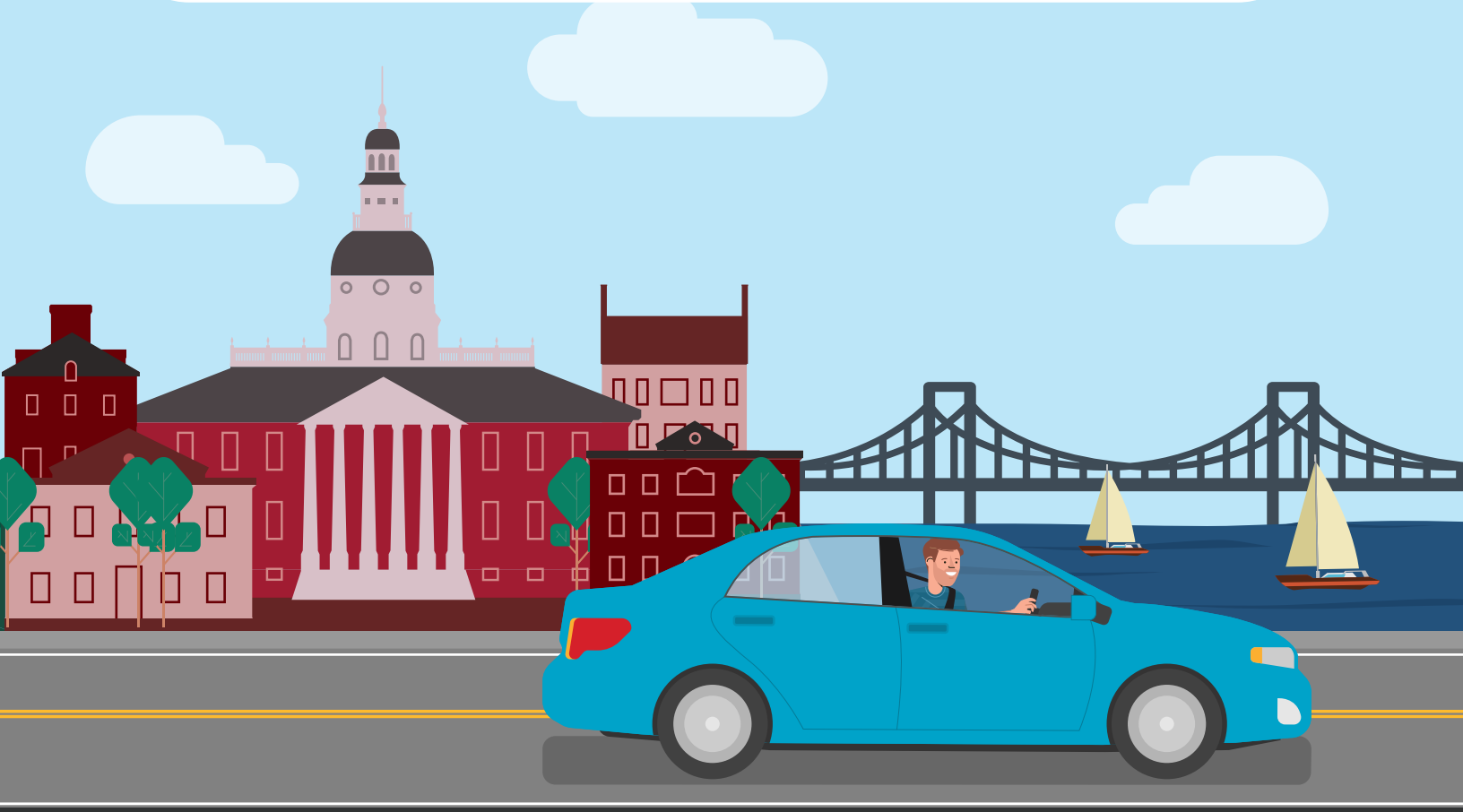
MARYLAND
Driver's Manual

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION™

MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION



For more information, visit:

mva.maryland.gov

6601 Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie, MD 21062

401-768-7000
TTY for the Hearing Impaired: 1-800-492-4575

MarylandMVA

MD_MVA

October 2026 Edition

Copyright © Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, 2026 All rights reserved. The Maryland Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT/MVA) owns the copyright to this work. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without express written permission from the MDOT/MVA.

All content may be used for free and is intended for the study of the Maryland Vehicle Law. Any unauthorized reprint, use, distribution, or sale of this material is prohibited. Please address any questions about producing copies or distribution of this manual to:

MVA Administrator
6601 Ritchie Highway N.E.
Glen Burnie, MD 21062.

DL-002 (10-26)

Administrator's Message

Dear Future Driver:

You are about to take steps to get a Maryland driver's license. This is an exciting time for any new driver! It is important to remember that driving is a privilege, and you play a part in making sure that everyone stays safe on our roads. There are many important things to know – this manual is your guide.

Be the Driver Who Saves Lives

As you travel Maryland's roads, you will come across drivers who are different ages and have different skill levels. But we all have one thing in common: a responsibility to each other to Be the Driver Who Saves Lives. That means keeping yourself and others safe on the road. As a new driver, it is very important to:

- Take your time.
- Understand the rules of the road.
- Listen and learn from your teachers and instructors.
- Treat other drivers and passengers with respect.

Like any other new skill you are learning, you will get better at driving with more experience on different roads, under different conditions, and in different environments. For example, driving in bad weather, in heavy traffic, and at different times of day. Each of us is responsible every time we get behind the wheel to:

- Drive sober.
- Pay attention.
- Wear a seat belt.
- Follow speed limits.
- Look twice for motorcycles.
- Share the road with pedestrians (people who are walking) and bicyclists.

It is up to you to make safe choices behind the wheel. Unfortunately, every day, thousands of drivers decide to drive distracted or impaired, speed, or take their aggression out on other people on the road. This puts themselves and others at risk. We all need to look out for each other.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) is committed to driver safety. Our goal is to reach zero fatalities (no deaths) on Maryland's roads, because even one life lost is one too many.

After reading this manual, test your understanding of the rules of the road by taking our Online Driver Test Tutorial. It is located on the MVA website, mva.maryland.gov/drivers.

We look forward to serving you.

Stay safe,

Administrator, MDOT MVA

Table of Contents

Section 1: Driving Tests Requirements . . 7

A. Vision Screening 7
B. Knowledge Test 7
C. Driving Skills Test 7
D. Reportable Medical Conditions 8

Section 2: Licensing Requirements and Process 9

A. Rookie Driver/Graduated Licensing System 9
B. Learner's Instructional Permit 9
C. Provisional License 10
D. Driver's License 11
E. Co-Signer of Minor's Application for a License 11
F. Co-Signer Cancellation of a Minor's License 11
G. Out-of-Country Licenses 11
H. Equity for All Customers 12

Section 3: Basic Driving 13

A. Drive Defensively 13
B. Right-of-Way 13
C. Understanding Vehicle Speed 14
D. Following Distance 15
E. Stopping Distance 15
F. Lane Driving 15
G. Turning 15
H. U-turn 15
I. Passing 16
J. General Parking Rules 16

Section 4: Signs, Signals and Pavement Markings 17

A. Traffic Signals 17
Vehicle Signals 17
Crosswalk Signals 19
B. Traffic Signs 20
Colors & Shapes 20
Regulatory Signs 21
Warning Signs 22
Other Traffic Sign Types 23
C. Pavement Markings 24
Types of Line Markings 24
Other Pavement Markings 25
Pedestrian and Bicycle Pavement Markings 25

Section 5: Driving Situations and Conditions 27

A. Driving in Reduced Visibility 27
B. Driving at Night 27
C. Driving in Fog 28
D. Driving in Inclement Weather 28
E. Skidding 29
F. Hydroplaning 29
G. Highway-Railroad Crossings 30
H. Work Zone Safety 30
I. Traffic Circles (Roundabouts) 31
J. Interstate Driving and Limited Access Highways 31
K. Funeral Processions 32
L. Slow Moving Vehicles 32

Section 6: Dangerous Driving Behaviors 33

A. Alcohol, Drugs and Driving 33
B. Aggressive Driving and Road Rage 34
C. Distracted Driving 34
D. Drowsy Driving 35

Section 7: Sharing the Road 37

A. Pedestrian Right-of-Way 37
B. Emergency Vehicles 37
C. Large Trucks and Buses 37
D. School Buses 38
E. Motorcycles 39
F. Bicycles 39
G. Mopeds and Scooters 41
H. Understanding Vehicle Technologies 41

Section 8: Crashes and Traffic Stops. . . . 43

A. Crashes 43
B. Roadside Emergencies 44
C. Traffic Stops 44
D. Move Over Law 45

Section 9: Other Restrictions, Violations and Penalties. 47

A. Restrictions 47
B. Drug and Alcohol Test – Implied Consent 47
C. Obtaining a False or Forged Identification Card, Driver's License or Learner's Instructional Permit 48
D. Administrative Actions 48
E. Penalties 49
F. Use of Disability Parking Spaces, License Plates and Placards 49

Section 10: Other Important Information 51

A. Medical Conditions to Report to MVA 51
B. Supervising Driver – Requirements and Responsibilities 51
C. Organ Donor 51
D. Register to Vote 52
E. Insurance Requirements 52
F. Seat Belt Law 52
G. Child Safety Seats 52
H. Air Bags 52
I. Braking with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) 52
J. Wearing of Headsets, Earphones and Earplugs Prohibited 53
K. Parallel Parking 53
L. Pull-In Parking, Back-In Parking, and Three-Point Turn 53
M. Rules and Tips for Bicyclists 53
N. Electric Low Speed Vehicles (Definitions) 54

Meet the drivers who are saving lives in Maryland.

be the driver who saves lives

Throughout the manual, our "Be the Driver" mascots will tell you about Maryland's safe driving campaigns, and provide important safety tips! For more information on the "Be the Driver" campaign, visit:

ZeroDeathsMD.gov

SECTION 1: Driving Tests Requirements

You must get a driver's license before driving a motor vehicle. Cars, vans, and pick-up trucks are examples of motor vehicles. To get a driver's license, you must take and pass some tests. These tests are called licensing requirements. Licensing requirements include a:

- Vision screening.
- Knowledge test.
- Driving skills test.

Some people may have to meet other requirements to show that they can drive safely. The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will let you know if you must meet other requirements.

A. Vision Screening

A vision screening tests how well you can see. The MVA or your eye doctor can do the screening.

To qualify for a driver's license, the applicant must have:

- Binocular vision.
- Visual acuity of at least 20/40 in each eye.
- A continuous field of vision of at least 140 degrees.

The MVA or your eye doctor can explain what this means. They can tell you if you meet these requirements.

If you need glasses or contact lenses to meet these requirements, you must always wear them when you drive. Your license will say that.

There is additional information on the MVA website for people who do not meet the vision requirements.

B. Knowledge Test

The knowledge test checks to see if you know about:

- Motor vehicle laws.
- Safe driving practices.
- Traffic signs.

This manual includes all the information you will be tested on. You take the knowledge test at an MVA location. There are 25 questions on the test. You will have 20 minutes to take the test. See Section 2.A. if you need special accommodations.

There is an Online Driver Test Tutorial on the MVA's website. The tutorial has practice questions that help you get ready for the knowledge test. **You should also study all the information in this manual to help you pass the knowledge test.**

C. Driving Skills Test

The driving test is how the MVA checks to see that you have the skills to drive safely and responsibly. The test includes driving on public roads and a special course at the testing location.

You must make an appointment to take the driver's skills test. To make an appointment, you can:

- Visit mva.maryland.gov and click on "Make an Appointment," or
- Call 410-768- 7000 or 1-800-492-4575 (TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing).

You take the driving skills test using a vehicle you bring to the test. It must meet the following requirements for you to use it for the test:

- The vehicle must have up-to-date license plates and registration.
- You must have proof that the vehicle is insured.

The vehicle must be:

- Safe to drive.
- Have no cracks or other things on the windshield that could affect your ability to see.
- Have at least a half tank of gas.

A "supervising driver" must come with you to the test site. Section 10 of this manual explains who supervising drivers are. Only you and the person giving you the test are allowed in the vehicle during the test. An interpreter that the MVA approves can also be in the car if you need one.

