through campaigns, exhibits, and materials.

Contact Motorcycle Safety at [www.dps.texas.gov/msb](http://www.dps.texas.gov/msb) or call (800) 292-5787. Residents in the Austin area can call (512) 424-2021 for information about motorcycle safety or to locate the nearest training location.

**Special Note:**  
If you drive aware of motorcyclists in these situations, you can help make the streets and roads safer for everyone.

## Share the Road with Light Rail

In recent years, light rail has been established in many major cities in Texas. As you travel these areas, you will notice these trains move along the streets just like other vehicles. Light rail is very quiet, in fact these trains are quieter than most buses and cars. So whether you are riding light rail or just walking or driving near the train or tracks, it's important to stay alert and observe the safety rules.

**Table 29: Safety Rules for Light Rail**

Action	Description
Stop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don't walk in front of, between, or behind a train.</li> <li>- Trains can't start or stop quickly regardless of traffic flow.</li> <li>- Do not drive, stop, or park your vehicle on the tracks. It's dangerous and illegal.</li> </ul>
Look	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cross the tracks only at designated crossings and only when it is safe.</li> <li>- Look both ways before crossing the tracks. Trains travel in both directions.</li> <li>- Obey all warning signs, flashing lights, signals, and crossing gates. A law enforcement officer will issue tickets to violators.</li> </ul>
Listen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stay alert. Light rail is quieter than a bus or most cars. You may not hear a light rail coming.</li> <li>- Listen for train horns and signal bells.</li> <li>- Always follow instructions from a law enforcement officer.</li> </ul>
Don't	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Never race a train, run in front of a train, or put anything on or near the tracks.</li> <li>- Never try to beat the train to a crossing. Even in a tie, you lose.</li> <li>- Never drive around crossing gate arms.</li> </ul>

## Share the Road with Bicycles

A bicycle is a vehicle. Any person riding a bicycle has all of the rights and responsibilities as a driver of a vehicle.

### Rules for Motorists

1. Bicyclists are not restricted to the right lane of traffic. One-way, multi-lane streets are one example. Another instance is when the bicyclist is changing lanes to make a left turn. The bicyclists should follow the same path any other vehicle would take traveling in the same direction.
2. Motorist should merge with bicycle traffic when preparing for a right turn. Avoid turning directly across the path of bicycle traffic.
3. Bicyclists are required to ride as far to the right in the lane as possible only when the lane can be shared safely by a car and a bicycle, side-by-side. Even then there are certain conditions which allow a bicyclist to take the full lane.
  - a. The person is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
  - b. The person is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway.
  - c. There are unsafe conditions in the road such as fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, potholes, or debris.
  - d. The lane is of substandard width making it unsafe for a car and a bicycle to safely share the lane side by side. When this is the case, it is best for the cyclist to take the full lane whether riding single file or two abreast.

### Car-Bicycle Crashes

The most common motorist caused car-bicycle crashes are:

1. A motorist turns left in front of oncoming bicycle traffic. Oncoming bicycle traffic is often overlooked or its speed misjudged.
2. A motorist turns right across the path of the bicycle. The motorist should slow down and merge with the bicycle traffic for a safe right turn.
3. A motorist pulls away from a stop sign and fails to yield the right-of-way to bicycle cross traffic. At intersections, the right-of-way rules apply equally to motor vehicles and bicycles.

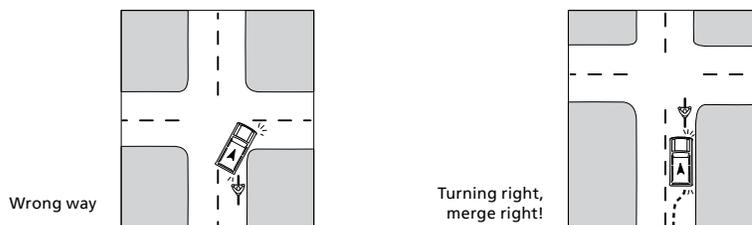


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## Chapter 10: Alcohol and Drugs Impact on the Driving Ability

Any drug may affect a person's ability to drive. Millions of people take (over the counter and prescription) medications, illegal drugs or drink alcohol and do not realize the impact on their capability to operate a vehicle. Alcohol, tranquilizers, marijuana, or any other drug, even over the counter, can affect the mental and physical (psychomotor) skills necessary to operate a vehicle and/or react to external events while driving a vehicle.

Each individual is different and their driving skills can be affected differently by the same drug. A driver's weight, emotional state, amount of the drug or when taken, all will influence the driver's ability to assess an emergency situation or to judge speed and distance. But safe driving always requires the same thing: an observant eye, a steady hand, and a clear head.

A person will lose their judgment when they drink or use drugs that affect how they react to sounds, what they see, and the speed of other vehicles around them. It's often the first thing about them to change. Good judgment may be as simple as saying no to a friend who wants to race their car. However, if a person has been drinking or they are under the influence of drugs, their judgment may turn into, "Sure, take my car." A person's ability to reason will all but disappear.

Taking more than one drug at the same time can be dangerous since drugs may have a different overall cumulative effect. This is especially true when alcohol is involved. Besides escalating the overall effects and side effects of the other drugs, alcohol can also mask those same effects of other drugs increasing a person's risk to decision making and/or responsive reactions to situations. If a person takes more than one drug or if a person mixes drugs, especially tranquilizers, or if a person has doubts about a drug or drug mix, they should check with a doctor or pharmacist.

**Table 30: Alcohol and Other Types of Drugs**

Type	Description
Marijuana	Research has shown even typical social doses of marijuana can affect concentration, judgment, and sensory and perceptual skills needed for careful driving. People who are under marijuana influence have impaired sensory and perceptual abilities.
Stimulants	Heavy amphetamine use may keep drivers awake and active for long periods of time, it also makes them less coordinated, edgy, and four times more likely to be involved in a car crash. Research shows typical social amounts of cocaine can produce lapses in attention and concentration. While caffeine can help drowsy drivers stay alert, it can't make a drunk driver sober. Studies show ordinary amounts of caffeine don't improve a drunken subject's driving.
Tranquilizers / Sedative-Hypnotics	Sedative-hypnotic drugs including barbiturates are powerful depressants which calm people down or help them sleep. Sleepy or over-sedated drivers are not good drivers.
Over-the-counter drugs	Many over-the-counter drugs cause drowsiness in some people which can affect their driving. Read the labels and be careful with antihistamines, other cold preparations, or any medicine that relaxes or promotes sleep.
Any drug	Any drug might affect your ability as a driver. If you take more than one drug or if you mix drugs, especially tranquilizers or other sedative-hypnotics, with alcohol, you could be asking for trouble on the road and off. If you have doubts about a drug or drug mix, check with a doctor or pharmacist.
Alcohol	Each year alcohol, a depressant drug affecting coordination, judgment, perception, and emotional state, is responsible for a significant number of highway deaths. Alcohol increases the depressant effects of tranquilizers and barbiturates. Mixing these drugs, on or off the road, can be hazardous.

### The Number One Killer is Alcohol

DWI is a problem affecting all Texans. According to the Calendar Year 2012 *Texas Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Highlights* (Texas Department of Transportation), 1,099 persons were killed in a motor vehicle traffic crash with a driver under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol related crashes represent 32% of the total number of persons killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of death for U. S. teens is motor vehicle crashes. In 2010, approximately 2,700 teens (16 to 19 years of age) were killed and 282,000 were seriously injured in motor vehicle accidents.

In 2009, 33% of drivers aged 15 to 20 years old who were killed in motor vehicle crashes had a BAC of .01 or higher and 28% of these drivers had a BAC of .08 or higher. Not all teens have been drinking. Some are passengers or innocent targets of people who drink and drive. One of those injured or killed could be your best friend. One could be you.

To make Texas safer, the Texas legislature enacted laws to deter people from drinking and driving by penalizing those who choose to drink and drive. In Texas a person is considered legally intoxicated if the person has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or more. Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests can be a humiliating experience and costly. Some fines range as high as \$10,000 not including the cost of a bail bondsman, attorney, or other court-required expenses. Is it worth the risk?

**Open Container**

It is illegal to possess an open container of alcohol in a passenger area of a motor vehicle located on a public highway, regardless of whether the vehicle is being operated, stopped, or parked. Conviction of this offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

**Myths about Drinking Alcohol**

Taking cold showers, drinking black coffee, or exercising will not sober a person up. Only time, body weight, number of drinks, and how much has been eaten, can affect how long it takes to sober up. It takes about one hour for the body to get rid of each drink consumed. If a person has been drinking they should have someone who has not been drinking do the driving.

**Texas Tough Alcohol-Related Laws for Minors****Zero Tolerance for Minors**

According to the Texas Alcohol Beverage Code a minor is any individual who is under 21 years of age. A minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, or possess an alcoholic beverage. Since a minor should not possess alcohol, zero tolerance legislation was passed for minors who commit an offense under the non-driving alcohol-related laws and for minors who drive under the influence.

Zero tolerance means just that. Even if a minor is not intoxicated as defined under the DWI statute, if a minor has any detectable amount of alcohol in his/her system while operating a motor vehicle in a public place or while operating a watercraft, the minor has committed the criminal offense of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (see table 34).

**Penalties for Non-Driving Alcohol-Related Offenses by Minors**

The Texas Zero Tolerance law provides penalties for minors who commit offenses under the non-driving alcohol-related offenses. A minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, falsely state he/she is 21 years of age or older, or present any document indicating he/she is 21 years of age or older to a person engaged in the selling or serving an alcoholic beverage. A minor may not consume, or possess an alcoholic beverage. Persons who purchase, furnish, or sell alcohol to a minor can be assessed a fine of up to \$4,000 and/or confinement in jail for up to one year.

**Table 31: Penalties for Non-Driving Alcohol-Related Offenses – Minors**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 8 to 12 hours of community service, mandatory attendance of an alcohol awareness course, and license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 30 days.
2nd offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 20 to 40 hours of community service, may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course, and license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 60 days.
3rd offense (Under 17 years of age)	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 20 to 40 hours of community service, may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course, and license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 60 days or case can be transferred to Juvenile Court.
3rd offense (17 to 21 years of age)	Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$2,000, may be required to attend an alcohol awareness course, confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days, and license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 180 days. Minors are not eligible for deferred disposition on the third conviction and every conviction after.

In addition to the above penalties, if a minor is convicted of any moving vehicle violation while suspended due to a non-driving alcohol-related offense (listed above) they are subject to the penalties of Driving While License Invalid (DWLI).

