



**State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor**

Dear Motorist:

North Carolina's driver license program is designed to protect motorists and pedestrians. Its goals are to prevent traffic accidents and to reduce the number of injuries and property loss.

What you learn from this handbook is necessary for safe driving. How well you remember what you learn and how well you put it into daily practice will enable you to remain a safe driver.

Please remember, the privilege to drive must be earned. It is a privilege that comes with a great deal of responsibility. We urge you to always obey our laws and observe the rules of safe driving. Your life and the lives of others depend on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Hunt, Jr.".

**James B. Hunt, Jr.**  
*Governor*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McCoy".

**David McCoy**  
*Transportation Secretary*



State of North Carolina  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Motor Vehicles

Dear Fellow Motorist:

Safe and responsible driving continues to be vital to the millions of motorists traveling our highways each year. When given the privilege of driving in this state, you must be prepared. You must be prepared to accept responsibility for your life and the lives of others.

Close to 200,000 crashes occur on North Carolina's highways each year. These crashes result in almost 1,500 deaths. We continue to improve in this area, but we must do more. We must do more to protect ourselves and our families.

This driver handbook suggests many safe and defensive driving techniques while also pointing out important motor vehicle laws. What you learn from this handbook is necessary for the safety of all drivers.

While this handbook contains information you need to prepare for the driver license examination, it may not answer all of your questions. Please contact your nearest driver license office if you need more assistance. You can also find on the web at [www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us](http://www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us).

When you drive safely and obey the rules of the road, you can enjoy a lifetime of pleasant and convenient travel on North Carolina's highways.

Sincerely,

Janice H. Faulkner  
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

**DMV directAccess**  
automated information by telephone

DMV directAccess is a convenient way to obtain information about driver licenses and vehicle registration from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Dial (919) 715 - 7000 from a touch-tone telephone, and access information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

DMV directAccess gives you the facts about:

- driver licenses, learner permits, motor-cycle license endorsements, commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and special identification cards;
- personalized information you should know about points against your driver license, your driving record and the status of your driver license;
- medical and vision forms, exam cycles, records and hearings;
- vehicle registration, duplicate titles, lost or stolen license plates, personalized and vanity license plates and handicapped placards;
- liability insurance and more.

DMV directAccess also includes information about driver license and vehicle registration taxes and fees. By entering your zip code, the system can give you the location of a driver license or vehicle registration office in your area.

**(919) 715-7000**

**Other DMV Telephone Listings:**

- Traffic Records Section . . . . .(919) 861-3062
- Customer Service/  
Citizen Affairs Section . . . . .(919) 861-3059
- Enforcement Section . . . . .(919) 861-3185
- International Registration Plan  
(IRP) Section . . . . .(919) 733-3643
- School Bus and  
Traffic Safety Section . . . . .(919) 861-3104

## **DMV On The Web**

**[www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us](http://www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us)**

The NCDMV web site focuses on providing North Carolina's motoring public with timely and accurate information regarding NCDMV services and issues. The site answers all of your most frequently asked questions and includes up-to-date directories of all DMV offices statewide. A simple click of your mouse allows you to e-mail us directly from the site. You'll also find news about hot topics and new legislation affecting North Carolina's motoring public. Several publications and forms are also available on-line. Check it out!

## **Transportation Alternatives**

For many North Carolinians, operating a vehicle may be too costly, inconvenient or dangerous. The North Carolina Department of Transportation wants you to know there are many transportation alternatives to driving. In our society, we often overlook our options to walk, ride a bicycle, carpool and use public transportation.

Public transportation could be your best alternative to driving. Some form of public transportation is available in most areas of the state. In the larger, metropolitan areas there are bus systems that operate on regular routes. Smaller, rural areas may provide coordinated van services for citizens. In either case, public transportation is available and equipped to accommodate disabled persons.