To help keep you and MVA employees healthy and safe:

- We encourage you to keep air flowing in the vehicle during the test. For example, by opening the windows. The person giving you the test may suggest other things.
- You can wear a mask during the test if you want.
- If you are not feeling well, you should reschedule your appointment.

D. Reportable Medical Conditions

You must let the MVA know if you have a medical condition that could affect your ability to drive. State law requires this. See Section 10 for a list of medical conditions you must report, and when to report them.

Did you know highway workers remove over two million pounds of litter from state roads each year? Fines for littering can cost up to $1500 or 30 days in prison.

SECTION 2: Licensing Requirements and Process

This section explains what you must do to get a Maryland driver's license. The information is for people who want a "noncommercial driver's" license. A noncommercial driver's license allows you to drive regular vehicles like cars, pickup trucks, and vans. It is also called a Class C driver's license.

To start the process, make an appointment to visit any MVA branch. When you apply, you must bring:

A document (record) that proves your age. This must include your full name. Examples are your birth certificate or passport.

- A document that proves your lawful status (for anyone born outside of the United States).
- Your Social Security Number (SSN), or proof that you are not eligible for a SSN.
- Two documents that prove that you live in Maryland.

You must bring original documents or copies certified by the agency that provided them to you. The MVA will not accept photocopies, notarized copies, or documents with changed or erased information.

Please visit our website for a complete list of the documents the MVA accepts.

A. Rookie Driver/Graduated Licensing System

The process you go through to get a noncommercial driver's license is called the Rookie Driver/Graduated Driver Licensing System (GLS). You go through the GLS process if you have never had a driver's license before. It applies to people of all ages who are eligible to apply for a driver's license. You start by getting a Learner's Instructional Permit and then a Provisional License. These steps give you driving experience before "graduating" to a Driver's License. Keep reading to learn more.

B. Learner's Instructional Permit

If you have never had a noncommercial, driver's license you must get a Type 1 Learner's Instructional Permit. The Permit lasts up to 2 years. You must pass a vision screening and knowledge test to get the Permit.

If you already have a driver's license and want a different class of driver's license, you must apply for a Type 2 Learner's Instructional Permit. You must be at least 16 years and 6 months old. The Type 2 Learner's Instructional Permit lasts for up to 180 days. You can take the driving test for a full license once you have had this Permit for at least 14 days.

The amount of time you must have a Learner's Instructional Permit before you are eligible for a Provisional License depends on your age. People who apply for a permit are called "applicants."

Applicants younger than 25:

- Must be at least 15 years and 9 months old.
- If under age 18, your parent or legal guardian must co-sign the application.
- If under age 16, you must provide a completed Learner's Permit School Attendance Certification form (DL-300).

While you have your Learner's Instructional Permit, you must:

- Complete the Maryland Driver Education Program. It helps new drivers learn information and skills needed to drive a motor vehicle. The MVA website lists driver's education schools approved to teach this program. **AND**

- Practice driving at least 60 hours with a supervising driver. These are called practice hours. At least 10 practice hours must occur during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise. **AND**
- Keep a Practice and Skills Log to record your practice hours. You can find the Practice and Skills Log on the MVA website.

Applicants 25 years old and older:

While you have your Learner's Instructional Permit, you must:

- Complete the Maryland Driver Education Program. **AND**
- Complete at least 14 practice hours with a supervising driver. At least 3 practice hours must occur during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise. **AND**
- Keep a Practice and Skills Log to record you practice hours. The Practice and Skills Log is on the MVA website.

You must have your permit for at least 45 days before the you are eligible for a Provisional License.

Violations

In some situations, you must have your permit longer before being eligible for a Provisional License:

- At any age, if you have been convicted of or given a Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) for a moving violation, you must hold the Learner's Instructional Permit at least 9 months following the most recent date you were convicted of or granted a PBJ for a moving violation. This also applies if you have been suspended for any reason. You must meet the rest of the GLS requirements described above before you are eligible to take a skills driving test.
- If you are under age 18, you must hold the Permit for at least 9 months without a violation before being eligible for a Provisional License.
- If you are age 18 with a high school diploma or GED, or age 19 to 24, you must hold the Permit for at least 3 months without a violation before being eligible for a Provisional License.

C. Provisional License

A Provisional Driver's License is issued to new drivers who have never held a driver's license. It permits you to drive without supervision but with restrictions. Restrictions are things like no passengers and no driving at night. You have a Provisional Driver's License for at least 18 months before being eligible for a regular Driver's License.

If you want to graduate from a Learner's Instructional Permit to a Provisional License, you must:

- Have successfully completed a Maryland approved driver education program.
- Have a valid, unexpired Learner's Instructional Permit.
- Hold a Learner's Instructional Permit without violations for the amount of time described above.
- Not be convicted of any moving violations or have been granted probation before judgment for any moving violations during time described above.
- Submit a completed and signed Practice and Skills Log. This must show that you completed at least 60 practice hours driving with a supervising driver (14 if you are 25 or older).
- Successfully pass the driving skills test.

D. Driver's License

A Driver's License is the last stage of the Graduated Driver Licensing System.

To be eligible for a Driver's License, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have had a Provisional License for at least 18 months.
- Have not been convicted of any moving violations or have been granted probation before judgment for any moving violations within the past 18 months.

When you have met all these requirements, the MVA will automatically switch your Provisional License to a Driver's License. A card showing the switch will be mailed to you. You must carry the card with your Provisional License.

E. Co-Signer of Minor's Application for a License

If you are younger than 18 years old, you are a minor. Minors must have a parent or legal guardian co-sign their application. That means you both sign it. You must provide proof that they are your parent or guardian. Examples of proof are:

- An original or certified birth certificate with your parent's name, or
- Court documents showing legal guardianship.

If you are married and your husband or wife is 18 or older, they can co-sign. You must provide proof that you are married.

If you do not have a parent, legal guardian or spouse, a responsible adult may co-sign if you are under 18. An adult employer is one example. In this case, you will need to provide proof like your parents' death certificates or proof of emancipation. Emancipation means a court has decided that a minor is no longer under their parents' control.

F. Co-Signer Cancellation of a Minor's License

The co-signer may cancel a minor's license by submitting a written request to the MVA's Administrative Adjudication Division. Your license remains canceled until you reach the age of 18, unless a co-signer co-signs a new application for you. They must meet the qualifications described above.

G. Out-of-Country Licenses

If you have a license from another country, you must successfully complete the following to get a Maryland license:

- Vision screening.
- Knowledge test.
- Driving skills test.
- A three-hour roadway safety driving education program approved by the MVA. You can find a list of these on the MVA website.

If your license from another country is not in English, you must also:

- Have an International License, or
- Have your license translated into English.

Document translations must be prepared by (and on the letterhead of):

- An MVA approved provider or court translator, OR
- The embassy of the country of origin.

These documents must contain the:

- Typed/printed name of the translator, AND
- Telephone number, AND
- Signature of the translator.

H. Equity for All Customers

For Foreign Language Customers

The MVA offers several documents and tests in other languages for customers who need that.

If you have difficulty communicating in English, you may be able to use an interpreter when you visit the MVA, especially when taking the knowledge test or driving test. If we offer the knowledge test in the language that you speak, you must take it at least 5 times before using an interpreter. You can find a list of approved interpreters on our website.

NOTE: The MVA does not charge a fee for using an interpreter. However, you will have to pay the interpreter for their services.

If you have an interpreter and/or translator when you visit the MVA, they must show a valid photo identification card (either a state driver's license or identification card) before providing on-site interpretation and/or translation services. MVA staff will confirm that the interpreter/translator is on our approved list.

For Customers with Disabilities

The MVA provides accommodations to its customers with disabilities taking the knowledge and driver's skills tests. This includes:

- Additional time for test taking.
- Sign language support (American Sign Language and Certified Deaf Interpreters)
- Oral testing.
- Screen Readers.
- Headphones.
- Visual Aids.

MVA provides accommodations based on each person's needs. Please contact customer service at: feedback.mva.maryland.gov

Developmental Disability Disclosure Card

If you have a developmental disability, you can choose to carry a Developmental Disability Disclosure Card with your license. It is a blue card the size of a driver's license. It includes space to provide details about your disability, how best to communicate with you, and other information you may want to share with law enforcement.

Carrying a Developmental Disability Disclosure Card is voluntary – you decide if you want one. You or your parent or guardian can get a card by visiting the information desk at any MVA location. MVA will NOT ask you to provide information or documentation about your disability to get this card.

SECTION 3: Basic Driving

Before you drive:

- You and your vehicle should be in good condition to drive.
- You must have a valid Learner's Permit or driver's license, and vehicle registration card with you.
- You should adjust your seat and mirrors, and
- You should make sure you and all passengers are wearing a seat belt.

A. Drive Defensively

A basic rule of driving is that, at all times, the driver should control the vehicle to avoid a crash. When you drive a motor vehicle, you are responsible for operating it safely. This will reduce risks for yourself, your passengers, and others using the road.

Visual Search/Driver Awareness

You must make constant decisions to be a safe driver. To do this, you must know what is happening around your vehicle at all times. Constantly observing your surroundings helps you to see problems that may cause you to change speed or change lanes. This includes watching the front, sides, and rear of your vehicle.

By searching ahead and being ready to change speed or change lanes, you can drive more safely and have time to identify risks. This is called defensive driving.

Risk Management

Operating a motor vehicle is a risky activity. Consider the following steps to manage risk and be a safe and responsible driver:

- Adjust your speed, position, and direction to respond to road conditions.
- Keep control of your vehicle.
- Increase the time you have to respond to what is happening around you.
- Let other drivers know what you plan to do by using turn signals, etc.
- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and other people using the road.
- Do not assume that other drivers will do what they are supposed to do.
- Always be careful.

B. Right-of-Way

Right-of-way rules help keep everyone on the road safe. These rules state when you should "yield the right-of-way" to others. Yielding the right-of-way means letting other vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians move ahead of you or cross the road in front of you. It means letting them go first.

Although the rules state who should yield the right-of-way in different situations, never assume you automatically have the right-of-way (the right to go first). You must always consider the situation and circumstances.

You should yield the right-of-way to:

- The driver who is at or arrives before you at an intersection.
- The driver on your right, if both of you arrive at an intersection at the same time.

- The driver on your right at a four-way intersection with stop signs.
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are still in an intersection.
- Drivers already on the road as you stop at a "T" intersection.
- Other drivers, if you are approaching an intersection with a yield sign facing you.
- Drivers in the opposing traffic lane, when you are making a left turn. The opposing traffic lane is the one with vehicles going in the opposite direction.
- Drivers on a road you are entering from a driveway or a private road.
- Drivers already on a highway, if you are on the entrance or acceleration ramp.

C. Understanding Vehicle Speed

Signs along the road tell you what the speed limit is. The posted speed limit is the maximum legal speed you can travel on a road under ideal (perfect) conditions. You should not drive faster than the speed limit. You are responsible for always driving at a safe speed.

It is safest to drive at the same speed that most traffic is moving, up to the maximum speed limit. Driving at a speed lower than other traffic encourages other vehicles to constantly pass you. This increases the chances of a crash.

Speeding

Driving over the speed limit is one of the most common causes of vehicle crashes. Excessive speed does not save time and often leads to decisions that put people at risk. Driving over the speed limit has severe and often disastrous effects because it:

- Reduces your ability to handle curves and drive around obstacles in the road.
- Takes longer to stop your vehicle.
- Decreases your ability to recognize and react to a hazard or dangerous situation.
- Increases the risk of crashes because other vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians may not be able to judge your distance accurately.
- Increases the force and impact in a crash, which more likely results in serious injuries and deaths.

Appropriate Speed for Conditions

You must recognize and adjust your speed to adverse (bad) conditions. Maryland Vehicle Law requires you to drive at a reasonable speed and be aware of existing and potential hazards. You may drive slower than the posted speed limit, based on road conditions, but it is illegal to drive any faster than the posted speed limit.

You should reduce your speed in the following conditions to stay safe:

- Sharp curves or hills – where it is hard to see.
- Slippery roads.
- Roads where there may be pedestrians or animals.
- Shopping centers, parking lots, and downtown areas.
- Heavy traffic.
- Narrow bridges and tunnels.
- Toll plazas.
- Schools, playgrounds, and residential streets.
- Railroad grade crossings. This is when the railroad tracks are level with the road.