**Implied Consent Laws for Minors**

Implied consent is consent which is not expressly granted by a person, but rather inferred from a person's actions and the facts and circumstances of a particular situation.

A minor has implied their consent to take one or more breath or blood specimen for analysis if they are arrested for operating a motor vehicle or watercraft in a public place while intoxicated, or if there is any detectable or noticeable amount of alcohol in their system while operating a motor vehicle in a public place as deemed by an officer. The breath or blood specimen will determine if alcohol is present in their body. It will also identify the amount of alcohol in their system. Additionally, it can identify the presence of any other controlled substances or drugs.

Refusal to provide a breath or blood specimen will result in the suspension of the minor's license or driving privileges if not licensed.

**Table 32: Penalties for Refusal to Provide a Specimen - Minors**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Driver license suspended or privilege denied if not licensed, for 180 days.
2nd and subsequent offenses	Driver license suspended or privilege denied if not licensed, for 2 years.

A minor who gives a breath or blood specimen that confirms he/she has been operating a motor vehicle in a public place with any detectable amount of alcohol in his/her system but the amount is below the 0.08 BAC legal limit of intoxication will have his/her license suspended or driving privilege denied if not licensed.

**Table 33: Minor Provided Specimen Confirming Detectable Amount of Alcohol (failure)**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Driver license suspended or privilege denied if not licensed, for 60 days.
2nd offense	Driver license suspended or privilege denied if not licensed, for 120 days.
3rd and subsequent offenses	Driver license suspended or privilege denied if not licensed, for 180 days.

A minor may request a hearing in the county of residence before a hearing officer to contest the suspension.

**Table 34: Penalties for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of Alcohol – Minors**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, community service of 20 to 40 hours, and attendance in an alcohol awareness course is required. If the minor is under 18, the parent may be required to also attend the course. The minor's license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 120 days.
2nd offense	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, community service of 40 to 60 hours, and minor's license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed). The alcohol awareness course may be required.
3rd offense (17 to 21 years of age)	Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 to \$2,000, community service of 40 to 60 hours, and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days, an alcohol awareness class may be required, and the minor's license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed). The court may not give deferred disposition on the third offense.
3rd offense (under 17 years of age)	Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, community service of 40 to 60 hours, and the minor's license will be suspended (or privilege denied if not licensed). The alcohol awareness course may be required or the case can be transferred to Juvenile Court as delinquent conduct.

In Texas, as a reminder, a person is considered legally intoxicated if they have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or more.

**Table 35: Penalties for Driving While Intoxicated (Alcohol or Drugs) – Minors**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense	Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000, confinement in jail for 72 hours to 180 days, and suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 90 or 365 days. The court may probate the jail sentence and waive the license suspension on the first offense only. Possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage increases the minimum confinement by three to six days.
2nd offense	Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$4,000, confinement in jail for 30 days to 1 year, and suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 180 days to 18 months.
3rd offense and every offense after	Felony of the third degree punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 2 to 10 years, and suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 180 days to 18 months.
DWI with passenger under 15	A state jail felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, confinement in state jail for 180 days to 2 years and suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 90 days to 1 year.
Intoxication assault	Third degree felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 2 to 10 years, and suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 90 days to 1 year.
Intoxication manslaughter	Second degree felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 2 to 20 years, and a suspension of the driver license (or privilege denied if not licensed) for 180 days to 2 years.

## Texas Alcohol-Related Laws for Adults

### Implied Consent Laws for Adults

The implied consent for adults is similar to that of minors.

Like the minor, an adult has implied their consent to take one or more breath or blood specimen for analysis if they are arrested for operating a motor vehicle or watercraft in a public place while intoxicated, or if there is any detectable or noticeable amount of alcohol in their system while operating a motor vehicle in a public place as deemed by an officer. The breath or blood specimen will determine if alcohol is present in their body. It will also identify the amount of alcohol in their system. Additionally, it can identify the presence of any other controlled substances or drugs.

Refusal by an adult to give a blood or breath specimen for analysis will result in a driver license suspension of 180 days. If a person submits to a blood or breath specimen and the results show a BAC of 0.08 or greater, they are subject to a driver license suspension of 90 to 365 days. Anyone with a BAC of 0.08 or more could be considered intoxicated.

**Table 36: Penalties for DWI and DUI of Alcohol or Drugs-Adults**

Offense	Fine	Confinement	Driver License Suspension
1st offense	\$0 - \$2,000 and	72 hours to 180 days in jail	90 days to 365 days
2nd offense	\$0 - \$4,000 and	30 days to 1 year in jail	180 days to 2 years
3rd and subsequent offenses	\$0 - \$10,000 and	2 to 10 years in TDCJ	180 days to 2 years
DWI with passenger under 15	\$0 - \$10,000 and	180 days to 2 years in state jail	Varies by 1st, 2nd, or 3rd offense
Intoxication manslaughter	\$0 - \$10,000 and	2 to 20 years in TDCJ	180 days to 2 years
Intoxication assault	\$0 - \$10,000 and	2 to 10 years in TDCJ	90 days to 2 years*

\*Court may probate jail sentence and waive driver license suspension on first offense.

### Know Your Legal Limit

The legal limit in Texas is 0.08 BAC or any amount which results in the loss of normal use of mental or physical faculties. The information provided in the *Alcohol and Driving. Why Take the Risk?* table is only a guide and is based on calculated averages. Alcohol tolerance may vary by individual. Food in a person's stomach, medications, health, and psychological condition are also influential factors which affect the rate of alcohol absorption.

Drivers are encouraged to take drug and alcohol awareness courses to become better educated about the effects and consequences of drugs and alcohol. Insurance companies may provide liability insurance discounts to drivers who complete drug and alcohol awareness courses.

**Table 37: Alcohol and Driving. Why Take the Risk?**

Drinks	Body Weight in Pounds								Influenced
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	Possibly
2	.06	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	Impaired
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06	
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08	Legally intoxicated
6	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	
7	.26	.22	.19	.16	.15	.13	.12	.11	
8	.30	.25	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.13	
9	.34	.28	.24	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	
10	.38	.31	.27	.23	.21	.19	.17	.16	

A drink may include a 12 ounce can of beer, a mixed drink with 1.5 ounces of liquor or a 5 ounce glass of wine. They all contain approximately the same amount of alcohol.

## Chapter 11: Motor Vehicle Crashes

When you give your name, address, vehicle registration number, and insurance information to anyone involved in the crash, if requested and available, you must also show your driver license to the other driver(s) involved. Get the same information from the other driver(s). Write the insurance company name and policy number exactly as it is shown on the driver's proof-of-insurance card. If you have the name of the driver's insurance company, call the Texas Department of Insurance at (800) 252-3439 to get the company address and telephone number.

If you are involved in a crash and it is not investigated by a law enforcement officer and the crash resulted in death or damage to property of \$1,000 or more, you must make a written report of the crash and file it with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) no later than the 10th day after the date of the crash. The written report must be on the required form, please visit the TxDOT website at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

### Crash Resulting in Injury to, or Death of a person

If you are operating a motor vehicle involved in a crash resulting in injury to, or death of a person, you must immediately stop your vehicle at the scene of the crash (or as close as possible to the scene of the crash) without obstructing traffic more than necessary. If your vehicle is not stopped at the scene you must immediately return to the scene of the crash. You must remain at the scene of the crash until you have complied with the following:

1. Give your name and address, the registration number of the vehicle you were driving, and the name of your motor vehicle liability insurer to any person injured or to the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision;
2. Show your driver license (if requested and available) to any person injured or to the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision; and
3. Provide any person injured in the crash reasonable assistance including transporting or making arrangements for transporting the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent treatment is necessary, or if the injured person requests the transportation.

**Table 38: Penalties for Failure to Stop**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense crash resulting in a death of a person	Second degree felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 and imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 2 to 20 years.
1st offense crash resulting in serious bodily injury	Third degree felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 and imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 2 to 10 years.
1st offense crash resulting in injury	Imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for up to 5 years; confinement in the county jail for up to 1 year; a fine not to exceed \$5,000; or both a fine and imprisonment.

### Crash Resulting in Damage to a Vehicle

If you are operating a motor vehicle involved in a crash resulting **only** in damage to a vehicle that is driven or attended by a person, you must immediately stop your vehicle at the scene of the crash or as close as possible to the scene of the crash without obstructing traffic more than necessary. If your vehicle is not stopped at the scene, you must immediately return to the scene of the crash. You must remain at the scene of the crash (if the crash occurs on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median, or adjacent area and each vehicle involved can be normally and safely driven, drivers must move their vehicle as soon as possible to a designated crash investigation site, if available, a location on the frontage road, the nearest suitable cross street, or other suitable location) until you have complied with the following:

1. Give your name and address, the registration number of the vehicle you were driving, and the name of your motor vehicle liability insurer to any person injured or to the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision;
2. Show your driver license (if requested and available) to any person injured or to the operator or occupant of or person attending a vehicle involved in the collision; and
3. Provide any person injured in the crash reasonable assistance including transporting or making arrangements for transporting the person to a physician or hospital for medical treatment if it is apparent treatment is necessary, or if the injured person requests the transportation.

### Crash Involving an Unattended Vehicle

If you are operating a motor vehicle that collides with and damages an unattended vehicle, you must immediately stop and:

1. Locate the operator or owner of the unattended vehicle and provide the name and address of the operator and owner of the vehicle that struck the unattended vehicle; or

2. Leave or securely attach in a visible way, to the unattended vehicle a written notice giving:
  - the name and address of the operator and the owner of the vehicle that struck the unattended vehicle
  - a statement of the circumstances of the collision.

### Crash Resulting in Damages to a Fixture, Landscaping, or Structure

If you are driving a motor vehicle involved in a crash resulting ONLY in damage to a fixture, landscaping, or structure legally on or adjacent to a highway, you must:

1. Take reasonable steps to locate the owner (or person in charge) of the property and notify him/her of the crash;
2. Provide your name, address, and registration number of the vehicle you were driving;
3. If requested and available, you must show your driver license to the owner or person in charge of the property; and
4. If the crash is not investigated by a law enforcement officer and the crash resulted in injury to or the death of a person or damage to the property of any one person to an apparent extent of \$1,000 or more you must make a written report of the crash and file it with the Texas Department of Transportation no later than the 10th day after the crash.

Failure to comply with the requirements is an offense.