To learn more about public transportation options in your area, call:

**North Carolina  
Department of Transportation  
Public Transportation Division  
(919) 733-4713**

## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1 — Your License . . . . .</b>	<b>8</b>
Getting Your Original License . . . . .	8
Types of Licenses, Permits and Certifications . . . . .	10
<i>Classified Licenses, Commercial Licenses, Endorsements,</i>	
<i>Graduated Licensing, The Provisional Licensee,</i>	
<i>Restrictions, Requirements</i>	
New Residents . . . . .	19
Nonresidents . . . . .	19
North Carolina's New Driver License and	
Identification Card . . . . .	20
Renewal and Duplicate Licenses . . . . .	20
DMV Requires a Full Name . . . . .	22
Identification Cards . . . . .	22
Voter Registration . . . . .	22
Organ Donor Program . . . . .	22
Schedule of Fees . . . . .	23
<b>Chapter 2 — Alcohol And The Law . . . . .</b>	<b>24</b>
Driving While Impaired . . . . .	24
Alcohol and the Young Driver . . . . .	27
<b>Chapter 3 — Your Driving Privilege . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
Points . . . . .	28
Suspensions and Revocations . . . . .	30
Driver License Restoration . . . . .	33
<b>Chapter 4 — Your Driving . . . . .</b>	<b>34</b>
Driver Safety . . . . .	34
Protecting Yourself and Your Passengers . . . . .	36
General Driving . . . . .	41
Basic Driving Skills and Rules . . . . .	44
Defensive Driving . . . . .	62
Hazardous Driving . . . . .	65
Emergencies . . . . .	72
Crashes . . . . .	77
<b>Chapter 5 —</b>	
<b>Signals, Signs and Pavement Markings . . . . .</b>	<b>79</b>
Traffic Signals . . . . .	79
Traffic Signs . . . . .	81
<i>Regulatory, Warning and Guide/Informational</i>	
Pavement Markings . . . . .	85
Traffic Officers . . . . .	86

<b>Chapter 6 — Sharing The Road . . . . .</b>	<b>89</b>
Bicycles . . . . .	89
You as a Pedestrian . . . . .	91
Trucks and Other Vehicles . . . . .	91
Motorcycles and Mopeds . . . . .	93
Fuel Economy . . . . .	96
Keeping the Road Litter-Free . . . . .	97
<b>Chapter 7 — How DMV Serves You . . . . .</b>	<b>98</b>
DMV Mobile Service Centers . . . . .	98
Driver Records . . . . .	98
Vehicle Registration . . . . .	99
Property Tax Law . . . . .	102
Vehicle Inspection . . . . .	103
Operation Rest Assured . . . . .	105
Sample Test Questions . . . . .	106
Sample Test Answers . . . . .	108

## Chapter 1 Your License

Driving is a legal privilege and responsibility. It is against the law to drive a motor vehicle on streets and highways without a valid driver license. It is also illegal to sit in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle while the engine is running or to steer a motor vehicle while it is being pushed or towed by another vehicle if you do not have a valid driver license.

### Getting Your Original License

Driver license examiners throughout the state are trained to test fairly and to give prompt and courteous service. If you fail any part of the examination, they will personally review your errors to better prepare you for retesting.

Examining stations are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In larger cities and towns the stations are open Monday through Friday. Stations in smaller towns may only be open for certain days each week or one day every two weeks. Appointments for driver license examinations are available. Contact your local driver license office.

**For an original driver license of any type, you will be tested on:**

- vision
- driving knowledge
- traffic signs
- driving skill (on-road test)

Each driver license test must be passed separately. Applicants for a Classified Class A or B license should study the General Knowledge Chapter of the *CDL Handbook*. Applicants for a CDL Class A, B or C license should study the required chapters of the *CDL Handbook*. Applicants for a Motorcycle Endorsement or Motorcycle Learner Permit should study the *Motorcycle Handbook*. (See pages 10 - 12 for a complete description of all driver licenses.)

## Test Requirements for an Original Driver License

### Vision

Whether you are applying for a learner permit, an original license or a renewal license, your vision will be checked to see that you meet certain standards. If you need corrective lenses to bring your vision up to the required standards, you must wear the lenses at all times while driving and your license will indicate that you must wear corrective lenses. The penalty for driving without the proper corrective lenses is the same as driving without a license.

### Traffic Signs

All of the information tested by the traffic signs test is in this handbook. To pass the signs test, you must identify the traffic signs by color and shape and explain what each means.

### Driving Knowledge

The written test is a knowledge test about traffic laws and safe driving practices. Oral tests are available, upon request, for those who have difficulty reading.

### Driving Skills

The driving test is an on-the-road test of your driving ability. You must perform this test after you have passed all the other tests. The first time you apply for a license, you must take the driving test. You might also have to take it to renew your license. It is not required for a learner permit.