D. Following Distance

Always keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. Most rear-end crashes are caused by following too closely. The MVA recommends a minimum following distance of 3 to 4 seconds under ideal driving conditions. This means it takes 3 to 4 seconds to get to the same reference point as the car ahead of you. A reference point is an object ahead, like a bridge, overpass, sign, or mile marker. Choose a reference point to determine if you are following at a safe distance. As the car in front of you passes that object, begin counting 1 one thousand, 2 one thousand, 3 one thousand, etc. If you reach 3 one thousand or more before your car reaches the object, you are at least 3 seconds behind the car in front of you and traveling at a safe distance.

When following vehicles that stop often (buses, delivery vans), you should increase the distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you to four or five seconds, and possibly more if needed.

E. Stopping Distance

The distance it takes to stop your vehicle is important to help you choose a safe driving speed. Your stopping distance will depend upon many things, including:

- The amount of time it takes you to see that there is a dangerous situation.
- The type and condition of the road.
- The condition of your tire treads.
- The condition of your vehicle's brakes.

You are responsible for controlling your vehicle to avoid a crash.

F. Lane Driving

You should drive your vehicle in a single lane. Do not switch lanes until you determine it is safe to do so. You should not drift across lane lines or make lane changes when in an intersection.

Generally, you should keep your vehicle to the right of the center of the road, unless:

- You are passing another vehicle going in the same direction,
- There is a traffic sign or signal saying it is okay to do so, or
- There is something in the way that makes it necessary for you to change your position safely.

G. Turning

When turning, you should:

- Look for signs and signals that say when you can turn.
- Plan your turn before reaching the turning point.
- Switch on your turn signal before you get to the turn to let other drivers know what you plan to do.
- Look in front, behind, and to both sides of your vehicle to make sure it is safe to turn.
- Adjust your speed for the turn.

H. U-turn

U-turns can be extremely dangerous and are not legal everywhere. If you must make a U-turn, first check to see if U-turns are allowed. If they are, turn on your left turn signal and stop and yield for traffic coming toward you. When the way is clear, turn into the outside or right-hand lane traveling in the opposite direction.

I. Passing

When passing other vehicles is allowed, you must:

- Estimate the time and space needed to pass and be sure you can pass without getting in the way of any other vehicle.
- Use your turn signal before passing so drivers around you know what you plan to do.
- Leave plenty of space and go around the other vehicle at a safe distance.
- See both headlights of the passed vehicle in your rear-view mirror before returning to the lane you came from.

Generally, you should pass on the left side of the other vehicle. However, it is ok to pass on the right side if it is safe to do so, you stay on the road, and:

- The other vehicle is about to make a left turn.
- You are on an unobstructed road with two or more lanes moving in the same direction. Unobstructed means there are no median strips, signs, or other things in the way.
- You are on an unobstructed one-way road with two or more lanes.

When being passed by another vehicle, you must yield to the other vehicle and not increase your speed.

You may not pass:

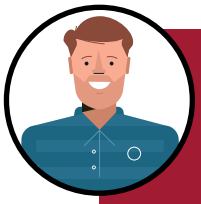
- When you are in a no-passing zone.
- Where the solid yellow line in the middle of the road is on your side.
- Where there are double solid yellow lines.
- When passing will interfere with the safe operation of other vehicles.
- When approaching the top of a hill or on a curve and you cannot clearly see ahead.
- When your view is obstructed as you come within 100 feet of a bridge, elevated road, or tunnel.
- When crossing or within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad grade crossing.
- On the shoulder of the road, either to the right or to the left.

J. General Parking Rules

You are responsible for making sure that your vehicle is not a hazard when it is parked. This means it doesn't cause harm to anyone. You should always:

- Park in areas that are clearly meant for parking.
- When parking along the road, park your vehicle as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, park as close to it as possible.
- Set your parking brake when you park.
- Place the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission or in 'park' if it has an automatic transmission.

- Check your mirrors and traffic before opening the door. Shut the door as soon as you can after getting out.
- Take your car keys with you. It is a good habit to lock the doors whenever you leave your vehicle.



In areas where you see "stay right" signs, drive in the right-hand lane or lanes unless you are passing a vehicle.

SECTION 4: Signs, Signals and Pavement Markings

Everyone must obey traffic control devices. Traffic control devices are traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings (lines on the road) that regulate, warn, and guide traffic. Failing to obey traffic control devices is a major cause of crashes.

The only time you do not have to obey all traffic control devices is when one of the following tells you to do something different:

- A police officer or other emergency personnel.
- A school crossing guard in uniform directing traffic near a school.

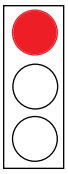
When you come to an intersection, you may not drive across private property or leave the road to avoid obeying a traffic control device.

When a traffic signal is not working:

- You must stop at a clearly marked stop line. A stop line is a wide white line painted across the road that shows where you must stop at an intersection.
- If there is no clearly marked stop line, you must stop before entering a crosswalk.
- If there is no clearly marked stop line or crosswalk, you must stop before entering the intersection.
- You must yield to vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection, and remain stopped until it is safe to enter and continue through the intersection.

A. Traffic Signals

Vehicle Signals



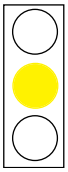
1. Steady Red Signal

Come to a complete stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk and before entering the intersection. Remain stopped as long as the signal is red.

Unless a sign prohibits turning on red, after coming to a complete stop, you may:

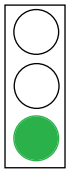
- Turn right, or
- Turn left from a one-way street to another one-way street.

When turning on a red signal, you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and all other traffic.



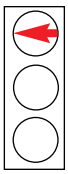
2. Steady Yellow Signal

This means that the signal is changing from green to red. It gives you time to stop safely. It also provides time for vehicles already in the intersection to get through the intersection before the signal turns red. If you are too close to the intersection to stop safely, carefully continue through the intersection.



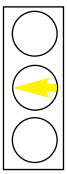
3. Steady Green Signal

Proceed with caution after you have checked first to see that no other vehicles are in the intersection. This means be careful and pay close attention. When it is safe to proceed, you may enter the intersection to go straight-ahead or turn unless a sign or another signal prohibits the turn. You must yield to pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.



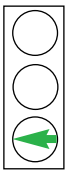
4. Steady Red Arrow Signal

If you want to go in the direction the arrow is pointing to, come to a complete stop before reaching the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. Remain stopped as long as the arrow signal is red.



5. Steady Yellow Arrow Signal

This means that permission to turn in the direction of the arrow is ending. You should slow down and proceed with caution.



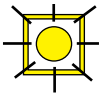
6. Steady Green Arrow Signal

Proceed with caution in the direction the arrow points. Remember that you must yield to all pedestrians and vehicles already in the intersection.

7. Flashing Red Signal

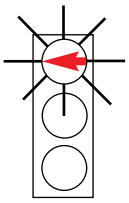
Come to a complete stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk and before entering the intersection. Yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Proceed when the way is clear.

If a flashing red signal is located at a railroad crossing, you must come to a complete stop, even if you do not see a train. Proceed when the flashing red signal stops and the way is clear.



8. Flashing Yellow Signal

You must slow down and proceed with caution.



9. Flashing Red Arrow Signal

Come to a complete stop before reaching the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. Yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Proceed in the direction of the arrow when the way is clear.

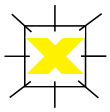
10. Lane Use Signals

On some roads, traffic in some lanes can go in one direction during certain hours of the day, and the other direction during other hours. This is based on how heavy traffic is at different times of day. These are called reversible lanes. Lane use signals tell you which direction you can go. The lanes and their directions may be marked with signs, signals, and markings.

You must never drive in a lane under a red "X" signal.

You may drive in a lane under a green arrow signal.

A steady yellow "X" signal means you should move out of the lane as soon as you safely can.



A flashing yellow "X" signal or two-way left-turn arrows mean you can use the lane for a left turn. You will likely be sharing the lane with left-turning vehicles coming from the opposite direction.

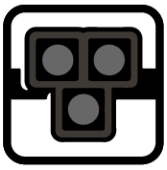
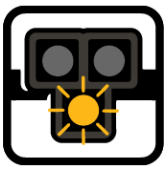
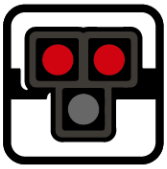
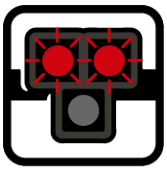
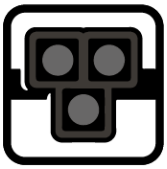
Vehicle Signals

A crosswalk signal stops traffic so pedestrians can cross the road safely. Pedestrians use the signal by pushing a button on a pole on the side of the road. It tells drivers to stop and then tells pedestrians to cross. Below are the signals that pedestrians and drivers see.

Pedestrians:

See This	Do This
	Stop. Push button to cross.
	Wait!
	Continue to wait.
	Look both ways. Start crossing after traffic has stopped.
	Don't start. Finish crossing if started.
	Stop. Traffic has started moving.

Drivers:

See This	Do This
	Go.
	Flashing yellow. Slow down.
	Solid yellow. Get ready to stop.
	Solid red. Stop!
	Flashing red. Stop. Proceed with caution.
	Proceed with caution.

B. Traffic Signs

Colors & Shapes

Traffic signs use symbols and words to communicate information. You should be able to quickly identify traffic signs by their shapes and colors, and the words, numbers, or symbols on them. The main background color of a traffic sign can quickly tell you what kind of information it has.

Red - Stop, yield, do not enter, or wrong way.

Yellow - General warning of what to expect ahead.

White - Speed limit, keep right, and some guide signs.

Orange - Construction and maintenance work area warning.

Green - Destinations, distances, and directions.

Blue - Services like food, gas, and rest area signs.

Brown - Recreation and cultural interest areas.

Fluorescent Yellow-Green - School, pedestrian and bicycle signs.

Fluorescent Pink - Emergency traffic incidents.

Black - One Way signs and signs that change messages.

Octagon: Stop

The octagonal (eight-sided) shape always means stop. You must come to a complete stop.

Triangle: Yield

Slow down and, if necessary, stop to give the right-of- way to other vehicles and pedestrians.

Diamond: Warning

These signs warn you of special conditions or hazards ahead. You may have to slow down, so be ready to take appropriate action.

Pennant: No Passing

Marks the start of a no passing zone. Do not pass other vehicles.

Rectangle: Regulatory or Guide

Vertical signs usually give instructions or tell you the rules of the road. Horizontal signs usually give directions or information.

Pentagon: School Zone and School Crossing

The pentagon (five-sided) shape warns you of school zones and marks school crossings.

Round: Railroad Warning

Used to warn that there is a railroad crossing ahead.

Crossbuck: Highway—Rail Grade Crossing

Identifies the location of a railroad crossing.

Trapezoid

Recreation and cultural interest areas and National Forest Routes.

Regulatory Signs

These signs are about traffic laws. You must obey them.

1. 8-Sided Sign, White Letters on Red

The stop sign is the only 8-sided sign you will see on the road. When you come to a stop sign:

- You must make a complete stop at the stop line.
- If there is no stop line, stop before entering a crosswalk.
- If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection.

You must yield to vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection; and remain stopped until it is safe to enter and continue through the intersection.

2. 3-Sided Sign, Red Letters on White

The yield sign is the only sign shaped like this. Slow down as you come to a yield sign. Look to the left and the right. Yield to pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. Once you have yielded to vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, you may proceed only when you can do so safely.

3. Rectangular (4-Sided) Signs, Black on White

These signs regulate traffic. This sign tells you the maximum speed limit for the part of the road where it is posted.

No Right Turn

No Left Turn

No U-Turn

No Turns

Left Turn Only

Do Not Enter

No Parking

No Turn on Red

Do Not Pass

Stay to the Right of Median

Left Turn Yield on Green

Bike Lane

Wrong Way

Reserved for People with Disability Parking Permits

Two-way Left

Vehicles traveling in either direction can use the center lane to turn left.

One Way

Traffic can only go in the direction of the arrow.

High Occupancy Vehicles

You may only use this lane if you have the number of people that is marked on the sign.