**Table 39: Penalties for Failure to Comply with Damages**

Offense	Penalty
1st offense (Less than \$200 in damages)	Class C misdemeanor if the damage to all vehicles is less than \$200 and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.
1st offense (\$200 or more in damages)	Class B misdemeanor if the damage to all vehicles is \$200 or more and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000, confinement in jail for up to 180 days, or both.

If you are driving a vehicle involved in a crash that results in the injury or death of a person or damage to a vehicle that cannot be normally safely driven, you must immediately give notice of the crash to;

- the local police if the crash occurred in a municipality;
- local police department or the sheriff's office if the crash occurred not more than 100 feet outside the limits of a municipality;
- or the sheriff's office or the nearest DPS office if the crash occurred elsewhere.

### Hit-and-Run Crashes

If you are involved in a hit-and-run crash, report this crash to law enforcement for investigation. The Texas Department of Insurance advises uninsured motorist coverage will pay for damage in hit-and-run crashes reported to a law enforcement agency.

### Aiding the Injured

1. When calling a doctor or ambulance, state the place of the crash clearly and correctly.
2. Do not assume people are not injured simply because they say they are not. Send for skilled help as quickly as possible. Unskilled handling can do more harm than good.
3. Do not move or lift the victim(s) unless it is absolutely necessary. If a victim must be moved, get help and try not to change the position in which the victim was found.
4. Stop serious bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, apply with pressure by hand or by bandaging.
5. Keep the victim(s) comfortable. If it is hot, cool the victim(s) and provide shade as much as possible. If it is cool, cover the victim with blankets or coats if necessary and if available.

## Chapter 12: Pedestrian Safety

The driver should always pay special attention to the pedestrian (a person on foot) and the bicyclist. However, there are certain safety rules pedestrians should follow.

### Laws and Safety Tips for Pedestrians

1. Obey traffic control signals unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal.
2. Do not cross the street between two intersections. It is dangerous to cross in the middle of a street.
3. Use sidewalks when available, and do not walk in the street.
4. Walk on the left side of the road if there are no sidewalks. Step off the pavement when a car approaches.
5. If you cross a street at any point other than within a crosswalk at an intersection, you (the pedestrian) must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.
6. If you cross a street without using a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing which has been provided, you (the pedestrian) must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.
7. When crossing at a crosswalk, keep right if possible.
8. Blind, partially blind, or disabled individuals may carry a white cane while walking. Others must not display a cane on any public street or highway.
9. No person may stand in the road for the purpose of soliciting a ride, contributions, or business. A person may stand in a road to solicit a charitable contribution if authorized to do so by the local authority having jurisdiction over the road.
10. Do not suddenly walk or run into the street in the path of a vehicle. These sudden actions may make it impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.
11. Wait on the curb, not in the street, until the traffic signals change to green or read “Walk.”
12. Always wear white or light colored clothing and/or carry a light or reflector when walking at night.
13. Look both ways before crossing the street and before stepping out from behind parked cars.
14. Be extra careful when getting off a streetcar or bus.
15. Get in and out of cars on the curb side of the road when possible.
16. Do not walk on a road when you are under the influence or consuming an alcoholic beverage. Alcohol is a contributing factor to pedestrian traffic crashes.
17. Pedestrians should be aware that local authorities may have ordinances which require pedestrians to comply with the directions of an official traffic control device (signals, signs, etc.) and prohibit pedestrians from crossing a road in a business district or a designated highway except in a crosswalk.



### Laws and Safety Tips for Motorists

1. If you see a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street, slow down, use your horn if necessary, and be prepared to stop.
2. Be alert to a pedestrian guided by an assistance animal or carrying a white cane. A driver shall take the necessary precautions to avoid injuring or endangering a pedestrian crossing or attempting to cross the street. The driver shall bring the vehicle to a full stop if injury or danger can only be avoided by that action. Remember the white cane indicates the person may be blind, partially blind, or disabled.
3. Watch for individuals who are blind at bus stops, intersections, business areas, and near schools for the blind.

## Chapter 13: Bicycle Vehicle Laws and Safety

### Bicycle Traffic Laws

A bicycle is a vehicle. Any person riding a bicycle has the same rights and responsibilities that apply to a driver operating a vehicle unless these cannot by their nature apply to a person operating a bicycle.

Any person who operates a bicycle is subject to the same penalties for violating a traffic law as is a person operating a motor vehicle. All traffic convictions will be placed on the individual's driver record, regardless if the conviction was for an offense committed on a bicycle or in a motor vehicle.

#### Do:

1. A bicyclist should always obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals. Never ride opposite the flow of traffic. Stop at all stop signs and stop at red lights.
2. A person operating a bicycle on a one-way road with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near as possible to the left curb or edge of the road.
3. Individuals who are riding two abreast shall not impede the normal reasonable flow of traffic on the road. Individuals riding two abreast on a "laned" road must ride in a single lane.
4. Bicyclists may ride on the shoulder of the road.
5. Bicyclists may signal a right turn using either their left arm pointing up or their right arm pointed horizontally.
6. A person operating a bicycle on a road moving slower than the other traffic shall ride as near as possible to the right curb or edge of the road unless:
  - a. The person is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
  - b. The person is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway;
  - c. There are unsafe conditions in the road such as fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, potholes, or debris; or
  - d. The person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:
    - Less than 14 feet in width and doesn't have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; or
    - The lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.

#### Don't:

1. No bicycle shall be used to carry more than the number of individuals it is designated or equipped for.
2. No person riding a bicycle shall attach the same or himself/herself to a streetcar or vehicle upon a road.
3. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents him/her from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.
4. Only ride on or astride a permanent and regular seat.

### Shared Lane Marking

The shared lane marking may be used to:

1. Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist's impacting the open door of a parked vehicle;
2. Assist bicyclists with lateral position in lanes too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane;
3. Alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way;
4. Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists; or
5. Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

### Bicycles Must Be Properly Equipped

1. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
2. Hearing-impaired bicycle riders may display a safety flag.

3. Every bicycle in use at nighttime shall be equipped with:
  - a. A lamp on the front which emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle; and
  - b. A red, DPS-approved reflector on the rear visible from distances of 50 feet to 300 feet. (A red light on the rear visible from a distance of 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector.)

### **Bicycle Safety Guidelines**

1. It is highly suggested bicycle riders wear an approved bicycle helmet.
2. When riding on pedestrian facilities reduce speed and exercise caution.
3. Do not weave in and out of parked cars.
4. Move off the street to stop, park, or make repairs to your bicycle.
5. A bicyclist should select a route according to the person's own bicycling skill and experience.
6. It is not required by law but bicycles should be equipped with a mirror.

### **Riding in Wet Weather**

Water makes certain surfaces slick. Be aware of manhole covers and painted stripes on the road. Water also obscures some hazards. Watch for potholes filled with water. In addition, the visibility of motorists is greatly decreased in wet weather. Wear highly visible clothing when riding a bicycle.

## Chapter 14: Additional Safety Tips

### Defensive Driving

To avoid crashes, the defensive driver should:

1. Stay alert and keep eyes moving to keep track of what is happening at all times
2. Look for trouble spots developing all around
3. Have a plan of action
4. Know that the law requires drivers to protect each other from their own mistakes

### Safety Belts

The driver and all passengers in a passenger vehicle are required to use safety belts if occupying a seat in a vehicle equipped with a safety belt. Children who are under 8 years of age and less than 4'9" in height (regardless of age) are required by law to be secured in an appropriate child passenger safety seat if occupying a seat in a vehicle equipped with a safety belt. Children who are at least 8 years of age but under 17 years of age or who are under 8 years of age but taller than 4'9" in height must be secured in a safety belt if occupying a seat in a vehicle so equipped.

Safety belt requirements include pickups, SUVs, and trucks. Safety belts are life belts and help to keep you:

1. From being thrown from your car (your chances of being killed are five times greater if you are thrown from your car)
2. From hitting the dashboard too hard
3. In better control of your car



Whatever your reason for not wearing safety belts, it is not reasonable and may violate state law.

### Penalties for Driving Without a Safety Belt

A driver can receive a citation for not wearing his/her safety belt and for not having each child under the age of 17 in a safety seat or safety belt. Anyone who is at least 15 years of age can receive a citation for not being buckled up. There are no exemptions to the safety belt laws although there are some defenses to prosecution for medical reasons with a physician's note, postal workers, individuals who deliver the newspaper, utility workers, solid waste truck workers, or certain commercial farm vehicle operators.

### Vehicles with Open Beds

It is an offense to drive an open bed truck or an open flatbed truck or to draw an open flatbed trailer when a child who is younger than 18 years of age is occupying the bed of the truck or trailer.

It is a defense to prosecution that the driver was operating a vehicle:

1. Or towing the vehicle in a parade or in an emergency;
2. To transport farm-workers from one field to another field on a farm-to-market road, ranch-to-market road, or county road outside a municipality;
3. On a beach;
4. That is the only vehicle owned or operated by members of a household; or
5. In a hayride permitted by the governing body of or a law enforcement agency of each county or municipality in which the hayride will occur.

### Vehicles with Open Beds Towing a Boat or Watercraft

It is an offense for a person to operate a motor vehicle that is towing a boat or personal watercraft in or on which a person who is younger than 18 years of age is riding.

It is a defense to prosecution that the driver was operating the motor vehicle:

1. In a parade;
2. In an emergency; or
3. On a beach.

### Open Bed Passenger Restrictions

It is a Class B misdemeanor to operate a truck, road tractor, or truck tractor when another person occupies a trailer or semi-trailer being drawn by the truck, road tractor, or truck tractor.

It is a defense to prosecution that the person:

1. Towing the vehicle did not know another person occupied the trailer or semi-trailer
2. Occupying the trailer or semi-trailer was in a part of the vehicle designed for human habitation
3. Operating or towing the vehicle was:
  - a. In a parade or in an emergency;
  - b. Transporting farm-workers from one field to another field on a farm-to-market road, ranch-to-market road, or county road outside a municipality; or
  - c. In a hayride permitted by the governing body of or a law enforcement agency of each county or municipality in which the hayride will occur.

## When Stopped by Law Enforcement

If you are stopped by law enforcement it is suggested you:

1. Move the vehicle safely to the right of the road as soon as possible and stop;
2. Place the vehicle in a parking position, set the emergency brake, turn the engine off, and activate the hazard warning lights;
3. Remain in the car, lower the driver's window, and wait for the law enforcement officer to give instructions;
4. Follow the instructions of the law enforcement officer;
5. Require passengers to remain in the car unless other instructions are given by the law enforcement officer; and
6. Give the appropriate signals and safely return to the proper lane of traffic when released by the law enforcement officer.