During the on-the-road test, you will be given an opportunity to perform basic driving patterns and to show your ability to drive safely with traffic.

### Skills observed and graded during the on-the-road driving test:

- approaches to intersections, stop signs and traffic signals;
- quick stops — stopping as quickly and safely as possible when told to do so;
- backing;
- stopping, starting, and parking;

- use of the clutch (in vehicles with standard transmissions);
- shifting to a lower gear on a downgrade;
- turn signals and use of the horn;
- turning;
- use of lanes;
- following another vehicle;
- passing and being passed;
- yielding right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles;
- driving posture; and
- three point turn — turnabout.

All applicants for an original driver license must take the on-the-road driving test. However, there are some cases when the on-the-road test may not be given.

### Types of Licenses, Permits and Certifications

North Carolina has a classified driver license system and a commercial driver license (CDL). The type of vehicle you will operate determines the class of driver license you must have and the type vehicle in which you must take the driving skills test. The driving skills test must be performed in a vehicle representative of the class license desired.

#### Classified Licenses

**Class A** – Required to operate any combination of vehicles exempt from CDL requirements with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is greater than 10,000 pounds. Also required for operating any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds, if the vehicle being towed has a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds.

#### Tip — Three Point Turn

(1) Start from the extreme right side of the road. Look for other traffic and if clear, proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. Stop within several inches of the left curb or edge of the street.

(2) Then proceed backward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the right. Stop within several inches of the right curb or edge of the street.

(3) Proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. This should complete your turnabout. If not, repeat the above procedures.

**Class B** – Required to operate any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more that is exempt from CDL requirements, and any such vehicle while towing another vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

**Class C** – Required to operate any vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds that is exempt from CDL requirements and is not towing a vehicle with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds. **Most drivers need only a Classified C license to operate personal automobiles and small trucks.**

#### Commercial Licenses (CDLs)

A CDL is required for drivers, paid or volunteer, who drive the following types of vehicles that are designed or used to transport passengers or property:

**Class A Motor Vehicle** – A vehicle that has a combined GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds and includes as part of the combination a towed unit that has a GVWR of at least 10,001 pounds.

#### Class B Motor Vehicle—

- A single motor vehicle that has a GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds.
- A combination of motor vehicles that includes as part of the combination a towing unit that has a GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds and a towed unit that has a GVWR of less than 10,001 pounds.

**Class C Motor Vehicle** – A single or combination of motor vehicles not included in Class A or B but meets any of the following descriptions:

- is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded.

You do not need a CDL to drive recreational vehicles, military equipment, fire and/or emergency equipment or certain farm vehicles. However, a classified license of the appropriate class is always required.

A special CDL endorsement is required to haul hazardous materials, transport passengers, pull double trailers or drive tank vehicles. Additional information about the CDL is in the *North Carolina Commercial Driver License Handbook*.

## Endorsements

### Motorcycle

A person must have at least a Level III Class C license with a motorcycle endorsement or a motorcycle learner permit before he/she is entitled to operate a motorcycle on public roads.

### School Bus/School Activity Bus

A person must have a Class B or C CDL with an “S” Restriction or a Class A, B or C CDL with a “P” Endorsement and a school bus driver’s certificate to operate a school bus or school activity bus. To obtain the school bus certificate, a person must be specially trained and pass an examination demonstrating the fitness and competency required to operate the bus. Training and certification are provided by driver education specialists designated by the DMV.

## Graduated Licensing

### Limited Learner Permit

If you are at least 15 years of age and have completed an approved driver education course that meets North Carolina requirements and can present a Driving Eligibility Certificate (issued by the public school system), a high school diploma or its equivalent, you may apply for a Level One Limited Learner Permit to operate vehicles requiring a Class C License.

- You must be at least 15 years old but less than 18 years old and reside in North Carolina.
- You must pass written, signs and vision tests.
- All passengers must be restrained by seat-belt or child safety seat.
- No one except the driver and the supervising driver are allowed in the front seat.
- During the first six months, a Level One permit authorizes you to drive between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. while accompanied by your supervising driver.
- Six months from Level One issuance, you are eligible to drive anytime with your supervising driver.