Warning Signs

These signs provide notice to road users of a situation that might not be readily apparent.

Stop Ahead

Yield Ahead

Signal Ahead

Sharp Right Turn

Pedestrian Crossing

Traffic Circle/ Roundabout

Speed Limit

Exit Ramp Advisory Speed

No Passing Zone

Two Roads Merging

Road Divides Ahead

Divided Road Ends Ahead

Road Curves

Sharp Turns

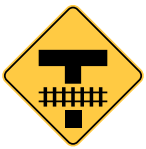
Road Curves

Side Road Enters Ahead

Lane Ends Merge Left

Intersection

"T" Intersection Ahead


Railroad before "T" Intersection

Steep Hill

Slippery When Wet

Lane Ends

Truck Crossing

Trail Crossing

Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing

Deer or Other Wildlife Crossing

Flagger Ahead

Roadwork Ahead

Detour

School Crossing Ahead

School Bus Stop Ahead

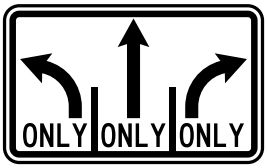
Begin Work Zone

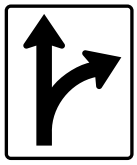
End Active Work Zone

Work Zone Active when Flashing (increased fines)

Overhead Lane Use

You will see these signs above the road. They provide information about destinations, directions, and how to use the lanes.





Route Marker Signs

Some roads are numbered. They are called route numbers. These signs identify the route number and the type of road.

Intersection

U.S. Route

State Route

Service Information and Guide Signs

These signs identify the businesses and services you can find if you take certain exits.

Park and Ride

Destination Guide

General Services Sign

Lodging

Hospital

Gas

Food

Airport

Train Station

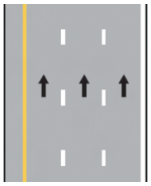
Mile Marker Signs

These are located every mile on interstate highways. They provide location information you can use if you need someone to find you. For example, a tow truck or emergency personnel.

C. Pavement Markings

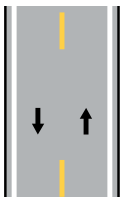
Types of Line Markings

Pavement markings are lines on the road. They provide important guidance and information without requiring you to look away from the road. You should recognize all the following pavement markings and understand what they mean. Lines may be extra wide in some locations and/or have reflective markers attached to draw your attention and help you see the lines.



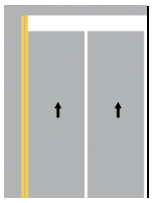
Single Broken - White

Separates lanes where all traffic is going in the same direction, and crossing from one lane to the other is permitted. Used on roads with more than one lane.



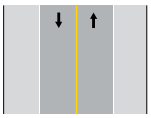
Single Broken - Yellow

Separates lanes where vehicles are traveling in opposite directions, and passing with care is permitted in either direction. Used as the center line on 2-lane, 2-way roads.



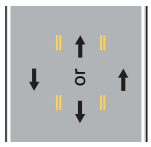
Single Solid - White

Marks the right edge of the road. Also separates lanes where all vehicles are going in the same direction, but lane changing is discouraged.



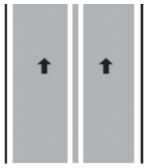
Single Solid - Yellow

Marks left edge lines on divided highways, one-way roads, and ramps. A divided highway has a guardrail, strip of land, or other barrier between traffic traveling in each direction.



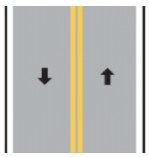
Double (side-by-side) Broken - Yellow

Marks the edges of reversible lanes – lanes where traffic flows in one direction some times and the other direction other times. You may enter and exit the lane based on what traffic signs and signals say is permitted.



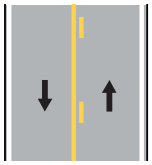
Double (side-by-side) Solid - White

Separates lanes where all traffic is going in the same direction and you are not allowed to change lanes. May also be used to separate general lanes from HOV lanes. Also, may be used before obstructions that you may pass on either side.



Double (side-by-side) Solid - Yellow

Separates lanes where traffic is going in opposite directions and passing is not allowed in either direction. You may make a left turn across a double solid yellow line. For example, when turning into a driveway.

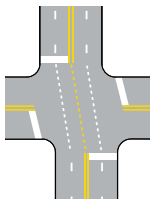


Solid plus Broken - Yellow

Used on two-way roads where passing is permitted in only one direction. Careful passing is:

- Allowed for traffic on the side of the broken line.
- Not allowed for traffic on the side of the solid line.

Also used to mark the edges of two-way left turn lanes – solid lines are on the outside and broken lines are on the inside.



Single Dotted– Yellow or White

Continues lane lines through intersections. Drivers in intersections should stay inside the lane markings.

Other Pavement Markings

Other pavement markings are critical to safe driving. It is also important to recognize and understand them. They include:

Stop Line

White, solid line that shows where a vehicle must stop for a STOP sign or red traffic signal.

Yield Lines

Rows of small triangles across the lane that show where a vehicle must yield to other vehicles or pedestrians.

Word and Symbol Markings

Markings that tell you:

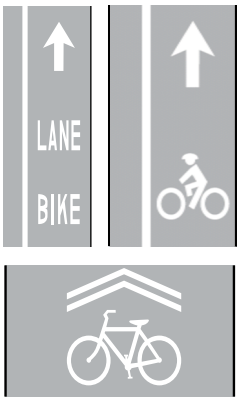
- How to use a lane.
- About lane reductions (for example, the road is changing from two lanes to just one).
- What direction to travel.
- Markings used with arrows or other word messages to show how you may move in that lane.
- 'SCHOOL' and 'RxR' markings to warn that you are approaching school areas and railroad crossings.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Pavement Markings

Most Maryland roads that bicycles share with motor vehicles don't have specific traffic signs or pavement markings. Some roads do have shared-use lane markings (see photos). They are mostly in cities. These markings:

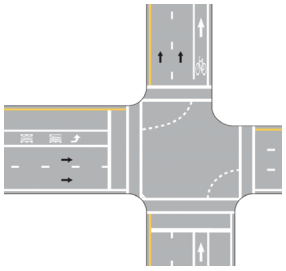
- Alert drivers that bicyclists may be on the road,
- Tell bicyclists where to ride, and
- Discourage biking in the wrong direction.

Some roads have pavement markings that show lanes that are just for bicycles. Solid or broken white lines separate these bike lanes from motor vehicle lanes. You may see bike lanes marked with bike lane signs or by bicycle symbols and arrows.



Where parallel parking is allowed, similar lines may separate the bicycle lanes from the parking lanes.

Pedestrian crosswalk lines are white, solid lines that show where pedestrians cross. Crosswalks may have additional lines between the white, solid lines or in place of them.



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour (mph) or higher is:

- More than twice as likely to result in death than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph.
- Nearly five times as likely to result in death than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or lower.

Be the SLOW DOWN Driver urges drivers to obey speed limits. If you have a need for speed, stick to playing video games.

Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to prevent death and serious injury in a car crash. Be the BUCKLED UP Driver and wear your seat belt – every trip, every ride, front seat or back seat. About 90 percent of Maryland drivers and passengers wear their seat belt, but our goal is 100 percent. Each year, hundreds of drivers and passengers not wearing a seat belt are seriously injured or killed on our roads. Most of those injuries and deaths could have been avoided if those people were buckled up at the time of their crash. It takes three seconds to buckle up but it can make a lifetime of difference.

For more information, visit:

ZeroDeathsMD.gov.

SECTION 5: Driving Situations and Conditions

A. Driving in Reduced Visibility

Visibility is your ability to clearly see everything around you on the road, like other vehicles, pedestrians, road signs, signals, and pavement markings. Reduced or low visibility means it is harder to see these things. Different things can cause reduced visibility, but the most common ones are darkness, fog, heavy rain, and snow.

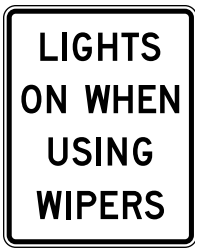
Driving when visibility is reduced is more difficult than "normal" driving and requires more concentration and preparation. When driving in reduced visibility situations, remember:

- Use the lines on the edge of the road or the right side of the road as a guide.
- Yellow pavement markings should never be on your right side. They should always be on your left side. Yellow is used to divide traffic going in opposite directions. It marks the left edge of the road.
- White pavement markings mark the right edge of the road. They also divide traffic traveling in the same direction.

When to Use Your Headlights

Knowing when and how to use your headlights is critical for safe driving. Use your headlights to help you see when visibility is low. Using your headlights also helps oncoming traffic see you.

Here are some basic rules for headlight use:



- When driving, you must turn on your headlights anytime there is not enough light to clearly see at least 1,000 feet in front of your vehicle.
- Nighttime, foggy conditions, and stormy weather are important times to use headlights.
- Maryland law requires that you turn on your headlights when using your windshield wipers in inclement weather. Inclement weather is bad weather that might cause unsafe conditions.

Low Beam or High Beam Headlights

Use low beams when:

- Driving in normal driving situations, like driving at night on a road with streetlights.
- Driving in fog, rain, snow, etc.
- Entering a tunnel or construction area. (The law does not always require this, but it makes it easier for other drivers and construction workers to see you.)

Use high beams on roads without streetlights so you can see other vehicles and people. You must:

- Change to low beams at least 500 feet before reaching vehicles coming toward you.
- Change to low beams when following a vehicle that is 300 feet or less in front of you.

B. Driving at Night

Driving at night is more risky and more difficult than daytime driving. It is harder to judge how far away other vehicles are and how fast they are moving. You can see only as far as your headlights allow. There are more risks at night because you cannot see as well. That makes it difficult to clearly see where you are going and what other drivers are doing.

Here are some suggestions to follow when driving at night:

- Make sure you use your headlights and follow the suggestions for when to use high beams.
- Do not stare into the headlights of traffic coming toward you in the opposite lane. This will make it hard for you to see. Instead, look at the road in front of you, or slightly to the right of the lane you are traveling in (you can look at the right edge of your lane or the edge of the road).
- Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. This will help prevent a crash if the vehicle in front of you needs to stop quickly.

C. Driving in Fog

There are some unique challenges to driving in fog that require you to be especially careful. Below are some guidelines and requirements for driving when it is foggy:

- Reduce your normal driving speed.
- When you see headlights or another vehicle's taillights ahead, reduce your speed even more. You must be prepared to stop quickly.
- If the fog is so thick that you cannot safely drive your vehicle, pull completely off the road to a safe location and turn on your emergency flashers.
- Use low beam headlights only. Also use fog lights if you have them.

D. Driving in Inclement Weather

Wet roads can be slippery, reducing traction and increasing the chances of a crash. Traction is the grip between your tires and the road that makes it possible for your vehicle to start, stop, and change direction. When you have good traction, you can better control your vehicle.

Risks increase when roads are covered with snow and/or ice. When you drive in inclement weather, you must concentrate more and be better prepared.

When driving in inclement weather, it is important to think ahead and take action to stay safe – not just react to what other drivers do. This will help you avoid a crash. Some things you can do to stay safe when driving in inclement weather include:

- Keep a safe distance - the space needed between you and the car in front of you is much greater on wet roads than in dry roads. You need even more space when the road is covered with snow or ice.
- Reduce your speed so you have more time to react.
- Make sure your tires have good tread, based on what the company that made the tires recommends and the guidelines for your vehicle.
- Avoid slamming on your brakes because this may cause your vehicle to skid. If your vehicle does not have an anti-lock braking system, pump the brakes to prevent skidding.
- Avoid jerking the steering wheel or quickly changing speed.

Ramps and bridges freeze before roads. Also, plowed roads may refreeze at night or have icy patches from snow that melted during the day.

- Make sure your windshield wipers are working well.
- Use your headlights.

Driving on Snow/Ice

There is no such thing as a "completely safe" speed on ice and snow. In winter weather, every road may be different depending upon sun, shade, the amount of salt on the road, and other conditions. Watch ahead for danger spots. It can be very hard or impossible to see a thin layer of ice on blacktop (asphalt) roads. This is sometimes called black ice. It is caused by ice or snow melting and re-freezing. It can cause a crash if you are not aware of the danger.