## False Identification Offense

A person commits an offense if he/she gives a false or fictitious name to a law enforcement officer who has lawfully arrested or detained the person.

## Road Rage

Each year, road rage, also referred to as aggressive driving, causes hundreds of injuries and deaths. Aggressive driving occurs when a driver becomes angry or irritated and as a result, fails to follow the rules of the road. An aggressive driver will intentionally aggravate or attempt to aggravate other drivers and in some cases cause bodily injury, property damage, or death to others.

### Tips to Avoid Road Rage

1. Plan your trip or schedule in advance. Allow extra time in case your vehicle breaks down or you encounter traffic congestion due to a crash, road construction, or rush-hour traffic.
2. When caught in traffic do not get angry. Try to relax and listen to music you enjoy. Remember, traffic congestion is usually temporary and you will soon be on your way.
3. Should you need to use the horn, tap the horn, do not blow the horn. Do not confront other drivers or make obscene gestures.
4. Do not cut into another driver's lane of traffic. Properly signal your intentions to change lanes and change lanes when it is safe to do so. Turn your turn signal off after you complete your lane change.
5. Do not intentionally slow down, slam on your brakes, or speed up to keep someone from passing or entering your lane of travel.
6. Do not tailgate; follow at a safe distance.
7. Always remember to drive friendly and report aggressive driving to the local authorities.

## Neighborhood Electronic Vehicles and Motor Assisted Scooters

A neighborhood electronic vehicle is defined as a vehicle subject to Federal Motor Safety Standard 500 with a top speed of 35 mph.

A motor assisted scooter is defined as a self-propelled device with:

1. At least two wheels in contact with the ground;
2. A braking system capable of stopping the device under normal operating conditions;

3. A gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cc;
4. A deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device; and
5. The ability to be propelled by human power alone.

Both vehicles may only be operated on a street or highway when the posted speed limit is 45 mph or less for a neighborhood electronic vehicle and 35 mph or less for a motor assisted scooter.

*Special Note:*  
Counties and municipalities may prohibit the operation of either type of vehicle on any street or highway for safety reasons.

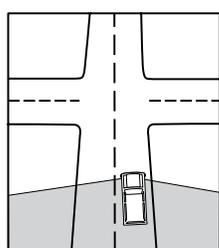
### Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMD)

EPAMD, for example Segways, are defined as a two, non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person that is self-balancing and propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts or one horsepower.

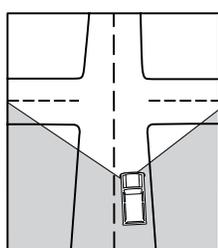
An EPAMD can be operated on a residential street, road, or public highway with a maximum speed limit of 30 mph only:

1. While making a direct crossing of a highway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk;
2. Where no sidewalk is available; or
3. When so directed by a traffic control device or by a law enforcement officer.

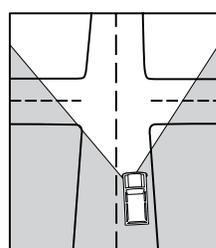
### Speed Reduces Your Field of Vision



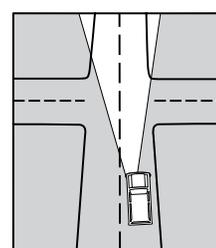
**Stationary**  
Field of vision is 180 degrees or more



**40 MPH**  
Field of vision reduced to about 2/5



**20 MPH**  
Field of vision reduced to about 2/3



**60 MPH**  
Field of vision reduced to about 1/5

### Your Keys to Safe Driving

- Good Vision – Look with your eyes but see with your mind
- Obey traffic laws
- Proper care of vehicle – Don't depend on yearly inspections; perform regular maintenance as needed
- Courtesy – Safety comes before the right-of-way
- Proper Signaling – Failure to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate
- Physical Fitness – Let someone else drive if you are not physically or mentally alert

### Transporting Cargo and Materials

To prevent cargo or loose materials from falling or spilling from a car, truck, trailer, etc. onto the road and causing a crash or damage to the roads, drivers must comply with certain state requirements.

Texas law mandates a vehicle shall be equipped and maintained to prevent loose material from escaping by blowing or spilling. A vehicle bed carrying a load may not have a hole, crack, or other opening through which loose material can escape. The bed shall be enclosed by side panels and on the front by a panel or the vehicle cab. The rear shall be enclosed by a tailgate or panel. The load shall be covered and the covering firmly secured at the front and back, unless the load is completely enclosed by the load-carrying compartment or does not blow or spill over the top of the load-carrying compartment. The tailgate of the vehicle shall be securely closed to prevent spillage during transportation.

Texas law also mandates that no person shall load or transport any loose material on or over the public highways, such as dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, or other material (except agricultural products in their natural state), capable of blowing or spilling from a vehicle unless:

1. The bed carrying the load is completely enclosed on both sides and on the front and rear by a tailgate, board or panel; and all must be so constructed as to prevent the escape of any part of the load by blowing or spilling; and
2. The top of the load is covered with a canvas, tarpaulin, or other covering firmly secured to the front and back to prevent the escape of the load because of blowing or spilling. This requirement does not apply to:
  - a. Any load-carrying compartment that completely encloses the load; or

- b. The transporting of any load of loose materials not blowing or spilling over the top of the load-carrying compartment.

### Safety Chains

Safety chains are required when certain types of vehicles are towing trailers in order to prevent the trailer from breaking loose and causing a serious crash. A person may not drive a passenger car or light truck while towing a trailer, semi-trailer, or house trailer on a public highway in Texas unless safety chains (approved by DPS) are attached (in a manner approved by DPS) from a trailer, semi-trailer, or house trailer to the towing vehicle. The requirements of this law do not apply to a passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer used for agricultural purposes or to any trailer or semi-trailer or house trailer operated in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

### Towing

When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar, chain, rope, cable, or other connection must not be longer than 15 feet from one vehicle to another. (This limit does not apply to pole trailers.) When a chain, rope, or cable is used as a connection, a white flag not less than 12 inches square must be attached to it.

### Carbon Monoxide

Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Cars produce carbon monoxide which is deadly gas. Make sure you are getting plenty of fresh air.

#### Don't:

1. Leave the motor running in a garage
2. Leave vents open when following closely behind another car
3. Leave the motor running and the windows closed while the car is parked
4. Drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system
5. Use the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed

#### Do:

1. Move a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning to fresh air
2. Give artificial respiration

### Steering Lock Operation

Vehicles have various systems used to remove the key from the ignition. Some ignitions automatically lock the steering wheel if the key is removed while moving. Here are some common steering wheel lock systems with a description on how to remove the key.

**Table 40: Steering Wheel Lock Parking Systems**

Type of Parking System	Description
Transmission park system	Shift the transmission into the park position. Turn the key to lock then remove the key.
Two hand button system	This system requires two hands. Depress the button below the steering column. Turn the key to lock then remove the key.
Lever system	Depress the lever located near the ignition. Turn the key to lock then remove the key.
One hand button system	Depress the button located near the ignition. Turn the key to lock then remove the key.
Push in system	Turn the key to off and push in. Turn the key to lock then remove the key.
Turn and remove system	Turn the key to lock then remove the key.

Source: 1992 Automobile Safety Foundation

## Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

### - A -

**acceleration lane** – a lane that permits drivers entering a highway to accelerate to the speed of traffic

**aggressive driving** – the behavior of driving in a combative, forceful, or competitive manner

**angle parking** – the vehicle is parked diagonally to the curb

### - B -

**backup lights** – white lights at the rear of the vehicle telling other drivers you are backing up

**basic speed law** – you may not drive faster than is safe and prudent for existing conditions, regardless of posted speed limits

**bicycle** – every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is more than 14 inches in diameter

**blind spot** – an area rearview mirrors cannot show

**blood-alcohol concentration (BAC)** – the amount of alcohol in the blood expressed as a percentage of ethyl alcohol related to the volume of fluids in the bloodstream

**blowout** – the sudden loss of tire air pressure while driving

**bodily-injury insurance** – covers the driver who is at fault against claims

**braking distance** – the distance a vehicle travels from the time brakes are applied until it stops

### - C -

**cancellation** – the withdrawal of a driver license or privilege until the driver is qualified or eligible

**carbon monoxide** – colorless, odorless, tasteless gas contained in the exhaust fumes of gasoline engines

**center of gravity** – point around which the vehicle's weight is evenly distributed

**central vision** – the field of vision around your focal vision in which you can see clearly while looking straight ahead that aids in determining vehicle position to the road

**clutch pedal** – the pedal in a manual transmission vehicle that enables a driver to shift gears

**collision** – contact between two or more objects, as when two vehicles collide into each other

**collision insurance** – provides insurance coverage to pay the costs of repair or replacement of your vehicle involved in a collision

**color-blindness** – inability to distinguish colors

**commercial motor vehicle** – a vehicle used to transport/deliver goods or passengers for compensation between points on a fixed scheduled route. The vehicle:

1. has a gross combination weight or gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, including a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds;
2. has a gross vehicle weight or a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds;
3. is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver or
4. is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded under 49 C.F.R. part 172, Subpart F.

**comprehensive insurance** – provides coverage for replacement or repair of your vehicle from damage other than from a collision

**controlled-access highway** – a highway where vehicles can enter and exit only at interchanges

**controlled braking** – reducing speed by firmly stepping on and squeezing the brake pedal and maintaining steering control of the vehicle

**controlled intersection** – the intersection at which signals or signs determine the right of way

**controlled railroad crossing** – railroad crossing controlled by flashing red lights and/or crossing gates

**crossbuck** – large white X-shaped sign located prior to a railroad crossing

### - D -

**deceleration lane** – expressway lane used to slow your vehicle without blocking vehicles behind you

**defensive driving** – protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected driving situations by using a space management system

**delayed green light** – indicates one side of the intersection has a green light while the light for oncoming traffic remains red

**denial** – the withholding of a driver license or privilege because the person is ineligible for a license. A driver license may be issued when eligibility requirements are met.

**depressant** – drug that slows the response of the central nervous system

**depth perception** – the ability to judge distance between yourself and other objects

**designated driver** – the person who decides ahead of time not to drink alcoholic beverages and is appointed to drive others who do drink

**distractions** – When a driver is delayed in the recognition of information needed to accomplish the driving task safely because some event, activity, object, or person within or outside the vehicle compelled or tended to induce the driver's shifting attention away from the driving task.