*NOTE: Before graduating to Level Two, you must keep this permit for at least 12 months and have no convictions of moving violations or seat belt infractions within the preceding six months.*

### Level Two Limited Provisional License

- Drivers must be at least 16 years old, but less than 18.
- All passengers must be restrained by seat belt or child safety seat.
- Supervising driver must be seated beside the driver.
- You may drive without supervision from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. and at any time when driving directly to or from work or any volunteer fire, rescue or EMS (emergency medical service), if you are a member.

*NOTE: Before graduating to Level Three, you must keep this license for at least 6 months and have no convictions of moving violations or seat belt infractions within the preceding six months.*

### Level Three Full Provisional License

- Upon completion of six months of driving with no convictions of moving violations or seat belt infractions, you are eligible to receive a Level Three License.

### New Residents Between The Ages of 15 and 18 Years

If you are a new resident moving into North Carolina and are 15 but less than 18 years old and have a learner’s permit, a restricted license or an unrestricted license, you should contact your local driver license office to determine which type of license or learner’s permit you are eligible to apply for.

### The Provisional Licensee

Drivers under age 18 are provisional licensees. Because these drivers have a much higher crash rate, special laws apply to them. If you are a driver under age 18:

- You must present a certificate showing you have passed an approved driver education course that meets North Carolina requirements before you can take the test for a Learner Permit or License.

- The DMV reviews your driving record more closely and may contact you if you have certain types of traffic violations or crashes.
- It is unlawful for a provisional licensee to drive a motor vehicle after or while consuming alcohol or drugs - a conviction of such a violation will result in a one-year license revocation.
- A parent or legal guardian must sign for a minor.

### Restrictions

For safety reasons, a driver license may be limited or restricted in some way. For example, a driver may only be permitted to operate a vehicle while using corrective lenses or mechanical control devices. If your license is restricted, you must only drive within the limits of the restriction; otherwise you are considered to be driving without a license.

A disabled person who passes the license examination may be issued a driver license restricted to using equipment necessary to safely operate the motor vehicle.

If you are issued a restricted license, you can be called in for a reexamination before the expiration date of the license.

### Thinking Of Dropping Out?

Beginning August 1, 1998, driver license applicants less than 18 years old must have a "driving eligibility certificate", high school diploma or its equivalent to be eligible for a North Carolina driving permit or license. The driving eligibility certificate must be signed by the applicant's school administrator who certifies that the applicant is currently enrolled in school or that substantial hardship would be placed on the applicant or the applicant's family if he or she does not receive a driver license.

DMV must revoke the driver's license of any person under age 18 when it receives notice from the proper school authority that the person is no longer eligible for a driving eligibility certificate. This revocation remains in effect until the

person's 18th birthday or until the required standards are met and a driving eligibility certificate (DEC) is obtained.

### Lose Control / Lose Your License

Effective July 1, 2000, a loss of license will occur if a student receives a suspension for more than 10 consecutive days or receives an assignment to an alternative educational setting due to disciplinary action for more than 10 consecutive days.

### Requirements

#### Health Requirements

Individuals may not be licensed if they suffer from a mental or physical problem that might keep them from driving safely. A handicapped person may be issued a restricted license provided the problem does not keep him/her from driving safely.

#### Proof of Age and Identity

Individuals who are 18 years of age or older can apply for any type of North Carolina driver license and/or motorcycle endorsement. There may be additional requirements for individuals applying for a CDL. Please refer to the *CDL Handbook*.

**The DMV requires proof of your full name, age and your social security number (SSN)** to protect you from driver license fraud. In order to prove your age, please present a valid or expired photo driver license or special identification card issued by the NCDOT Division of Motor Vehicles or a photo driver license or ID card issued by another U.S. state or territory, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Canadian province, or a "Licencia Federal de Conductor" issued by the Mexican government.