Four-wheel drive vehicles can also slide on ice and snow. You might have more control with a four-wheel drive vehicle but driving on snow or ice is always dangerous and unpredictable. You should be very careful at all times.

Suggestions when driving in snow or ice are:

- Slow down; nothing makes it safe for you to drive on ice or snow-covered roads at normal speeds.
- Keep your windows and lights clear. Remove all ice and snow from your vehicle before driving.
- Start very slowly, then test your brakes gently to find out how well you can stop.
- Start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or turn.
- Keep your gas tank and windshield washer fluid full.
- Use chains, snow tires, or radial tires on designated snow emergency routes when a snow emergency is declared.

Emergency Kit Supplies:

You should keep an emergency kit in your car that contains:

- Flares
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Kitty litter or sand (for traction on snow and ice)
- Small shovel and ice scraper

E. Skidding

Traction between your tires and the road is not always the same. For example, sand, gravel, uneven road surfaces, oil slicks/spills, increased speed, or water on the road decreases traction. The possibility of skidding or sliding increases when traction decreases.

If your vehicle begins to skid, it is important to know what to do to regain control as quickly as possible. Basic rules include:

- Release the accelerator (gas pedal) or brake pedal, whichever one you are using, to regain control of your vehicle.
- Steer in the direction you are skidding.
- Look where you want your vehicle to go.
- Press on your brake pedal only after you have traction again – when your tires are gripping the road again.
- Slowly accelerating (pressing on the gas) may help if your back wheels lose traction.

F. Hydroplaning

Water on the road can cause problems for drivers. As your vehicle speed increases and the amount of water on the road increases, you can

end up riding on a sheet of water. When this happens, your tires lose contact with the road. This is called "hydroplaning." Hydroplaning can cause you to lose some or all control of your vehicle. To prevent hydroplaning, keep your tires in good condition, and lower your speed on wet roads. If you start to lose control:

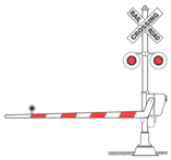
- Take your foot off the gas.
- Do not apply your brakes.
- Keep your vehicle going straight.
- Slow down until you get control back.

G. Highway-Railroad Crossings

Remember, trains cannot stop quickly. So, use extra caution when approaching and driving over railroad crossings.

When you approach a railroad crossing:

- Be aware of other vehicles that may be stopping before the railroad crossing. Buses, school buses, and trucks carrying hazardous materials must stop before every railroad crossing.
- Look for a train at any time. Trains can come from either direction, and they may be closer and traveling faster than they appear.
- The road is temporarily closed if gates are down or warning lights are flashing. Stop and wait until the gates go up and the warning lights stop flashing.



- After a train passes, look both ways before starting over the tracks. Always make sure the tracks are clear before crossing. Another train may be coming on another track.
- Never start to cross the tracks unless you can get completely over before the train comes. Make sure there is room for your vehicle on the other side of the tracks before crossing.
- If you have an emergency on or near a railroad crossing, get out of the vehicle and move away from the tracks. Report emergencies and safety problems at railroad crossings using the information on the blue and white Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign.

H. Work Zone Safety

A work zone is a specific area on a road or highway where construction, maintenance, or utility work is happening, typically marked by signs and traffic control devices. This area may have disrupted traffic flow, and workers, vehicles, and equipment around. Work zones can be temporary or long-term, and might have lane closures, detours, and other changes to the normal traffic pattern.

Work zones may be stationary, like when a bridge is being widened, or may move down the road slowly, like a pavement striping project. Work zones can mean unexpected conditions, like:

- New traffic patterns
- Temporary traffic control devices (signs, cones, barrels, signals or pavement markings)
- Narrow lanes
- Lane shifts
- Lane and shoulder closures
- Pavement drop-offs/uneven surfaces
- Reduced sight distance

- Detours
- Slow moving equipment and construction vehicles merging back into traffic

Orange is the color for work zones. If you see orange signs when driving, pay close attention and be prepared for unexpected driving conditions ahead.

When driving through a work zone, watch for temporary traffic control devices such as signs, cones, barrels, signals or pavement markings. They will help safely guide you through a work zone.

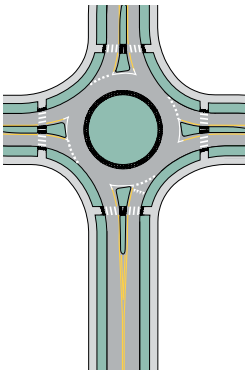
Work zones are set up with your safety in mind. Follow these safety rules while driving in work zones:

- Stay alert – make safety your first priority.
- Flashing lights in a work zone means there are workers present. Pay close attention – obey work zone signs, slow down and watch for workers.
- Watch your speed – obey posted speed limits and be aware that there may be speed cameras. Speeding fines may be much higher in work zones and even higher if workers are present. Flashing blue lights mean the speed cameras are active.
- Flashing green lights may also be found on highway maintenance vehicles or service equipment in and before work zones.
- Expect the unexpected – work zone conditions change constantly so be ready to react, including coming to a complete stop if traffic in front of you stops.
- Minimize distractions – avoid using cell phones, changing radio stations, eating and other distractions.
- Respect others – merge carefully, do not tailgate, and don't change lanes unless you have to.
- Obey the flagger's directions.

Lights In Work Zones	
Flashing amber/yellow lights	Active work zone/workers present
Flashing blue lights	Active speed cameras
Flashing green lights	Highway maintenance vehicles

I. Traffic Circles (Roundabouts)

Roads that lead to traffic circles have yield signs. When you come to a traffic circle, you must always yield to traffic already in the circle. Be cautious when approaching a traffic circle just like with other intersections. As you come to a traffic circle:



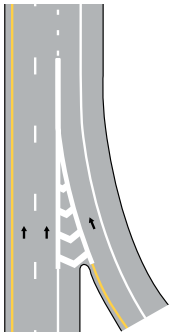
- Reduce your speed.
- Keep to the right of the island.
- Watch for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Cautiously approach the yield line and wait for a gap in traffic. Watch for vehicles exiting the traffic circle. You do not need to wait to enter the traffic circle if there is no traffic in it.

If the traffic circle has more than one lane, stay in your lane. When preparing to exit, turn on your right turn signal and move to the outside lane after you pass the exit before the one you plan to take.

J. Interstate Driving and Limited Access Highways

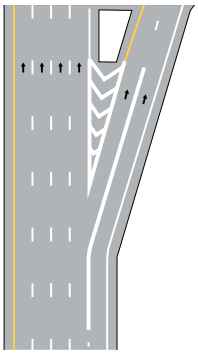
"Limited access highways" are large roads with no intersections or traffic lights. They have a limited number of places to enter and exit the road. An "interstate" is a type of limited access highway that crosses from one state to another.

For Vehicles Entering



Interstate and other limited access highways are usually reached by an entrance ramp and an acceleration lane. You use the entrance ramp to get to the highway. You use the acceleration lane to adjust your speed to the flow of traffic already on the interstate. When entering an interstate or other limited access highway, you should not cross the solid lines that divide the entrance and the highway. If you are driving slower than the speed of traffic on the highway, you must drive in the right lane whenever possible.

For Vehicles Exiting



Move to the right lane well before you reach the exit you plan to take. Start slowing down as soon as you enter the deceleration lane. The deceleration lane leads you to the exit ramp and gives you time to start slowing down to a safe speed. Continue slowing to the posted speed limit for the exit ramp. If you exit at the wrong place, continue until you are off the exit ramp. Then look for a way to re-enter the road. Never stop and back up on any part of the highway.

Stopping

You are not allowed to stop in the lanes where traffic is moving on an interstate or other highway. You may stop on the shoulder, but only when your vehicle is disabled (stops running) or you have another emergency. If you must stop on the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers to warn other drivers and stay inside your vehicle if you can. It is very dangerous to stand or walk along an interstate or other highway because traffic is traveling at very high speeds.

K. Funeral Processions

When you drive in a funeral procession you must turn on your headlights and flashing hazard lights so other vehicles give you the right-of-way.

You may go through a red traffic signal if you are part of a funeral possession and have your lights on.

Even if they have a green signal, other vehicles must yield the right-of-way to vehicles in a funeral procession. They must yield until all vehicles in the procession have passed, unless they can safely proceed without crossing the procession's path.

L. Slow Moving Vehicles

You may come across slow moving vehicles on the road. This includes bicycles, horse-drawn vehicles, and farm vehicles. Some of them may have the slow-moving sign (shown) on the back of their vehicle to warn you they are only going 25 miles per hour or less.

Here are some tips for driving near slow-moving vehicles:

- Be constantly aware of any vehicles that might be traveling at a much slower speed.
- Change your vehicle's speed and position if necessary.
- Only pass the slow-moving vehicle when it is safe to do so.

If you must follow the slower moving vehicle waiting for a safe time to pass, use your emergency flashers to help warn others coming up behind you.

SECTION 6: Dangerous Driving Behaviors

A. Alcohol, Drugs and Driving

Driving drunk or on drugs is a very serious threat to everyone's safety. Alcohol and drugs impair your ability to drive. This means they make it very difficult or impossible for you to drive safely.

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol in your blood. Maryland considers drivers to be driving under the influence of alcohol when their blood alcohol concentration is .08 or higher.

Even though Maryland's limit for drunk driving is .08, any amount of alcohol can affect your ability to safely drive a vehicle. Your judgment and physical coordination may be impaired at a much lower BAC and could result in criminal charges. For example, your vision, ability to perform simple movements, and reaction time may be affected with just one drink and can increase the risk of a crash.

It is very difficult to know your own BAC or how alcohol is affecting your ability to drive. You cannot simply tell by the number of drinks you have had because many things can affect how your body digests alcohol. This includes your weight, body fat, how long ago you ate, and how much you ate. How tired you are, your mood, and medications can also make a difference in how alcohol affects your ability to drive.

Under 21 – Alcohol Not Allowed

If you are not yet 21 years old, it is against the law for you to drink any alcohol. If law enforcement stops you and you have been drinking, your license will be suspended or revoked. If that happens, you will not be allowed to drive. In addition, you could be charged with violating the alcohol restriction on your license.

Open Alcohol Container

It is against the law to drive with an open container of alcohol in the passenger area of the vehicle. An open container is any open can, bottle, other type of container, or package. A six-pack of alcohol with open, empty, or missing bottles/cans can be considered an open container.

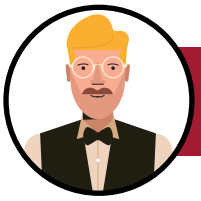
The passenger area of a vehicle includes:

- The driver and passenger seats.
- Any place the driver or passengers can easily reach from where they are sitting.

Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) – Illegal and Prescription Drugs

Illegal drugs, some prescription medications, and chemical inhalants can severely affect your ability to drive safely. They can affect your alertness, concentration, coordination, and reaction time. All drugs can make it hard to judge distances and react to signals and sounds on the road. Your license can be suspended or revoked for driving while on controlled dangerous substances.

It is important to pay close attention to prescription and over-the-counter drug label warnings. Look for warnings that tell you not to drive or use heavy machinery when taking the medication. If you drive after taking a medication that tells you not to and it impairs your ability to drive safely, you could be charged with a criminal offense.



If you plan to drink, plan not to drive.

Driving with Children

If you are convicted of a drunk or drugged driving offense with a child in your vehicle, the judge can double your fine and jail time.

B. Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

Examples of aggressive driving include: speeding, tailgating, ignoring traffic signals and devices, making unsafe lane changes, not yielding the right-of-way, and unsafe or illegal passing. Crowded roads, unexpected delays, rushing, road construction, and stress can cause people to drive aggressively.

You must respect and cooperate with all other people using the road. You must follow all rules to keep everyone safe and avoid crashes. Some tips to reduce the possibility of becoming involved in an aggressive driving incident are:

- Allow extra time to travel.
- Be patient.
- Be courteous.
- Focus on your driving behavior.
- Always signal your intentions. (Let other drivers know what you plan to do by using turn signals, etc.)
- Obey all traffic laws, signs, signals, and pavement markings.
- Yield the right-of-way.
- Avoid competing with other drivers.

C. Distracted Driving

Concentration is very important and necessary for safe driving. You should be constantly aware of the road and the other vehicles around you. Keep alert and you may be able to avoid a crash. Constantly check where other vehicles are in front, behind, and next to you.