**drag race** – the operation of:

1. Two or more vehicles from a point side by side at accelerating speeds in a competitive attempt to outdistance each other; or
2. One or more vehicles over a common selected course, from the same place to the same place, for the purpose of comparing speeds or power of acceleration of the vehicle(s) in a specified distance of time.

**driving under the influence (DUI)** – a Class C misdemeanor for which a minor can be charged in Texas if driving with any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor's system (An offense for which a driver can be charged in some states if the driver's blood-alcohol concentration is above 0.05.)

**driving while intoxicated (DWI)** – an offense for which a driver can be charged in all states if the driver's blood-alcohol concentration is above a certain level

- E -

**entrance ramp** – a ramp leading onto a highway

**exit ramp** – a ramp leading off a highway

- F -

**field of vision** – all the area a person can see while looking straight ahead.

**field sobriety test** – series of on-the-spot, road-side tests that help an officer detect impairment of a driver suspected of DUI or DWI.

**financial responsibility law** – a law requiring you to prove you can pay for collision damages you cause that result in death, injury, or property damage

**flashing signal** – traffic signal alerting drivers to dangerous conditions or tells them to stop

**focus vision (foveal)** – the part of the vision field which allows the driver to read signs and make distinctions between vehicles and objects often measured as visual acuity

**following interval** – the time recommended to follow another vehicle in the intended path of travel. Select an object near the road surface. When the vehicle ahead passes that object, start counting one thousand-one, one thousand-two, etc., until the front of your car reaches the same object. For speeds under 30 mph, the minimum time with good road conditions is 2 seconds. For speeds above 30 mph, maintain 4 seconds (more for adverse conditions) of following time. Developing a four-second following interval is the best practice for a beginning or less experienced driver.

**force of impact** – the force with which one moving object hits another object; this varies according to speed, weight, and distance between impact and stop, and is based on forces of inertia and momentum

**friction** – the force creating heat which helps the tire maintain traction on the road, unless too much heat is generated which may cause traction loss due to melting of tire rubber on the road

- G -

**gap** – time or distance interval between vehicles on road

**glare recovery time** – the time your eyes need to regain clear vision after being affected by glare

**glare resistance** – the ability to continue seeing when looking at bright lights

**graduated driver license program** – requires young drivers to progress through a series of licensing stages with various restrictions such as accompanying drivers, times permitted to drive, and allowable passengers

**guide sign** – a sign providing directions, distances, services, points of interest, or other information

**- H -**

**hallucinogen** – mind-altering drug that tends to distort a person’s perception of direction, distance, and time

**hazard flasher** – a device that flashes front turn signal lights and taillights to warn others the vehicle is a hazard

**head restraints** – specially designed air bag or padded devices on the backs of front seats helping to reduce whiplash injuries in a side or rear impact collision

**highway hypnosis** – drowsy or trance-like condition caused by concentration on the road ahead and monotony of driving

**hydroplaning** – occurs when a tire patch loses contact with the road by rising up on top of water

**highway** – The width between the boundary lines of a publicly maintained way any part of which is open to the public for vehicular travel.

**- I -**

**ignition interlock device** – a special mechanical control device installed on a motor vehicle’s dashboard. A driver must exhale into the device to start the vehicle. The court-ordered installation of an interlock ignition device must be performed by a DPS-certified service center.

**implied-consent law** – anyone who receives a driver license automatically consents to be tested for blood-alcohol content and other drugs if stopped for suspicion of drug use while driving

**intoxilyzer** – the breath-test instrument machine commonly used for determining blood-alcohol content

**- J -****- K -****- L -**

**lane change** – lateral maneuver moving the vehicle from one lane to another using proper space management procedures

**lane signal** – a signal, usually overhead, indicating if a lane can or cannot be used at a specific time

**liability insurance** – provides compensation for damages which the insured is legally obligated to pay; covers others when you are at fault

**light truck** – a truck with a manufacturer’s rated carrying capacity of not more than 2,000 lbs., including a pick up truck, panel delivery truck, and carry-all truck

**limited use lanes** – traffic flow lanes posted and designed to accommodate special vehicles or carpools

**- M -**

**median** – area of ground separating traffic moving in opposite directions

**merging area** – stretch of road at the end of an acceleration lane on an expressway where vehicles join the flow of traffic

**minimum speed limit** – speed limit to keep traffic moving safely by not allowing drivers to drive slower than a certain speed

**moped** – A motor-driven cycle that cannot attain a speed in one mile of more than 30 mph and the engine:

a. Cannot produce more than two-brake horsepower; and

b. If an internal combustion engine, has a piston displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less and connects to a power drive system that does not require the operator to shift gears. Two-wheeled vehicle that can be driven with either a motor or pedal.

**motorcycle** – a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, equipped with a rider’s saddle and designed to have when propelled not more than three wheels on the ground

**motor-driven cycle** – a motorcycle equipped with an engine displacement of 250 cubic centimeters or less. The term does not include an electric bicycle

**- N -**

**night blindness** – not being able to see well at night

**no-fault insurance** – covers an insured’s losses and expenses associated with a collision regardless of fault

**- O -**

**odometer** – the device on the instrument panel indicating the total number of miles the vehicle has been driven

**over driving headlights** – driving at a speed making your stopping distance longer than the distance lighted by your headlights; low beams are limited to 45 mph and high beams are limited to 65 mph for stopping purposes

**oversteer** – when the rear tire patches lose varying degrees of traction and the front tire patches have more traction causing a spinning effect (yaw) around the vehicle's center of gravity. The vehicle has a tendency to spin to the left or right even though the driver is not turning the steering wheel.

**overtake** – to pass the vehicle ahead

**over-the-counter medicine** – drug that can be obtained legally without a doctor's prescription

**- P -**

**parallel parking** – the vehicle lines up parallel or going the same direction as the curb. When parallel parking, the vehicle must be 6 to 18 inches from the curb

**passive restraint device** – a restraint device, such as an air bag or an automatic safety belt, that works without the passenger or driver initiating the device

**pedestrian** – a person on foot

**pedestrian signal** – a signal used at traffic intersections that indicates when a person should walk or wait

**peer pressure** – mental and social influence of others of a similar age on decision-making skills

**perception distance** – the distance your vehicle travels during perception time

**perception time** – the length of time it takes for the driver to make a risk-reduction decision

**peripheral vision** – the area a person can see that is around the central field of vision

**perpendicular parking** – the vehicle is parked at a right angle to a curb or parking stripe using visual reference points for entering and leaving

**prescription medicine** – drug that can be purchased legally only when ordered by a doctor

**preventive maintenance** – routine care and attention to your vehicle

**property-damage insurance** – protects the driver who is at fault against claims for damages to another person's property, up to specified limits

**protected left turn** – left turn made on a left-turn, green arrow, or delayed green light while oncoming traffic is stopped

**protective gear** – the items a motorcyclist wears to protect head, eyes, and body

**- Q -****- R -**

**race** – The use of one or more vehicles in an attempt to:

1. Out gain or outdistance another vehicle or prevent another vehicle from passing;
2. Arrive at a given destination ahead of another vehicle(s); or
3. Test the physical stamina or endurance of an operator over a long-distance driving route.

**reaction distance** – the distance a vehicle travels from the point the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes action through braking, steering, or acceleration. Distance your vehicle travels until the driver perceives the need to change speed or position.

**reaction time** – the time the vehicle travels from the point the driver perceives the need to act and the point where the driver takes the action through braking, steering, or acceleration. Length of time it takes the driver to execute a reduced-risk action, after a response is perceived by the driver.

**reduced visibility** – the inability of a driver to see clearly

**reference point** – a part of the outside or inside of a vehicle, as viewed from the driver's seat, that relates to some part of the road which allows the driver to estimate position on the road. The road positions (points of reference) of the vehicle assist the driver in determining when to start turning, vehicle limitations, or where the vehicle is actually located.

**regulatory sign** – a sign controlling traffic

**restraint device** – any part of a vehicle holding an occupant in the seat during a collision

**restricted interlock license** – authorizes an individual to operate a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device.

**revocation** – the termination of a driver license or privilege for an indefinite period of time. May be restored when all requirements for the revocation have been satisfied

**right of way** – privilege of having immediate use of a certain part of a road

**right turn on red** – turning right when the red signal is on, after stopping behind the intersection guides, unless specifically prohibited to turn

**roadway marking** – markings and lane delineators (reflectors) providing you with warning or direction

**rocking a vehicle** – repeating the sequence of driving forward a little then back a little to move your vehicle out of deep snow, mud, or sand

**rumble strips** – sections of rough pavement intended to alert drivers of approaching roadway construction, tollbooth plaza, or other traffic conditions.

- S -

**safety belt** – a lap belt and any shoulder straps included as original equipment on or added to a vehicle

**safety chains** – backup link used in case a trailer hitch fails

**school zone** – portion of a street or highway near a school subject to special speed limits

**shared left-turn lane** – the lane on a busy street helping drivers make safe mid-block left turns into business areas from a center lane

**skid** – Occurs when tire patches lose part or all of their traction on the roadway surface due to abrupt suspension balance or roadway surfaces conditions

**skid mark** – a mark on the road surface from a tire sliding due to a loss of traction from braking or abrupt steering.

**slow-moving vehicle** – the vehicle is unable to travel at highway speed

**speed smear** – occurs when objects in your peripheral vision become blurred and distorted as your speed increases

**staggered stop** – stopping when the white line visually disappears under the hood line. This allows extra space for left-turning vehicles.

**standard reference point** – point which allows for vehicle placement on a road typical for most drivers

**stimulant** – drug that speeds up the central nervous system

**stopping position** – stopping behind a vehicle in a position allowing the driver enough space to steer around the vehicle to avoid a stalled, turning, or backing vehicle

**suspension** – the temporary withdrawal of a driver license or privilege for a definite period of time

- T -

**tailgate** – to follow another vehicle too closely

**total stopping distance** – the distance your vehicle travels while you make a stop

**traction** – friction or gripping power between the tire patches and the road surface

**traffic circle** – the intersections that form when several roads meet at a circle

**traffic control devices** – any signal, sign, or pavement marking used to control the movement of traffic

**traffic signal** – any signal used to control the movement of traffic

**tunnel vision** – the ability to see in a narrow field of vision of 140 degrees or less with little effective peripheral vision

**turn** – vehicle maneuver to change direction to the left or right

**turnabout** – the maneuvers for turning into or out of a road/driveway using reference points for positioning

- U -

**uncontrolled intersection** – an intersection that has no signs or signals to regulate traffic including railroad crossings that do not have flashing red lights or crossing gates

**under-insured motorist insurance** – covers costs exceeding the amount the other person's insurance company will pay as a result of a collision caused by another's fault

**uninsured motorist insurance** – covers costs up to a certain amount if you are struck by another vehicle whose driver has no insurance

**unprotected left turn** – left turn made at a signal-controlled intersection without a special left turn light

**urban district** – the territory adjacent to and including a highway, if the territory is improved with structures used for business, industry, or dwelling houses and are located at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of at least one-quarter mile on either side of the highway

- V -

**vehicle** – a device, in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks

**vehicle malfunctions** – failures of the vehicle to perform as designed, such as tire, steering, suspension, acceleration, fuel, etc.