If you do not have any of these, you may present two documents, one of which must show the date of birth. These two documents should come from the following categories:

**It is NOT acceptable for the two forms of identification to come from the same category. For instance, a report card and school transcript would not qualify as two forms of identification.**

- Certified or original birth certificate.
- Social Security card or other document with the Social Security number and your name; Computer generated tax document or payroll stub; Financial statement from a bank, insurance company, brokerage firm, etc.; Government issued documents such as a U.S. military ID card; Letter or computer print-out from the Social Security Administration.
- Official school records signed by school officials, including report cards, driver education certificates, diplomas, driving eligibility certificates, or transcripts.
- Military service discharge (DD-214 or Cartilla Nacional) or photo ID.
- Unexpired, stamped photo passport from any nation.
- Tax records (except forms completed by individuals), W-2 forms, 1099 forms, property tax records, or quarterly tax payroll records.
- Certified marriage license or certificate of marriage issued by a government agency.
- Limited driving privilege (valid or expired).
- Unexpired vehicle registration or certificate of title.
- Authentic document from Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), alien registration receipt card, resident alien card, employment authorization card, temporary resident card, certification of U.S. citizenship (with photo), Certificate of Naturalization (with photo), OMB 3116-0008 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange visitors, OMB 1115-0051 Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant, I-797 Notice of Action, or I-797C Notice of Action.
- Servicio Militar Nacional or military ID card issued by the National Secretary of Defense of Mexico.
- Matricula Consular or Matricula issued by the Secretary of the Exterior of Mexico.
- Credencial Para Votar or voter ID card issued by the Instituto Federal Electoral of Mexico.

- Cedula (with photo).
- Court order or divorce decree (any state).

When you successfully receive a North Carolina driver license, you will have to turn in any driver license you have issued by another state. You will also be required to turn in any valid North Carolina identification cards in your possession.

For an applicant under 18 years of age, the application for a learner permit or driver license must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

#### **Social Security Number Requirement**

If you have a social security number, motor vehicle statutes require you to provide it to DMV when applying for or renewing your driver license. By law, the DMV is not allowed to disclose a social security number for any purpose other than administering driver licensing laws. The social security number on a driver license application will be kept confidential and will not be printed on your driver license. It will only be disclosed to the State Child Support Enforcement Agency upon its request for the purpose of establishing paternity or child support.

The following are acceptable documents for proving SSN:

- Social Security Card (but not the metal or plastic card or other reproductions);
- A computer generated W-2 tax form or other computer-generated document from the IRS or a state or county revenue department;
- Payroll stub;
- Financial statement (bank statement, insurance company statement, brokerage firm statement, etc.) containing the SSN;
- Government issued documents such as U.S. military ID, which shows the SSN; and
- Letter from the Social Security Administration or computer print-out from the Social Security Administration.

### Financial Responsibility

The N.C. General Assembly has enacted legislation to require some (but not all) driver license applicants in North Carolina to submit proof of automobile liability insurance coverage in order to obtain a North Carolina driver's license.

Proof of liability insurance coverage applies to those:

- applying for an original license, including transfers from out-of-state;
- whose licenses are being restored after revocation or suspension; or
- awarded a "Limited Privilege" license by the court.

Certification of liability insurance coverage must be submitted on DMV Form DL-123, or an original liability insurance policy, binder or certificate of insurance.

These documents must show:

- applicant's name;
- effective date of policy;
- expiration date; and
- date the policy was issued

Form DL-123, binders and certificates are valid only for 30 days from the date of issuance and must be from an insurance company licensed to do business in North Carolina.

Individuals covered by the required liability insurance law, but who do not own or operate a currently registered motor vehicle will be required to sign a certification of exemption at the driver license office (DL-123A). The exemption restricts the driver to the operation of "Fleet Vehicles Only". To remove the restriction the driver must pay a \$10.00 fee and submit DMV Form DL-123.

**If you must show proof of financial responsibility, and to avoid inconveniences at the driver license office, obtain Form DL-123 in advance of your visit from your insurance agent or the driver license office.**

### New Residents

A new resident has 60 days after establishing residence to obtain a North Carolina license or learner permit.

- You must be at least 15 years of age, and if under age 18 must have completed an approved driver education course.
- Drivers ages 16 or 17 who are new residents of North Carolina and hold a valid unrestricted driver license from a state that does not require driver education may be issued a temporary driver permit. This permit will allow them to drive for the purpose of taking the driver education course required for driver licensing in North Carolina.

#### **A new resident, 18 years or older, applying for a Class C license is required to take the:**

- written test;
- vision test;
- traffic signs recognition test; and
- driving skills test (if the examiner deems necessary).

### Nonresidents

A nonresident of North Carolina is "Any person whose legal residence is in a state, territory, or jurisdiction other than North Carolina or in a foreign country."