"Distracted driving" is when you take your eyes, hands or especially your mind, away from driving. Distracted driving causes more crashes that are reported to the police than anything else. Any distraction can cause you to miss seeing and hearing things that could help you avoid a crash.

Many activities contribute to distracted driving. Some examples include:

- Eating and drinking.
- Adjusting the radio or other source of music.
- Adjusting or programming a GPS.
- Dealing with children and pets.
- Loose objects moving in the vehicle.
- Talking and texting on a cell phone.
- Smoking.
- Putting on makeup.
- Shaving.
- Reading.
- Interacting with others in the vehicle.

A good general rule is to treat other drivers and road users like you would like to be treated.

Cell Phones

It is illegal to use a hand-held cell phone, including texting, while driving. This means you cannot use your phone while holding it. You can use your phone for calls while driving if you are not holding it (hands-free). If you do this, you should use it as little as possible and do the following to stay safe:

- Use your cell phone only in emergencies; if possible, have a passenger make the call.
- If you must make a call, pull safely off the road, and stop before making the call.
- Let your voicemail answer incoming calls.
- Keep your telephone conversations short.

If you are under 18 years old, you may not use a cell phone while driving, even hands-free. The only exception is that you may use it to make a 911 emergency call.

D. Drowsy Driving

Not getting enough sleep can also cause unsafe driving. Sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment, just like drugs or alcohol. This can significantly increase your chances of being involved in a crash.

Some drivers have a higher risk of feeling sleepy (drowsy). Examples include people who drive many miles each day, people with sleep disorders, and people taking certain medications.

It is important to be aware of signs that you are drowsy and take action so you do not cause a crash. Below is a list of common "danger signs" and a good rule to deal with drowsy driving.

Danger Signs for Drowsy Drivers

The following may mean you are drowsy and should take action to stay safe:

- Your eyes close or go out of focus.
- You have trouble keeping your head up.
- You can't stop yawning.
- You have wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- You don't remember driving the last few miles.
- You missed your exit.
- You keep driving out of your lane.
- You keep changing your speed.

If you become tired or sleepy while driving, it is best to rest or change drivers. Being tired dulls your mind and slows down your reactions, making driving very dangerous.

One-third of fatal crashes are caused by distracted driving. Cell phone use is one of the leading causes of distracted driving. However, other deadly distractions that take your attention from driving including eating, applying makeup, dealing with children and changing radio stations. Be the FOCUSED Driver who avoids distractions and sticks to the task at hand - driving.

Each year, tens of thousands of people are arrested on Maryland's roads for drunk or drugged driving. Alcohol and drugs affect your ability to drive as well as you usually do, or in many cases, your ability to drive at all.

Before you go out, be the MAKE A PLAN Driver and make a plan to get home safely, and designate a sober driver. Being arrested for impaired driving has serious consequences including big fines, possible jail time and thousands of dollars in court costs. Worst of all, impaired driving often results in serious injury or death, both of which can be avoided by making good decisions.

For more information, visit:

ZeroDeathsMD.gov.

SECTION 7: Sharing the Road

A. Pedestrian Right-of-Way

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at street crossings but must obey traffic control signals. When there is no traffic signal, you must stop for pedestrians in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

Drivers should be especially alert for pedestrians who are deaf, blind or mobility impaired. They may have difficulty seeing or hearing traffic and may need extra time to cross the road.

Crossing at Crosswalks

A crosswalk is where pedestrians can cross a road and drivers must stop to let them cross. Some crosswalks are marked on the pavement, but others are not. Most intersections have a crosswalk even if it is not marked.

Some basic rules:

- When there is a traffic signal, drivers and pedestrians must obey it.
- You may not pass any vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk.
- You must yield to pedestrians when turning on a green signal.
- You must yield to pedestrians when turning on a red signal is permitted after stopping.

B. Emergency Vehicles

Emergency vehicles, like police cars, ambulances, and fire engines, have the right-of-way when using their sirens and flashing lights. Immediately after you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching that is using its signals, you must:

- Move as close as possible to the edge of the road.
- Stay out of intersections, and
- Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed.

If you are going in the same direction as an emergency vehicle using its signals, you may not pass it unless it stops or a police officer tells you to pass it.

If you approaching an emergency vehicle, tow truck, or other service vehicle that is stopped on the road, you must move to a lane that is not immediately adjacent to (right next to) the stopped vehicle. If it is not possible to move over, you must slow down to a safe speed and prepare to stop if necessary.

C. Large Trucks and Buses

Watch for turning trucks. Trucks make wide turns at intersections and need more space than cars. When making a right turn, large trucks will often move left before making the turn. You may think they are changing lanes and try to pass on their right. Passing any truck on the right can be risky. Wait to see whether the truck is planning to turn before passing. If a truck is stopped at or approaching an

intersection, never try to cut in along their right side as the truck driver begins their turn. You could find yourself caught between the turning truck and the curb.

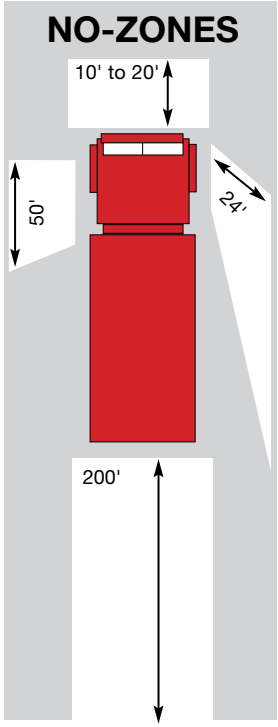
When passing a truck going in the same direction, pass quickly so you can continue to see what is happening around you. Then, move back into the lane with the truck only when you can see both of its headlights in your rear-view mirror.

Many intersections are marked with stop lines. If you stop past the stop line, your vehicle could be in the way of trucks turning from a cross street. Never cut in front of a truck. Fully loaded trucks can weigh more than 80,000 pounds and take the length of a football field to stop. Most cars weigh only 2,000 pounds.

No-Zones

There are four large "blind spots" around trucks where other vehicles "disappear" from view. That means the truck driver cannot see you. These blind spots are called "no zones."

- **Side No-Zones:** Trucks and buses have blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face in their side-view mirror, they cannot see you. If the truck changes lanes, you could be in trouble if you are in its blind spot. The right-side blind spot runs the length of the truck's trailer and extends out three lanes.
- **Rear No-Zones:** Avoid tailgating (driving too close behind the vehicle in front of you). Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge no zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver cannot see your car back there. If the truck or bus suddenly slows down or stops, you have no place to go.
- **Front No-Zones:** Do not move in front of a truck or bus too soon after passing it. Truck and bus drivers need almost twice as much time and room to stop as cars. Look for both of the bus or truck's headlights in your rear-view mirror before you pull in front, and then do not slow down.
- **Backing Up No-Zones:** Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Hundreds of people are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks that are backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear-view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.



Remember, if you cannot see a truck's mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you!

D. School Buses

Drivers must stop for school buses..

If a school bus has stopped on the road with its flashing red lights on, as you approach it you must:

- Stop at least 20 feet from the back of the school bus, if you are behind it.
- Stop at least 20 feet from the front of the school bus, if you are in front of it.

You may not start moving again until the school bus starts moving or turns off its flashing red lights.

If you are on a multiple lane road divided by a physical barrier, do not stop if the bus is on the other side of the barrier.

E. Motorcycles

Motorcyclists have the same rights and privileges as any other driver on the road. But a motorcyclist is six times more likely than a car driver to be hurt in a crash. Motorcycles are smaller than cars and trucks, so it can be harder to judge their speed and distance.

- **Yield right-of-way to an oncoming motorcycle when turning left.** If you do not yield the right-of-way to a motorcyclist, you could get a citation with significant penalties and you could cause a serious injury. Drivers are at fault in over half of car crashes with motorcycles.
- **Look twice before changing lanes or merging into traffic.** Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to be sure it is safe before merging or changing lanes. Motorcycles can be hidden in your blind spot or missed in a quick look because they are smaller.
- **Do not share a lane with a motorcycle.** Motorcyclists often move around in a traffic lane to avoid road hazards like potholes or oil spills, because of wind, and to be seen by others. Motorcyclists are allowed to use the whole lane.
- **Do not "tailgate" (drive too close) to a motorcycle.** Leave at least a 3 to 4-second following distance between your vehicle and the motorcycle in front of you. Motorcycles may need to slow down for road hazards like gravel, wet roads, or railroad crossings that don't affect cars the same way. Motorcyclists often reduce speed in ways that do not cause their brake lights to come on. So, be alert and leave plenty of space around motorcycles.
- **Leave plenty of space between your vehicle and the motorcycle when passing.** Wind gusts and drafts from a passing vehicle can affect a motorcycle. After passing a rider, make sure you can see the motorcycle's headlight in your rear-view mirror before moving back into the lane. If a motorcyclist is passing you, simply maintain your speed and allow them to complete their passing.
- **Be careful when driving near a group of motorcyclists.** Motorcyclists participate in organized rides that can involve many motorcycles. You need good communication and patience to drive around these groups. If you need to change lanes or reach an exit, use your turn signal early and wait for the riders in the group to make room for you. Only merge in between groups or riders when there is enough space to do so safely. If it is a small group, it may be easier to slow down and let the group pass before changing lanes.

Please review the Motorcycle Operator Manual if you want a motorcycle license. You can find it on MVA's website.

F. Bicycles

Bicycles are vehicles, according to Maryland law. Bicyclists are allowed to use the road and must obey all traffic signals. But bicyclists are harder to see, quieter, and don't have a protective barrier around them like a motor vehicle. You must drive carefully near bicyclists – even a little mistake can result in serious injury or death.

Expect Bicyclists on the Road

Expect to find bicyclists:

- On all types of roads (except interstate highways, and bridges and tunnels with tolls).
- At intersections and traffic circles.
- In all kinds of weather.
- At all times of the day and night.

Bicyclists may ride out in the travel lane (where motor vehicles are) for their own safety. They may do this because the road is narrow, or to avoid obstacles or pavement hazards. On roads without shoulders, or when cars are parked along the right side, a bicyclist is often safest riding in the center of the travel lane. In Maryland, a bicyclist may use the full lane even while traveling significantly below the speed of traffic (if the lane is too narrow for a motor vehicle to safely pass the bicycle while it is in the lane).

Before opening a car door, check for bicyclists who may be approaching from behind.

Right-of-Way

Bicyclists have the right-of-way when a motor vehicle is making a turn, so you must yield to bicyclists.

When you enter or cross a bike lane or shoulder, you must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists riding in them.

Bicycles have the same right of way as pedestrians in a crosswalk. Failing to yield right of way to a bicycle which results in a crash carries fines and or prison time and points on your driving record.

Bicyclists on Sidewalks

Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks throughout the state. For bicyclists - when riding your bicycle on a sidewalk, remember to give pedestrians and those in assisted mobility devices the right-of-way. Local jurisdictions can prohibit the use of bicycles on sidewalks; please refer to the local code.

Following a Bicyclist

As you approach a bicyclist, slow down. Do not honk your horn. Bicyclists can usually hear an approaching vehicle and loud noises can startle them, causing a crash.

Bicycles do not have turn signals so bicyclists use hand and arm signals to tell you what they plan to do.

Do not follow a bicycle too closely. Remember that small holes, glass, and other hazards can be especially dangerous to bicyclists. Bicycles can stop and move quickly so a bicyclist may swerve or change speed to avoid a road hazard that a motor vehicle driver cannot see.

Pass with Care - Give Bikes at Least 3 Feet

Pass a bicyclist like you would any slow-moving vehicle. Be prepared to slow down and wait until oncoming traffic is clear. Then leave at least 3 feet between your vehicle and the bicycle when passing. Leave this much room when passing a bicycle in a bike lane, on the shoulder, or in the same lane as your car. Make sure you see the bicycle in your rear-view mirror before returning to your lane.

Be Careful at Intersections, Bridges and Driveways

Always assume that bicyclists are going straight through an intersection unless they signal that they are turning. Yield to bicycles just as you would to any other vehicle. Bicyclists often ride on sidewalks and trails, so look both ways before crossing a sidewalk or trail.