**vehicle maintenance** – the scheduled or unscheduled upkeep or repair of a vehicle

**vehicle maneuvers** – moving forward, moving backward, turning, lateral maneuvers, and turnabouts

**visibility** – the ability to see

- W -

**warning sign** – a sign alerting you to possible hazards and road conditions

**warning light** – an instrument panel light warning of a system malfunction and usually stays on while the system is malfunctioning

- X -

- Y -

**yield** – to allow another vehicle or roadway user to proceed first

- Z -

**zero tolerance law** – it is illegal for individuals who are under 21 years of age to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their blood

## Appendix B: Driver License Offices

### Full-Time Driver License Offices

Full-time (FT) driver license offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some offices offer extended hours and a few offices routinely close during the noon hour. In addition, some offices offer online scheduling. To see if an office near you offers online scheduling, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense) and schedule an appointment.

### Scheduled Driver License Offices

Scheduled (S) driver license offices are usually staffed with only one customer service representative. Depending on the location, the customer service representative is required to be away from the office part of the day while conducting driving tests and other DPS business. Please contact the scheduled driver license office prior to visiting to determine the customer service representative's work schedule for that particular day.

### Mega Center Offices

Mega Centers (MC) are full-time driver license offices but offer additional alternatives to waiting in line for a driver license or ID card. Mega Centers are staffed by at least 25 employees, can process up to 1,000 customers per day, and have plenty of parking. With over 20 automated testing stations, more than 400 customers can take a knowledge test each day. Mega Centers also provide customers the option to get in line using a text-enabled cell phone (restricted or blocked cell phone numbers will not work). Once customers are in line, the system will send text alerts informing them of when their spot in line approaches.

\*Information regarding driver license offices is current at the time of printing. For the most up-to-date information on any driver license office, including specific hours of operation, visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense)

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Abilene	(325) 695-0988 Ext. 54237	4649 South First Street	79605-7213	FT
Alice	(361) 664-2113	300 South Johnson Street	78332-5650	FT
Alpine	(432) 837-7580	3500 N Hwy 118	79830	FT
Alvin	(281) 585-4525	109 West Coombs	77511-2440	FT
Amarillo	(806) 468-1400 Ext. 51460	4200 Canyon Drive	79109-5678	FT
Andrews	(432) 524-1425	201 North Main Street # 210, County Courthouse	79714	FT
Angleton	(979) 849-5711	501 South Velasco	77515-6017	FT
Anson	(325) 823-3631	1110 West Court Plaza	79501-4315	S
Aransas Pass	(361) 758-8680	913 South Commercial	78336-5303	FT
Arlington	(817) 274-1818	3901 W Arkansas, Suite 111	76016-1400	FT
Athens	(903) 675-6091	511 Hwy 175 West	75751	FT
Austin North	(512) 424-2076	6121 North Lamar Blvd	78752	FT
Austin Northwest	(512) 464-3763	13730 Research Blvd (US Hwy 183 N)	78750-1812	FT
Austin - Pflugerville Mega Center	(512) 486-2804	216 E Wells Branch Parkway	78660	MC
Austin South	(512) 444-5291	6425 South IH-35, Suite 180	78744	FT
Baird	(325) 854-5844	100 West 4th Street, Callahan County Courthouse	79504	S
Ballinger	(325) 365-2161	602 Strong Ave., Runnels County Courthouse Annex	76821	S
Bastrop	(512) 581-7152	305 Eskew Street	78602-3828	FT
Bay City	(979) 245-9353	510 Avenue F	77414-3187	FT
Baytown	(281) 424-1339	5420 Decker Dr.	77520-1448	FT
Beaumont	(409) 924-5400	7200 Eastex Freeway	77708-3830	FT
Beeville	(361) 358-6272	400 South Hillside	78102-5375	FT
Big Lake	(325) 884-2301	300 Plaza, Courthouse Annex	76932	S
Big Spring	(432) 267-5671	5725 IH-20 West	79721	S

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Boerne	(830) 249-6335	1415 East Blanco, Suite 2	78006	FT
Bonham	(903) 583-5613	1203 East Sam Rayburn	75418-4945	FT
Borger	(806) 273-2453	3249 Fairlanes Blvd	79007-8087	FT
Bowie	(940) 872-1496	603 Decatur Street	76230	S
Brady	(325) 597-1188	306 W Lockhart Street	76825	FT
Breckenridge	(254) 599-2664	200 West Walker Street, County Courthouse	76424	S
Brenham	(979) 836-2020	975 Highway 290 West	77833	FT
Brownfield	(806) 637-3625 Ext 50023	802 North Ballard	79316-3701	FT
Brownsville	(956) 983-1920	2901 Paredes Line Road	78526-1156	FT
Brownwood	(325) 646-0180	1516 Market Place Blvd.	76801-1733	FT
Bryan	(979) 776-3110	2571 N Earl Rudder Frwy	77803	FT
Burnet	(512) 756-5405	1701 E Polk Street, Burnet County Courthouse Annex	78611	S
Caldwell	(979) 567-2315	100 West Buck, Rm 106 Bureson County Courthouse	75633	S
Cameron	(254) 697-2956	512 N Jefferson Ave., Suite E	76520-3939	S
Canadian	(806) 323-9898	400 Main Street, Hemphill County Courthouse	79014	S
Canton	(903) 567-2346	1601 North Trade Days Blvd	75103-9776	FT
Carthage	(903) 693-3261	110 South Sycamore, Room 101 County Courthouse	75633-2546	FT
Carrollton	(972) 245-5800	2625 Old Denton Road, Suite 464	75007-5130	FT
Cedar Hill	(469) 272-9301	116 W Beltine, Suite 2	75104-2011	FT
Center	(936) 598-6152	1281 Southview Circle	75935	FT
Centerville	(903) 536-3095	125 East Main Street	75833	S
Childress	(940) 937-2560	1700 Ave F NW, Suite A	79201-3321	FT
Claredon	(806) 874-5188	723 West 2nd Street	79226	S
Clarksville	(903) 427-2931	500 North Cedar	75426-2702	FT
Cleburne	(817) 202-2650	600 West Kilpatrick	76033-7467	FT
Cleveland	(281) 592-5983	304 Campbell Road, Room #123	77327-9737	FT
Coleman	(325) 625-2600	100 West Live Oak	76834	S
Colorado City	(325) 728-5214	333 Pine Street	79512	S
Columbus	(979) 732-3451	3229 Columbus Loop	78934	FT
Comanche	(325) 356-3222	211 South Austin Street	76442-3263	FT
Conroe	(936) 442-2810	#2 Hilbig Street	77301-1406	FT
Copperas Cove	(254) 547-9130	201 South 2nd Street, Suite 5	76522-2235	FT
Corpus Christi	(361) 698-5626	1922 South Padre Island Drive	78416-1399	FT
Corsicana	(903) 872-5631	3030 S Hwy 287	75109	FT
Crane	(432) 558-3292	1212 S. Alford Street	79731	S
Crockett	(936) 544-5917	1125 E Loop 304	75835-1809	FT
Crosbyton	(806) 675-2131	215 South Berkshire	79322-2549	S
Crystal City	(830) 374-2222	200 Uvalde, Suite 6, County Courthouse	78839-3547	FT
Cuero	(361) 275-6154	208 East Live Oak Street	77954	FT
Daingerfield	(903) 645-2363	500 Broadnax, Suite G Courthouse	75638-1340	FT
Dalhart	(806) 244-4332	402 Denver Ave.	79022	S
Dallas East	(214) 553-0033	11411 E Northwest Hwy, Suite 111	75218	FT
Dallas Southwest	(214) 330-3958	5610 Red Bird Center, Suite 500	75237	FT
Decatur	(940) 627-5694	2000 South Trinity	76234-1827	FT
Del Rio	(830) 703-1225	2012 Veterans Blvd	78840-3040	FT
Denton	(940) 484-6666	820 North Loop 288	76209-3699	FT
Denver City	(806) 592-2873	201 N. Main St, Suite B	79323-2700	FT