#### **Examples of nonresidents:**

- Salesmen whose homes are in other states who travel through North Carolina
- Out-of-state college students who intend to return to their home states upon completion of their educations in North Carolina.
- Members of the armed forces stationed in North Carolina who intend to return to their home states.
- Spouses of nonresident members of the armed forces stationed in North Carolina.

A person whose permanent home is outside North Carolina who is here temporarily is exempt from these requirements.

## North Carolina's New Driver License and Identification Card

In the Fall of 1996, NCDMV began issuing a newly designed driver license and identification card. Until the year 2005, you will continue to see the old-style license and identification card until they reach their normal expiration dates.

This new driver license/identification card represents a complete overhaul of the current driver licensing system, with major emphasis on document security.

A process called digital imaging is used to obtain and store customer portraits and signatures. Along with digital-imaging, the new driver license is equipped with a bar code system that houses each customer's personal data and can only be accessed by NCDMV and law enforcement agencies.

## Renewal and Duplicate Licenses

### Renewal

As of January 1, 1995, driver license renewal dates will vary by age due to a new five-year license renewal program (*see page 21*).

Before your license expires, the DMV will mail you a reminder card explaining the number of years it will be valid. If you do not have your current or expired license at renewal, you will be required to show the examiner two documents of identification as outlined on *page 15*.

The vision and traffic sign recognition tests are always required for a license renewal.

*Note: You may renew your license by mail if you are temporarily residing outside North Carolina for 30 or more days or if you are serving in the armed forces on active duty and are stationed outside the state. The license issued will be temporary and will expire five years from renewal on your birthday or 60 days after you return to North Carolina, whichever date occurs first.*

Phase-in of 5-year License Effective January 1, 1995		
Age at Renewal	Years Renewed	Age at Next Renewal
16	4	20
17	3	20
18	7	25
19	6	25
20	5	25
21	4	25
22	8	30
23	7	30
24	6	30
25	5	30
26	4	30
27	8	35
28	7	35
29	6	35
30	5	35
31	4	35
32	8	40
33	7	40
34	6	40
35	5	40
36	4	40
37	8	45
38	7	45
39	6	45
40	5	45
41	4	45
42	8	50
43	7	50
44	6	50
45	5	50
46	4	50
47	8	55
48	7	55
49	6	55
50	5	55
51	4	55
52	8	60
53	7	60
54	6	60
55	5	60
56	4	60
57	8	65
58	7	65
59	6	65
60	5	65
61	4	65
62 & Over 5 Year Renewal Only		

### Duplicate

If your license is lost or stolen, go to the nearest driver license office and apply for a duplicate. To replace a lost or stolen license, you must show the examiner two documents of identification approved by the DMV (*see page 15*).

### Address Changes

A person whose address changes from the address stated on a driver license must notify the Division of the change within 60 days after the change occurs and obtain a duplicate license. A person who does not move, but whose address changes due to a governmental action, may not be charged with violating this law.

### Name Changes

A person whose name changes from the name stated on a driver license must notify the Division of the change within 60 days after the change occurs and obtain a duplicate driver license stating the new name.

Name changes can be completed with documented proof from:

- the register of deeds;
- other court documents; or
- two forms of identification approved by the DMV which show the new name (*see page 15 - 16*).

## DMV Requires a Full Name

In an effort to prevent “theft of identity” and error in motor vehicle records, the Division of Motor Vehicles now requires the use of the full name for driver license and vehicle registration transactions. The Division no longer accepts the use of nicknames or initials for its records. If you have used nicknames, initials or an incomplete name in the past, please be prepared to update your record on your next visit to a driver license or vehicle registration office. Furthermore, please bring the appropriate documents to show your full name. (See page 15 - 16.)

## Identification Cards

Any resident of North Carolina can be issued a special identification card, provided he or she does not have a valid driver license. The same proofs of age and identity are required as for a driver license. The identification card is valid for five years and expires on the date of birth.

## Voter Registration

You may register to vote or make changes to your current voter registration while applying for a N.C. driver license or special identification card.

## Organ Donor Program

If you wish to be an organ donor, you may indicate your decision on the front of your driver license. It is highly recommended that you discuss your wishes with your family and make sure that they are aware of your decision.