Remember that a bicycle may come from an unexpected direction. And experienced bicyclists often ride very fast (as fast as 35 mph!) and may be closer than you think.

- Never make a right turn from a through lane immediately after passing a bike on a shoulder or bike lane. A through lane is a lane that continues straight.
- Try to make sure there are no bicycles on your right or in your right blind spot when you turn right.
- Before starting a right turn, move as far to the right as possible within the bike lane, shoulder, or right turn lane.
- When turning, yield to bicycles like you do with any other vehicle going straight. Do not turn left immediately in front of a bicycle.
- Look closely for bicycles before you move right to pass a vehicle that is turning left.
- When a road narrows for a bridge, parked cars, or other obstructions on the right, be prepared for a bicyclist riding on the shoulder to merge left into the travel lane.

Driving at Night

If you see a dim reflective object at night do not assume it is off the road. It could be a bicycle in a travel lane. Bicyclists sometimes avoid shoulders at night when there are no cars because tree branches, potholes, debris, and even the edge of the pavement are difficult to see. Your headlights may warn the bicyclist to safely move into the shoulder for you to pass, but it takes longer at night. When approaching a bicycle, use your low beam headlights.

Watch for Children

Children on bicycles are sometimes unpredictable so expect the unexpected. Remember they are small and may be hard to see. Young bicyclists are most likely to change direction without warning. Be aware of bicyclists entering the road from driveways or near parked cars. Obey speed limits in school zones and residential areas so you have time to see, and drive safely around, young bicyclists.

G. Mopeds and Scooters

Drivers of mopeds and motor scooters must follow all traffic laws. Drivers of cars and trucks must always watch for mopeds and scooters because their size makes them very difficult to see.

Mopeds and scooters may be ridden on any road with a posted maximum speed limit of 50 miles per hour or less. They may ride:

- Side-by-side or alone.
- On the road or on the shoulder.

Mopeds and scooters should ride as close to the right side of the road as they safely can.

Be especially careful around mopeds and scooters at intersections when they may be turning or going straight. Also be careful on narrow roads with little room for passing.

H. Understanding Vehicle Technologies

"Advanced Driver Assistance Systems" (ADAS) vehicle technologies are features that make driving safer. ADAS technologies help save lives and prevent injuries. When used properly, they prevent 40% of crashes.

ADAS technology is designed to assist you with driving tasks like:

- Staying in your lane.
- Reducing blind spots.
- Keeping a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Avoiding crashes.
- Parking.

Many vehicles use sensors and cameras to identify possible dangers. Examples of this type of technology are Automatic Emergency Braking, Lane Keeping Assistance, and Blind Spot Warning.

Do not rely on ADAS to fully operate your vehicle. You are responsible for the safe operation of your vehicle at all times! It is your responsibility to be aware of everything around you by checking traffic using your vehicle's mirrors and cameras.

Be aware that:

- The technology has limitations and may not work properly in rain, snow, fog, on hills, and around curves.
- The technology responds differently from one type of vehicle to another – even the dashboard icons may differ.
- There are many different names for the technology, and the names do not always describe what the technology does.

Always:

- Keep your vehicle sensors clean and damage free.
- Keep the software technology up-to-date and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Be familiar with the technologies on any vehicle you are about to drive and use them safely and effectively. Learn how by reviewing your vehicle manual or asking your car dealership.

Above all, always stay focused when driving and stay in control of your vehicle.

Be familiar with the technologies on any vehicle you are about to drive and use them safely and effectively.

SECTION 8: Crashes and Traffic Stops

A. Crashes

Whenever you are in a crash, put on your emergency flashers or flares to warn other drivers.

If you are involved in a crash where someone has been injured, including a pedestrian or bicyclist, you must remain at the scene and:

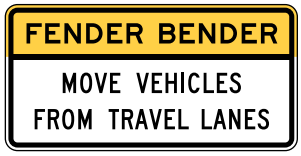
- Call 911 immediately to get help from police, fire, and ambulance.
- Report the number of people involved, the type of injury, and the location of the crash.
- Do not move the vehicles.

If you are convicted of leaving the scene of a crash that results in a serious injury, you will face severe penalties:

- Your license will be revoked (you will not be allowed to drive).
- You could go to prison for up to 5 years and a be fined up to $5,000.
- Leaving the scene of a crash where someone dies is a felony. You could go to prison for up to 10 years and a be fined up to $10,000.

If there are no injuries, but your vehicle cannot move:

- Call 911 immediately, give the location of the crash, and report that there are no injuries but you need police assistance.
- Be patient and do not try to cross the road or stop traffic. Make sure you stay away from traffic.



If there are no injuries and your vehicle can move:

- Move your vehicle off the road as close as possible to where the crash occurred. This will help keep you and others safe, and prevent traffic backups.
- Get important information from the other driver(s) involved in the crash. Give the other driver(s) the same information. This includes: name, address, phone number, license plate number and state, driver's license number, vehicle make and model, and insurance information.
- Ask witnesses for their names, addresses and phone numbers.
- Remember the location of the crash, date and time, number of vehicles involved, weather conditions, and road conditions. Write this information down, if you can.
- Remember any damages to the vehicles. Write this information down and take pictures, if you can.
- Write down the facts of how the crash happened.

Remember, you must always call the police when:

- Someone has been injured.
- A vehicle cannot be moved.
- A driver appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- A driver does not have a license.
- A driver tries to leave the scene without giving you insurance and other important information.
- Public property has been damaged.

If you strike an unattended vehicle or other unattended property, you are required to:

- Stop your vehicle as close as possible to where the crash occurred, without blocking traffic more than necessary.
- Try to find the owner of the vehicle or property to tell them what happened and provide your information.
- If you cannot find the owner of the vehicle or property, leave them a note about what happened with your contact information. Leave the note where they can easily find it.

If you hit and injure a domestic animal with your vehicle, you must immediately call the police. Dogs, cats, horses, and cows are examples of domestic animals.

B. Roadside Emergencies

Every roadside emergency is different so always use caution and common sense, whether it is a flat tire, taking care of a passenger, or something else.

When there is a roadside emergency:

- Assess the situation.
- Use good judgment in deciding how to respond.
- Watch for other vehicles, because roadside emergencies can change in an instant.

Find a Safe Place

Every year, people are injured or killed on the side of the road while waiting for vehicle assistance. If your vehicle becomes disabled, do your best to move it to the shoulder. If you can reach an off-ramp or parking lot, consider doing that even if it means driving on a flat tire or damaging a rim. The further you can be from traffic, the safer you will be. Never stop or park in the triangular shaped painted zones where a ramp exits the road.

If you can remain in your vehicle:

If you can remain in your vehicle, stay buckled and face forward. Vehicles have several safety features that will help protect you and your passengers if another vehicle hits your vehicle.

If you cannot remain in your vehicle:

If it is not safe or possible to remain in your vehicle, watch what is happening around you and pick the safest time for everyone to get out. Do not stand near the vehicle. Instead, move quickly away from the road. Get behind an embankment, traffic barrier, or guard-rail. If possible, move to higher ground. Face oncoming traffic and remain alert in case a vehicle veers into your path.

C. Traffic Stops

Law enforcement officers issue written traffic citations (tickets) to people who are charged with violating (breaking) the Maryland Motor Vehicle Law. You must follow the officer's directions if you are stopped or you may be arrested.

If a law enforcement officer stops you:

- Pull off to the side of the road as far away from traffic as possible. Turn on your flashers.
- Turn off your engine and radio.
- Roll down your window so you can communicate with the officer.
- Stay in your vehicle and keep your seat belt fastened.
- Keep your hands in plain view – on the steering wheel is best. Do not make any movement that will make the officer think you are hiding or reaching for something.
- If the officer issues you a citation, do not argue with the officer about the citation. You will have your chance to make your case if you go to court.

D. Move Over Law

In Maryland, you must move over when approaching any vehicles while they are stopped, standing, or parked on a road with its lights flashing. If it is not safe or possible to move over, you must slow down to a safe speed. Consider the weather, road conditions, traffic, and pedestrians when deciding a safe speed.

Violating this law is a misdemeanor with the following penalties:

- A $110 fine and one point on your license. The MVA uses points to track violations and issue penalties.
- A $150 fine and three points if the violation causes a crash.
- A $750 fine and three points if there is a death or serious injury.

Points lead to your license being suspended or revoked.

Pedestrian and bicyclist safety affects everyone in Maryland. Many unnecessary injuries and deaths occur because drivers or pedestrians are drunk, unfamiliar with vehicle laws or not paying attention. Roads should be safe places for everyone and it's important that we all do our part. That also includes bicyclists. Most people don't know that bicycles are considered vehicles on Maryland's roads, just like cars or trucks. That means drivers and bicyclists must learn to share the road and do whatever it takes to keep each other safe.

Be the SHARE THE ROAD Driver - slow down, pay attention and always be alert for pedestrians and bicyclists.

When there is a crash involving a car or truck and a motorcycle, the motorcyclist almost always loses. Because motorcycle riders are not protected by the vehicle like people in a car or truck, motorcyclists are injured in nearly 75% of crashes. Drivers and riders have the responsibility to share the road safely. When there is a crash involving a car and a motorcycle, the car driver is at fault more than half of the time. Be the LOOK TWICE Driver, always check two or more times before merging, changing lanes and pulling into traffic.

For more information, visit:

ZeroDeathsMD.gov.

SECTION 9: Other Restrictions, Violations and Penalties

A. Restrictions

Remember that driving is a privilege, not a right. The MVA has the authority to impose restrictions on your license to make sure you drive safely. A driving restriction is a limitation of your driving privileges. Restrictions may be based on the type of license you have or be imposed because you violated (broke) motor vehicle laws. Driving a motor vehicle in violation of restriction(s) is a serious offense. You could lose your driving privileges.

The following driving restrictions apply to graduated license holders under 18 years old:

Seat Belt Restriction

You must always use a safety belt if you have a Provisional License. All passengers must use safety belts or child safety seats.

Passenger Restriction

If you have a Provisional License and are under the age of 18, you may not drive unsupervised with passengers under the age of 18 for the first 151 days unless they are immediate family members. You can drive with a passenger under age 18 who is not related to you if you have a qualified supervising driver with you. Immediate family members can be your spouse, daughter, son, stepdaughter, stepson, sister, brother, stepsister, stepbrother, or any relative who lives at your address. See Section 10.B. for information about who qualifies as a supervising driver.

Nighttime Restriction

If you have a Provisional License, you are allowed to drive unsupervised between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m., ONLY if you are:

- Driving to, from, or during your job.
- Driving to or from an organized volunteer program.
- Driving to or from an official school activity.
- Driving to or from an athletic event or related training session you are participating in.

Wireless Device Restriction

If you have a Provisional License or a Learner's Permit, you may not use any wireless communication device (including a hands-free phone) while driving. The only exception is a 911 emergency call.

B. Drug and Alcohol Test – Implied Consent

In Maryland, if you drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle on a road or private property used by the public, you consent (agree) to take a drug or alcohol test if a law enforcement officer asks you to. These tests measure the amount of alcohol or drugs in your body.

If a police officer has reason to believe that you are driving while impaired by drugs, alcohol, or a controlled substance, they may have a drug recognition expert request that you submit to a blood test. Your license will be suspended if your blood alcohol concentration is .08

percent or higher. The MVA will also suspend your license if you are impaired with drugs in your system.

If a police officer submits a certified statement that you refused a test, the MVA will suspend your license.

C. Obtaining a False or Forged Identification Card, Driver's License or Learner's Instructional Permit

If you try to get a fake identification card, Learner's Instructional Permit or driver's license, you may be fined and/or sent to prison under federal and state Law.

It is against the law to lie about your age to purchase, possess, or acquire alcohol. In addition to the penalties described above, your driver's license may be suspended.

D. Administrative Actions

The MVA may suspend, revoke, refuse, or cancel your license if you violate motor vehicle laws. If this happens, the MVA will mail you a notice to inform you about:

- The action they plan to take.
- The reason the action is being taken.
- The steps you may take to have the action changed or stopped.

In most cases, you can request an administrative hearing to explain why the administrative action should not occur.

If your license is suspended, revoked, refused, or canceled, you must give your license to the MVA. Without a license, you will not be allowed to drive. Suspension or revocation periods begin when the MVA receives your license.