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Dimmitt	(806) 647-4350	100 East Bedford Rm 110, County Courthouse	79027	S
Dumas	(806) 935-5058	817 South Bliss Ave.	79029-4437	S
Eagle Pass	(830) 773-5050	32 Foster-Maldonado Blvd	78852-5757	FT
Eastland	(254) 629-8383 Ext. 50401	1002 Lago Vista	76448-3056	FT
Emory	(903) 473-2804	109 Wood	75440	S
El Paso Northwest	(915) 877-1647	1854 Northwestern	79912-1122	FT
El Paso Gateway	(915) 598-3487	7300 Gateway East	79915-79915	FT
El Paso Hondo Pass	(915) 751-6455	4505 Hondo Pass	79904-1308	FT
El Paso Scott Simpson	(915) 849-4100	11612 Scott Simpson	79936-6210	FT
Fairfield	(903) 389-5050	118 E Commerce Street, Suite 101	75840	S
Falfurrias	(361) 325-4500 Ext. 3	217 East Miller Street, Brooks-Blumer Bldg.	78355	S
Floresville	(830) 393-7216	800 10th Street, # 3	78114-1831	FT
Floydada	(806) 983-2217	105 South Main Street, Suite 107 County Courthouse	79235-2736	S
Fort Bliss	(915) 568-8631	505-A Pershing Road, Room A154	79916	FT
Fort Hood	(254) 532-9786	Hood Road, Bldg 69012	76544	FT
Fort Stockton	(432) 336-5001	2302 W Dickinson	79735	FT
Fort Worth East	(817) 413-6318	3500 Miller Ave., Charles F. Griffin Sub Courthouse	76119	S
Fort Worth South	(817) 294-1075	6413 Woodway Drive	76133-5536	FT
Fort Worth - Mega Center	(817) 285-1900	8301 Brentwood Stair Road	76120	MC
Fredericksburg	(830) 997-1932	125 W Main Street, #L30	78624-3700	FT
Friona	(806) 250-2711	102 East 8th Street	79035	S
Gainesville	(940) 665-3924	206 W California	76240-3905	FT
Galveston	(409) 740-0031	6812 Broadway	77554-8906	FT
Garland	(214) 861-2125	350 West IH-30	75043-5998	FT
Garland - Mega Center	(214) 861-3700	4445-A Saturn Road	75041	MC
Gatesville	(254) 865-2444	606 B Leon Street	76528-1313	FT
George West	(361) 449-2733	301 Houston, Live Oak County Courthouse Annex Rm. 14	78022	S
Georgetown	(512) 863-5816	515 S. Pine Street (7th and Pine)	78626-5100	FT
Giddings	(979) 542-0246	170 E Industry	78942	S
Gilmer	(903) 797-2751	713 State Hwy 155 North	75644	FT
Goldthwaite	(325) 648-2266	1011 4th Street, Rm 303	76844	S
Gonzales	(830) 672-3328	1709 Sarah Dewitt Drive	78629-2613	FT
Graham	(940) 549-1490	142 North Elm	76450-5917	FT
Grand Prairie	(972) 264-6598	555 S Carrier Pkwy, Suite 570	75051-1555	FT
Grandbury	(817) 573-7381	1402 W. Pearl Street	76048-1876	FT
Greenville	(903) 453-6916	2801 Stuart Street, Room 408	75401-4345	FT
Groesbeck	(254) 729-5554	1221 E. Yeagua	76642-2008	S
Hallettsville	(361) 798-9398	412 N. Texana	77964	S
Hamilton	(254) 386-3789	101 West Henry	76531	S
Harlingen	(956) 440-6725	1630 North 77 Sunshine Strip	78550-4299	FT
Haskell	(940) 864-2448	1 North Avenue D, Haskell County Courthouse	79521	S
Hempstead	(979) 826-7649	235 Hwy 290 East	77445	FT
Henderson	(903) 657-6095	325 Fair Park	75654	FT
Hereford	(806) 364-6481	807 West 15th Street	79045-5517	FT
Hillsboro	(254) 582-5044	126 S Covington	76645-2139	FT
Hondo	(830) 426-8975	702 Harper	78861	FT

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Houston-Dacoma	(713) 683-0541	4545 Dacoma	77092-8613	FT
Houston-Winkler	(713) 943-0631	9206 Winkler	77017	FT
Houston-Grant Road	(281) 890-5440	10503 Grant Road	77070-4407	FT
Houston - Gessner Mega Center	(713) 219-4100	12220 South Gessner	77071-2831	MC
Houston - Spring Mega Center	(281) 517-1620	4740 Spring Cypress Road, Suite 100	77379	MC
Houston-East	(713) 633-9872	11039 East Freeway (IH-10), Suite B	77029	FT
Houston-Townhurst	(713) 465-8462	1601 Townhurst Drive	77043-3226	FT
Houston-Vantage	(281) 449-2685	15403 Vantage Pkwy East, Suite 300	77032	FT
Humble	(281) 446-3391	7710 Will Clayton Pkwy	77338-5801	FT
Huntsville	(936) 295-1578	523 State Hwy. 75 N.	77320-8419	FT
Hurst	(817) 299-1426	624 Northeast Loop 820	76053-5299	FT
Irving	(972) 253-4171	1003 West 6th Street	75060-3875	FT
Jacksonville	(903) 586-5631	506 E Pine	75766-4566	FT
Jasper	(409) 384-5712	2398 West Gibson	75951-9209	FT
Jourdanton	(830) 769-2277	1102 Campbell	78026-3508	FT
Junction	No Phone	501 Main Street, County Courthouse	76849	S
Kermit	(432) 586-3134	401 S Pine Street	79745	S
Kerrville	(830) 258-5750	311 Sidney Baker South	78028-2103	FT
Killeen	(254) 634-1919	302 Priest Drive	76541-7137	FT
Kingsville	(361) 592-1911	725 E Yoakum Ave. Kleberge County Courthouse Ed Lopez Bldg	78363	FT
Kountze	(409) 246-3662	440 W Monroe Street	77625	S
Lake Worth	(817) 238-9197	5816 Azle Avenue	76135-3602	FT
Lamesa	(806) 872-8675	608 North Main Street	79331-4621	FT
Lampasas	(512) 556-6871	1690 North US Hwy 281	76550-1145	S
Laredo	(956) 728-2301	1901 Bob Bullock Loop	78043-9771	FT
Levelland	(806) 894-7026	1212 Houston Street, Suite 4	79336	FT
Lewisville	(972) 221-8081	190 North Valley Pkwy, Suite 201	75067	FT
Liberty	(936) 336-7343	2103 Cos Street	77575-4957	FT
Linden	(903) 756-8452	604 Hwy. 8 North	75563	FT
Littlefield	(806) 385-5679	100 West 6th Street, Lamb County Courthouse, Room B-06	79339-3306	FT
Livingston	(936) 327-6806	1737 North Washington Ave.	77351-2127	FT
Llano	(325) 247-5488	100 W Sandstone, Courthouse Annex, Rm 200	78643-2319	S
Longview	(903) 758-1788	416 Lake Lamond Road	75604-5838	FT
Lubbock	(806) 472-8700 Ext. 58950	1404 Lubbock Business Park Blvd., #100	79403	FT
Lufkin	(936) 699-7331	2809 South John Redditt Drive	75904-5670	FT
Marble Falls	(830) 798-3222	810 Steve Hawkins Pkwy, Courthouse Annex, Suite 5	78654-6345	FT
Marshall	(903) 938-2171	5215 West Loop 390 N	75670	FT
McAllen	(956) 565-7200	1414 North Bicentennial Blvd	78501-4499	FT
McKinney	(214) 733-5350	400 Powerhouse Street	75071-1814	FT
Meridian	(254) 435-2913	500 State Hwy 174	76665	S
Midland	(432) 498-2355	2405 South Loop 250 West	79703	FT
Mineral Wells	(940) 325-0227	600 FM 1821 North	76067-9118	FT
Monahans	(432) 943-4701	3600 S Stockton	79756	S
Mission - Palmview	(956) 205-7070	722 North Breyfogle Road, Suite A	78572	FT
Mount Pleasant	(903) 575-5383	1906 N Jefferson	75455-2335	FT
Muleshoe	(806) 272-3860	300 South First Street, Room 302	79347-3621	FT

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Munday	(940) 422-4331	121 East Main Street, City Hall	76371	S
Nacogdoches	(936) 560-5826	5407 N US Hwy 59	75964	FT
New Boston	(903) 628-6822	710 James Bowie Drive	75570-2322	FT
New Braunfels	(830) 625-8111	3003 IH-35 South	78130-7027	FT
Odessa	(432) 332-0637	1910 IH-20 West	79763-4901	FT
Orange	(409) 883-0273	711 US Hwy 87	77631	FT
Ozona	(325) 392-0523	1503 Monterrey Street	76943	S
Palestine	(903) 661-5030	1900 W Spring	75803-7940	FT
Pampa	(806) 665-7160	2909 Perryton Pkwy	79065-2811	FT
Panhandle	(806) 537-3622 Ext. 233	501 Main Street, Carson County Courthouse	79068	S
Paris	(903) 784-3800	2885 North Main Street	75460-2257	FT
Pasadena	(713) 473-3232	2783 Red Bluff Road, #100	77503-2915	FT
Pecos	(432) 447-3532	148 North Frontage Road, I-20 West	79772	S
Perryton	(806) 435-4642	101 SW 4th Street	79070-3003	FT
Pierce	(979) 541-4590	19692 US Hwy 59, El Campo	77467	FT
Plainview	(806) 293-2508	1108 South Columbia	79072	FT
Plano	(972) 867-4221	2109 West Parker Road, Suite 224	75023-7739	FT
Port Arthur	(409) 982-1131	900 4th Street	77640-6513	FT
Port Lavaca	(361) 552-5046	201 West Austin Street	77979	FT
Presidio	(432) 229-3768	800A N Business Hwy 67	79845	FT
Quanah	(940) 663-2235	314 Mercer Street, Hardeman County Courthouse	79252	S
Quitman	(903) 763-4212	211 West Bermuda, Courthouse Annex	75783	FT
Rio Grande City	(956) 716-4844	515 North FM 3167	78582	FT
Roby	(325) 776-3276	112 North Concho, County Courthouse	79543	S
Rockwall	(214) 861-2029	915 Whitmore Drive, Suite C	75087-4217	FT
Rosenberg Mega Center	(281) 517-1630 Ext. 26811	28000 Southwest Freeway, Suite A	77471	MC
San Angelo	(325) 223-6903	1600 West Loop 306	76904	FT
San Antonio-Babcock	(210) 737-1911	1258 Babcock Road	78201-6644	FT
San Antonio - Leon Valley Mega Center	(210) 531-1000	7410 Huebner Road	78240	MC
San Antonio-Southeast	(210) 531-2241	6502 South New Braunfels Ave.	78223-3099	FT
San Antonio-General McMullen	(210) 436-6611	1803 South General McMullen	78226-1127	FT
San Marcos	(512) 353-2770	1400 North IH-35	78666-7235	FT
Seguin	(830) 379-6802	1440 East Kingsbury	78155-4097	FT
Seminole	(432) 758-3112	101 South Main, Room 105	79360	FT
Seymour	(940) 889-2426	101 South Washington Street, Baylor County Courthouse, Suite 1	76380	S
Sherman	(903) 813-3420	1413 Texoma Pkwy	75090-3803	FT
Sinton	(361) 364-1956	120 E Fulton Street	78387	FT
Snyder	(325) 573-5631 Ext. 50325	501 E 37th Street	79549-2889	S
Sonora	(325) 387-5701	102 N Water Ave., County Courthouse	76950	S
Stanton	(432) 607-3511	301 N St. Peter Street	79782	S
Stephenville	(254) 965-7894	850 East Road	76401-5408	FT
Sulphur Springs	(903) 885-1825	1528 E Shannon Road	75482-3026	FT
Sweetwater	(325) 235-2662	600 NW Georgia Ave.	79556-7712	FT
Taylor	(512) 238-2160	412 Vance #2	76574-3500	FT