Schedule of Fees	Classified	CDL
<b>Original License, Renewal, Reissuance</b>		
Application Fee	N/A	\$20.00
Class A	\$3.75/yr.*	\$10.00/yr.*
Class B	\$3.75/yr.*	\$10.00/yr.*
Class C	\$2.50/yr.*	\$10.00/yr.*
<b>Motorcycle Endorsement</b> (with regular issuance)	\$1.25/yr.*	\$1.25/yr.*
<b>CDL Endorsements</b>	N/A	\$1.25/yr.*
<b>Duplicate License</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Permits and Other Fees</b>		
<b>Learner's Permit</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Motorcycle Learner Permit</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Duplicate</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Special Identification Card</b>	\$10.00	
<b>Restoration Fee</b>	\$25.00	
<b>Driving Clinic Fee</b>	\$25.00	
<b>Service Fee</b>	\$50.00	
<b>DWI Restoration Fee</b>	\$50.00	
<b>Graduated Licensing</b>		
<b>Limited Learner's Permit (Level 1)</b>	\$10.00	N/A
<b>Limited Provisional License (Level 2)</b>	\$10.00	N/A
<b>Full Provisional License (Level 3)</b>	\$2.50 yr.*	N/A
<b>Duplicate</b>	\$10.00	N/A
<b>Temporary Permit</b>	\$10.00	N/A

*\*On January 1, 1995, North Carolina implemented a five-year license renewal program. Your license will be renewed for a period of four to eight years, depending on your birthdate. The cost of your license will be computed based on the yearly charge for the type of license you obtain. Eventually, all drivers will renew their license every five years, beginning at age 20.*

## Chapter 2

# Alcohol And The Law

Everyone's driving is impaired at a blood/alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent, but many people are affected at much lower levels. Research shows that the risk of being involved in a crash increases when the alcohol level is 0.05 percent, and at 0.08 percent the risk of causing a fatal crash is even greater.

### Driving While Impaired

In 1983, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Safe Roads Act. This act repealed all previous laws on drunk driving in North Carolina and replaced them with a single offense of "Driving While Impaired - DWI."

If an officer charges you with driving while impaired (DWI), you will be asked to take a chemical test of your breath or blood. Refusal to perform any required test will result in the immediate revocation of your driver license for at least 30 days and an additional, minimum 12-month revocation by the DMV. In certain instances, after six months of the willful refusal revocation has elapsed, the judge may issue a limited driving privilege.

If your intoxication test shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more (0.04 or more, if you are driving a commercial motor vehicle), your driving privilege will be revoked immediately for a minimum of 30 days. Additionally, the results of your chemical test or the fact that you refused to take the test will be admissible as evidence in court.

#### Driving while impaired can be proven in one of two ways:

- by proving the driver's physical or mental fitness are appreciably impaired by alcohol, drugs or a combination of both; or
- by proving the driver's blood/alcohol concentration is 0.08 percent or more.

### DWI Laws:

- allow enforcement agencies to set up road blocks to check for impaired drivers;
- prohibit drivers from consuming any alcoholic beverage, including beer, while driving;
- prohibit the transport of an open container of any alcoholic beverage if the driver is consuming alcohol or if alcohol is in the driver's body;
- prohibit the possession of alcoholic beverages (open or closed) in the passenger area of a commercial motor vehicle while upon any highway, street or public vehicular area;
- provide for different levels of severity of punishment based on the severity of the offense;
- require persons who are convicted of DWI for the second time to serve a jail sentence;
- attempt to punish DWI offenders, but also try to help them deal with problems they may have with alcohol;
- require that repeat DWI offenders or persons with high blood/alcohol contents (BACs) be checked to see if they might have an alcohol problem;
- require persons with lower BACs to attend alcohol safety schools; and
- require anyone convicted of DWI to obtain a substance abuse assessment prior to the reinstatement of driving privileges.

**If you are convicted of DWI while your license is revoked for an earlier DWI conviction, the court may order your vehicle seized and sold.**

**If You Are Convicted of DWI:**

**First Conviction** — Mandatory revocation of your driver license for a period of one year.

**Minimum Punishment** — Fine up to \$100 and not less than 24 hours imprisonment; 24 hours of community service; 30 days without a limited driving privilege or any combination of these.

**Maximum Punishment** — Fine up to \$2,000 and not less than 14 days or more than 24 months imprisonment.

**Second Conviction** — Mandatory driver license revocation for a period of four years if convicted within three years of first offense.