Suspension of Driver's License

If your license is suspended, you temporarily lose the privilege of driving a motor vehicle. In some cases, the MVA may decide to provide a restricted driver's license. A restricted license allows the you to only drive for a specific purpose, like getting to and from work and school.

Revocation of Driver's License

The revocation of a Maryland driver's license is more severe than a suspension.

If your license is revoked, you may not drive a motor vehicle until the MVA determines that you can safely drive again. If your driver's license is revoked, there is a minimum waiting period before you can request that the MVA reinstate it (meaning you get it back). The MVA can deny your request.

Cancellation of Driver's License

Cancellation of a driver's license is more severe than a suspension or revocation. It means your driving privilege is terminated (ended) and not reinstated. The MVA may cancel your driver's license if they determine that:

- You should not have been given a license.
- You did not provide required or correct information on your license application.
- You committed fraud when you applied for or obtained your license.

If you are younger than 18, your parent or legal guardian can request that the MVA cancel your driver's license (see Section 2.F.).

E. Penalties

If you have a conviction or "Probation before Judgment" (PBJ) for a moving violation(s) while holding a Provisional License:

- You will have to complete a driver improvement program, and/or
- Your driver's license will be suspended or revoked. After the suspension or revocations ends, an employment and education only restriction will be placed on your driver's license.

Penalties for Minors

If you are under 18 years old with a Provisional License and you are convicted of a moving violation or granted probation before judgment, the following penalties apply:

- The FIRST offense requires you to complete a driver improvement program.
- A SECOND offense will result in a 30-day suspension of your driver's license followed by a 90-day restriction that limits your driving to employment and educational purposes only.
- A THIRD offense will result in a 180-day suspension of your license, require attendance at a driver improvement program for young drivers, and an employment and education only restriction for 180 days.
- A FOURTH or MORE offenses will result in your license being revoked. You must pass all licensing tests to get your license back.

Penalties for Adults

If you are 18 years of age or older and have a Provisional License and you are convicted a moving violation or granted a probation before judgment, the following penalties apply:

- The FIRST offense requires you to complete a driver improvement program.
- A SECOND offense will result in a 30-day suspension of your license.
- A THIRD or MORE offenses will result in up to a 180-day suspension or revocation of your license.

These penalties will be imposed IN ADDITION to any penalties that result from conviction(s) in court. Also, after each conviction or probation before judgment for a moving violation, you will be required to begin a new 18-month conviction-free period before you can get your license back.

F. Use of Disability Parking Spaces, License Plates and Placards

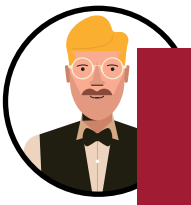
You can receive big fines if you illegally use disability parking spaces, disability license plates, and disability placards. Citations may be issued for the following violations:

- Parking in disability parking spaces unless you have a disability license plate or placard issued by the MVA and the person who qualified for the plate or placard is either the driver or a passenger in the vehicle.
- Parking in front of or blocking any part of a curb cut (even if you have a disability license plate or placard).

- Parking on any part of an access aisle next to a disability parking space (even if you have a disability license plate or placard). An access aisle is the area people in wheelchairs or other mobility devices use to get in and out of their vehicle.
- Using a disability placard after its expiration date.

- Using a disability license plate or placard without the person with the disability present and without proper identification.
- Any fraud or misrepresentation when applying for a disability license plate or placard.

Go to the MVA website for more information about disability parking.



Did you know? If you are caught drinking and driving, you will have to install a breathalyzer car lock that will prevent you from starting the vehicle if alcohol is detected.

SECTION 10: Other Important Information

A. Medical Conditions to Report to MVA

If you have one or more of the medical conditions listed below, you must notify the MVA when you apply for or renew your driver's license. If the condition is diagnosed after you receive your license, notify the MVA when it is diagnosed. MVA's Driver Wellness and Safety Division and/or Medical Advisory Board must approve you for a license if you have one of these conditions that could affect your ability to drive:

- Diabetes that has caused a low blood sugar episode requiring assistance from another person in the past 6 months.
- Epilepsy or seizures.
- A heart condition that has caused a loss of consciousness in the past 6 months.
- Stroke.
- A condition that causes you to have dizzy spells, fainting, or blackouts.
- Sleep apnea or narcolepsy.
- A history of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- A condition that causes weakness, shaking, or numbness in your arms, hands, legs, or feet that may affect your ability to drive.
- A hand, arm, foot, or leg that is absent, amputated, or has a loss of function that may affect your ability to drive.
- An eye problem that prevents a corrected minimum visual acuity of 20/70 in at least one eye or binocular field of vision of at least 110 degrees.
- Alcohol use problem.
- Drug use problem.
- A mental health condition that may affect your ability to drive.
- Schizophrenia.
- Dementia.

B. Supervising Driver – Requirements and Responsibilities

If you have a Maryland Learner's Permit you may drive only the vehicles or class of vehicles specified on your Learner's Permit. You must have a supervising driver with you. A supervising driver is:

- At least 21 years old.
- Currently licensed for at least three years in Maryland or another state to drive the same class of vehicles that you are driving.
- Seated beside you, unless the vehicle is a motorcycle.

C. Organ Donor

Maryland residents can give the gift of life and health to someone else by donating organs or tissues after death.

- Anyone 18 years old or older may be an organ donor.
- Minors at least 16 years old may be organ donors if a parent or guardian consents (agrees) in writing.

Look for this statement on your license application or renewal notice:

"Please check, if upon your death, you desire to help others by becoming an organ donor. By checking "YES," you authorize all necessary personal information to be forwarded to the Maryland Department of Health and maintained

in the Maryland Organ Donor Registry." If you agree, you can choose to have your license indicate that you are an organ donor. More information on the organ donor program may be found on the MVA website.

D. Register to Vote

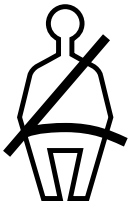
The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, often called "Motor Voter," is a federal law. It requires the MVA to allow eligible customers to apply to register to vote, or update voting information, when they get a driver's license or photo identification (ID) card.

E. Insurance Requirements

All motor vehicles registered in Maryland must be insured by a company licensed in Maryland. If you own a motor vehicle you must have it insured for personal injury and property damage liability in amounts required by law. See the MVA website for information about these amounts.

You must always have a valid insurance identification card with you when driving a motor vehicle. This card may be in electronic format. If a law enforcement officer asks for your insurance card, you must show it to them. If you refuse, you could be fined.

F. Seat Belt Law



By law, the driver and all passengers of a motor vehicle must wear a safety belt or be buckled in a child safety seat.

G. Child Safety Seats

All children under age 8 must ride in a child safety seat, unless the child is 4'9" or taller. Children younger than 2 must ride in a rear-facing child safety seat that meets federal guidelines until they reach the height or weight specified by the manufacturer. You must follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer of your child safety seat and vehicle.

Child safety seats include car seats, booster seats and other federally approved child safety devices.

If you are unable to purchase or obtain a child safety seat, you may contact Kids In Safety Seats (KISS) at the Maryland Department of Health at 800-370-SEAT. KISS coordinates programs in various areas of the State that rent car seats or booster seats at a low cost to families who cannot afford to purchase them. Seats may not be available at all locations all the time.

H. Air Bags

Air bags are important safety devices that protect you in crashes. For the best protection:

- Use them with your vehicle's lap and shoulder belt.
- Sit as far back from the steering wheel as possible. Try to keep 10-12 inches between the steering wheel and your chest.
- Pregnant women should place the lap part of the seat belt under the abdomen as low as possible on the hips and across the upper thighs. They should place the shoulder belt over the rounding of the belly.
- Children in a rear-facing car seat should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Children under age 13 should ride buckled up in a rear seat in a child safety seat or with a seat belt.

I. Braking with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)

Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS) help prevent your wheels from locking up so you can control your car. Whenever your vehicle's computer

detects that one or more wheels are locking, ABS begins to pump the brakes much faster so they don't lock. When the ABS engages, you may hear a rumble from the brakes and the brake pedal will vibrate under your foot. Check your vehicle owner's manual for more information about anti-lock braking systems.

J. Wearing of Headsets, Earphones and Earplugs Prohibited

You may not drive with earplugs, headsets, or earphones in both ears. Hearing aid devices are allowed.

K. Parallel Parking

Parallel parking is no longer required when you take your driving test. However, you will learn about it in the MVA driving education course. The same skills needed for parallel parking are covered when you perform a "reverse two-point turn" during the driving course test you take to get your license. This includes: visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking, and acceleration control.

L. Pull-In Parking, Back-In Parking, and Three-Point Turn

You must be able to successfully perform pull-in parking, back-in parking, and a three-point turn during your driving test. The parking is done in a 10' by 20' space during the test, and the turn in a 16' by 20' space. These moves demonstrate how well you judge space, use mirrors and turn signals, steer, brake, and control your vehicle when accelerating. They also test your visual, backing, and general driving skills.

Remember: it is against the law to drive without vehicle insurance! If you do not keep insurance on all vehicles, you will be fined up to $2,500 per vehicle each year.

M. Rules and Tips for Bicyclists

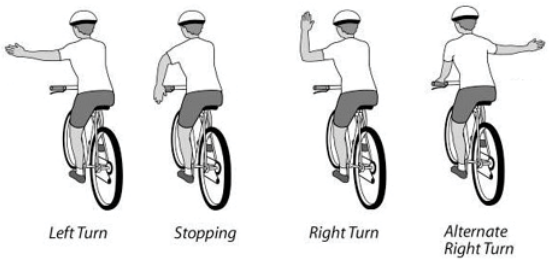
Like motor vehicle drivers, bicyclists have both rights and responsibilities to safely use the road. Do your part by being a safe and respectful bicyclist.

Obey the Rules of the Road: Ride straight and single file in a predictable manner. Plan ahead and allow time to get around road hazards and to deal with traffic and open car doors. Yield to pedestrians and obey all traffic signals and signs.

Ride with Traffic: Always ride on the right side. Be careful when passing pedestrians and bicycles on the right. When you come to an intersection, use the appropriate lane for the direction you are going (left, straight, right).

Signal All Turns: Look back before you change lanes or turn. Use your turn signals to let others know what you plan to do:

Make Left Hand Turns Safely:



- You may turn left like motor vehicles do by moving to the left side of the travel lane (or left turn lane), or
- Cross like a pedestrian by stopping, getting off your bicycle, and walking across in a crosswalk.

Be Prepared for Slick Road Conditions: When braking in the rain or snow, allow extra distance to stop and look for pavement markings and utility covers, which may be slippery.

Be Visible - Use Lights at Night: When riding at night, Maryland State Law requires a white headlight on the front of your bicycle, and a red reflector on the back. They must be visible from at least 600 feet away. In addition, it is recommended that you wear bright clothing in the daytime and reflective clothing for night riding.

Bicycle Equipment:

Helmets are required for anyone under age 16 riding on a bike. This includes passengers that are not steering the bike. Helmets are also strongly recommended for people of all ages.

By law, all bicycles must have:

- Brakes that can stop the bicycle within 15 feet when it is going 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.
- A white beam headlight that can be seen 500 feet away and a red rear reflector that can be seen 600 feet away, when ridden at night or during low-light conditions.
- A safety seat or trailer, firmly attached to the bicycle, if traveling with a small child.
- A bicycle basket, rack, or bag when carrying small things so both hands can be kept on the handlebars.

N. Electric Low Speed Vehicles (Definitions)

Electric Bicycles

- Are operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor.
- Have fully operable pedals.
- Have two or three wheels.
- Have an electric motor with a rating of 750 watts or less.

Types of Electric Bicycles

Class 1: Have a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class 2: Have a motor that provides assistance whether or not the rider is pedaling the bicycle, and stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class 3: Have a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

Electric Low-Speed Vehicles

- Are designed to transport only the operator.
- Weigh less than 100 pounds.
- Have a front and back wheel in line with each other, or one wheel in front and two in the back.
- Have handlebars and a platform the rider stands on.
- Are powered by an electric motor and human power.
- Can operate at a speed of up to 20 miles per hour.

Note: If you use a low-speed electric vehicle, check to see if there are other local restrictions.