City	Phone No.	Address	Zip Code	Office Type
Temple	(254) 770-6734	6612 S General Bruce Drive	76502-5832	FT
Terrell	(972) 551-7000	111 Tejas Drive	75160-6567	FT
Texarkana	(903) 225-5750	1516 Hampton Road	75503-1811	FT
Texas City	(409) 933-1130	1325 Amburn Road	77591-2469	FT
Tulia	(806) 995-3813	310 West Broadway, Suite 137	79088-2245	S
Tyler	(903) 939-6015	4700 University Blvd	75707	FT
Universal City	(210) 945-1900	1633 Pat Booker Road	78148-3432	FT
Uvalde	(830) 278-5630	2901 East Main Street	78801-4932	FT
Van Horn	(432) 283-2039	1300 North Frontage Road, IH-10	79855	S
Vernon	(940) 552-6372	1700 Wilbarger Street Willbarger County Courthouse, Room B-6	76384-4747	FT
Victoria	(361) 578-3450	8802 North Navarro Blvd.	77904-1427	FT
Waco	(254) 759-7121	1617 East Crest Drive	76705-1555	FT
Wallisville	(409) 389-2491	20906 IH-10	77597	FT
Waxahachie	(972) 923-6780	1720 E Main Street	75165-4701	FT
Weatherford	(817) 599-7631	1309 South Bowie Drive	76086-5012	FT
Webster (Clear Lake Area)	(281) 486-8242	111 Tristar Drive	77598	FT
Weslaco	(956) 565-7200	2525 N International Blvd.	78599	FT
Wichita Falls	(940) 851-5647	5505 North Central Freeway	76306-1009	FT
Woodville	(409) 283-7757	1001 West Bluff Street	75979-4735	S
Zapata	(956) 765-9917	607 North US Hwy 83, Suite F	78076	FT

## Appendix C

### Study and Review Questions for Class C Operators

1. What is the minimum age at which you can get a Class C driver license without either driver education or being a hardship case? (*Chpt. 1*)
2. How much is the maximum fine for a first conviction of driving without a license? (*Chpt. 1*)
3. What type of restrictions may be placed on your license? (*Chpt. 1*)
4. In what direction should you turn your wheels when parking uphill without a curb? (*Chpt. 7*)
5. What action should you take if you fail to receive the renewal notice card reminding you that your driver license is about to expire? (*Chpt. 1*)
6. On a one-way street, what color is the broken lane marker? (*Chpt. 5*)
7. Describe the "Yield" sign. (*Chpt. 5*)
8. What does a "Narrow Bridge" sign look like, and how should the driver react when he sees one? (*Chpt. 5*)
9. What is the shape of a "Keep Right" sign, and how should the driver react when he sees one? (*Chpt. 5*)
10. Which sign tells you to slow down because you are approaching a double curve? (*Chpt. 5*)
11. What does a "Do Not Pass" sign mean? (*Chpt. 5*)
12. Which sign tells you to keep in the right-hand lane when driving slow? (*Chpt. 5*)
13. What does "Yield Right-of-Way" mean? (*Chpt. 4, 5*)
14. Describe the equipment required on passenger cars by state law. (*Chpt. 2*)
15. What is the purpose of an exhaust emission system? (*Chpt. 2*)
16. Describe the types of equipment which Texas state law specifically forbids on passenger cars driven within the state. (*Chpt. 2*)
17. How should you react when a traffic officer tells you to do something which is ordinarily considered to be against the law? (*Chpt. 5*)
18. Once the brakes have been applied, about how many feet does a car which was going 70 mph travel before it comes to a stop? (*Chpt. 8*)
19. When is it necessary to stop before proceeding when you overtake a school bus loading or unloading children? (*Chpt. 4*)
20. About how many feet will the average driver going 50 mph travel from the moment he sees danger until he hits the brakes? (*Chpt. 8*)
21. Within how many feet of a crosswalk may you park, when parking near a corner? (*Chpt. 7*)
22. What is the state speed limit for automobiles in urban districts? (*Chpt. 8*)
23. Does a posted speed limit of 55 mph mean that you may drive 55 mph on that highway under all conditions? (*Chpt. 8*)
24. You should never drive on the left half of the roadway when you are within how many feet from an intersection, bridge, or railroad crossing? (*Chpt. 6*)
25. What should you do if you discover you are in the wrong lane to make a turn as you enter an intersection? (*Chpt. 6*)
26. When two cars meet at the intersection of a two-lane road with a four-lane road, which one must yield the right-of-way? (*Chpt. 4*)
27. If you are driving and hear a siren coming, what should you do? (*Chpt. 4*)
28. What is the first thing that should be done when a car starts to skid? (*Chpt. 9*)

29. At what time of the day should your headlights be turned on? (*Chpt. 9*)
30. Under what conditions may your driver license be suspended? (*Chpt. 1*)
31. What is carbon monoxide, and how may it be harmful to drivers? (*Chpt. 14*)
32. Describe what you should do if you have a blowout while driving. (*Chpt. 9*)
33. What should you do when driving down a steep grade in a car with standard transmission? (*Chpt. 9*)
34. What should you do if you damage an unattended vehicle? (*Chpt. 11*)
35. When are crash reports required? (*Chpt. 11*)
36. If you are required to show proof of financial responsibility for the future, how many years must such proof be kept up? (*Chpt. 3*)
37. What type of sign warns you to watch right and left for cross traffic? (*Chpt. 5*)
38. Describe the emblem which identifies vehicles which travel at speeds of 25 mph or less. (*Chpt. 5*)
39. In which gear should you drive when going down a steep hill? (*Chpt. 9*)
40. What qualifications must one have to teach a beginner to drive? (*Chpt. 1*)
41. If the person is under 18, when does his provisional license expire? (*Chpt. 1*)
42. When parked parallel, your curb side wheels must be no more than how many inches from the curb? (*Chpt. 7*)
43. When following another car, what is a good distance at which you should follow behind? (*Chpt. 8*)
44. To what agency and within what time period must a change of address be reported for driver licensing purposes? (*Chpt. 1*)
45. What effects does the use of marijuana and amphetamine have on driving? (*Chpt. 10*)
46. What is the penalty for being convicted of driving while intoxicated? (*Chpt. 10*)
47. What does a green arrow showing with a red light mean? (*Chpt. 5*)
48. How should you react to a flashing red light? (*Chpt. 5*)
49. Which sign tells you to watch out for a train? (*Chpt. 5*)
50. Describe the sign which warns you to slow down for a winding road. (*Chpt. 5*)
51. What sign indicates that the road that you are on merges with another? (*Chpt. 5*)
52. What kind of sign warns you that the highest safe speed for the turn ahead is 25 mph? (*Chpt. 5*)
53. Describe the sign that tells you to watch for cross traffic ahead. (*Chpt. 5*)
54. What type of sign warns you that you should slow down for a sharp rise in the roadway? (*Chpt. 5*)
55. Describe the type of sign which would let you know that you were on a short state highway in a city or urban area. (*Chpt. 5*)
56. What is the maximum number of inches that you may lawfully allow an object to extend beyond the left fender of your car? (*Chpt. 2*)
57. Under what conditions must you always stop? (*Chpt. 5*)
58. What should you do when coming onto a street from a private alley or driveway? (*Chpt. 4*)
59. If a child runs into the road 45 to 50 feet ahead of your car, what is the highest speed from which you can stop with good brakes without hitting him? (*Chpt. 8*)
60. How close to a fireplug may a vehicle lawfully park? (*Chpt. 7*)
61. What does a posted speed limit of 55 mph mean? (*Chpt. 5*)
62. What is the maximum speed limit for passenger cars on Texas Highway numbered by this state or United States outside an urban district? (*Chpt. 8*)

63. Under what circumstances should you never attempt to pass a car ahead of you? *(Chpt. 6)*
64. Under what conditions are overtaking and passing to the right not permitted? *(Chpt. 6)*
65. When a driver is waiting to make a left turn, what is the procedure he should take when the light turns green? *(Chpt. 5)*
66. What precautions should a driver take at uncontrolled intersections? *(Chpt. 4)*
67. What regulations should a bicycle rider observe? *(Chpt. 13)*
68. Under what conditions should headlights be used? *(Chpt. 9)*
69. You should dim your lights when you are within how many feet of an approaching car? *(Chpt. 9)*
70. What type of lighting should cars use when parked on the highway at night? *(Chpt. 9)*
71. Which lights should you use when you are driving in a fog? *(Chpt. 9)*
72. When are you required to show proof of financial responsibility? *(Chpt. 3)*
73. When needed, how may one show proof of financial responsibility? *(Chpt. 3)*
74. What sign warns you that you must slow down? *(Chpt. 5)*
75. What circumstances may lead to possible loss of your license? *(Chpt. 1)*
76. In addition to mufflers, what new equipment is required on all cars manufactured in 1968 and after? *(Chpt. 2)*
77. Why are seat belts important? *(Chpt. 14)*
78. What is meant by "defensive driving?" *(Chpt. 14)*
79. What are the different classes of licenses and age requirements for each? *(Chpt. 1)*
80. When is a bicyclist not required to ride to the right of the roadway? *(Chpt. 13)*
81. When are bicyclists allowed to ride two abreast in a traffic lane? *(Chpt. 13)*
82. What are the three most common motorist caused car-bicycle crashes? *(Chpt. 9)*
83. What are the penalties for minors (persons under the age of 21) convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol? *(Chpt. 10)*
84. What are the penalties for minors (persons under the age of 21) convicted of non-driving alcohol-related offenses? *(Chpt. 10)*

# DON'T BE FAKE

IT IS A **CRIMINAL  
OFFENSE** TO MAKE,  
USE, OR **POSSESS**  
A **FAKE ID**



**LAW ENFORCEMENT IS  
CRACKING DOWN ON FAKE IDs**

**AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES**



**HAVE YOUR  
DRIVER LICENSE  
REVOKED**



**GO  
TO  
JAIL**



**LOSE  
YOUR  
JOB**





## **Are you interested in an exciting career as a State Trooper?**

To find out if you qualify to be one of the very special people associated with DPS, contact the nearest Texas Department of Public Safety office for details or visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).

## **Glenda Dawson Donate Life – Texas Registry**

Texans can register to be organ, tissue and eye donors by visiting [www.DonateLifeTexas.org](http://www.DonateLifeTexas.org) or when renewing their driver's license or ID card.

## **Report Smoking Vehicles**

To report a smoking vehicle, visit [www.smokingvehicle.org](http://www.smokingvehicle.org) or call toll free 800-453-SMOG (7664).