**Minimum Punishment** — Fine up to \$1,000 and not less than seven days or more than 12 months imprisonment.

**Maximum Imprisonment** — (same as for first conviction) A limited driving privilege will not be issued if the second offense occurs within seven years of the first conviction.

**Third Conviction** — Mandatory, permanent driver license revocation if at least one of the prior convictions occurred within past five years.

**Minimum/maximum punishment** — Fine up to \$2,000 and not less than 14 days or more than 24 months imprisonment.

**Fourth Conviction** — Mandatory permanent driver license revocation. — The fourth conviction is considered a felony if the three prior DWI convictions occurred within the past seven years.

**Minimum Punishment** — one year imprisonment.

**Maximum Punishment** — three years imprisonment and a fine.

**Alcohol Concentration Restrictions**

Effective July 1, 2000, an alcohol concentration restriction will be required when a license is restored following a suspension for DWI or when a Limited Driving Privilege is issued following a DWI conviction.

On the first restoration, the alcohol concentration restriction will be 0.04. On a second or subsequent restoration, the alcohol concentration restriction will be 0.00. Additionally, if you are convicted of Driving While Impaired in a commercial motor vehicle, driving after consuming alcohol or drugs while under the age of 21 or felony death by vehicle the alcohol concentration restriction will be 0.00.

Furthermore, a conviction of Driving While Impaired with a Blood Alcohol Concentration greater than 0.16 or another conviction within the past seven years, will require an ignition interlock device to be installed on the vehicle.

**Alcohol and the Young Driver**

The legal age to purchase any alcoholic beverage in North Carolina is 21. It is against the law for any person who is younger than 21 years of age to purchase or to attempt to purchase alcohol.

**The law requires a one-year driver license revocation upon conviction for:**

- any underage person who attempts to purchase or purchases an alcoholic beverage;
- any underage person who aids or abets another who attempts to purchase or purchases an alcoholic beverage;
- any underage person who obtains or attempts to obtain alcoholic beverages by using or attempting to use a fraudulent driver license or other I.D. or another person's driver license or I.D.; or
- any person who permits his or her driver license or any other I.D. to be used by an underage person to purchase or attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

**If a driver who is less than 21 years old is convicted for an offense of driving with any amount of alcohol or drugs in his/her body, his/her license will be revoked for one year.**

## Chapter 3 Your Driving Privilege

### Points

#### Driver License Points

If you are convicted of certain motor vehicle violations in North Carolina, driver license points are placed against your driving record. If you accumulate seven points, you may be assigned to a Driver Improvement Clinic. The clinic fee is \$25. Upon satisfactory completion of the clinic, three points are deducted from your driving record. If you accumulate as many as twelve points within a three-year period, your license may be suspended. The accumulation of eight points within three years following the reinstatement of your license can result in a second suspension.

#### If your driver license is suspended by the point system, it may be taken for:

- 60 days for the first suspension;
- 6 months for the second; and
- 12 months for the third.

When your driving privilege is reinstated, all previous driver license points are canceled.

#### Points are given for the following offenses:

Conviction	Point Value
Passing a stopped school bus loading or unloading children	5
Reckless driving	4
Hit and run, property damage only	4
Following too closely	4
Driving on wrong side of road	4
Illegal passing	4
Running through stop sign	3
Speeding more than 55 mph	3
Speeding through a school zone	3
Failure to yield right of way	3

No driver's license or license expired more than one year	3
Running through red light	3
Failure to stop for siren	3
Speeding through safety zone	3
Failure to report accident where such report is required	3
No liability insurance	3
All other moving violations	2
Littering involving a motor vehicle	1

#### Schedule of point values for conviction of violations while operating a commercial motor vehicle:

Conviction	Point Value
Passing a stopped school bus	8
Rail-highway crossing violation	6
Reckless driving	5
Hit and run, property damage only	5
Following too close	5
Driving on wrong side of road	5
Illegal passing	5
Running through stop sign	4
Speeding more than 55 mph	4
Speeding through a school zone	4
Failure to yield right of way	4
Running through red light	4
No driver license or expired for more than one year	4
Failure to stop for siren	4
Driving through safety zone	4
No liability insurance	4
Failure to report accident where such report is required	4
Possessing alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a commercial motor vehicle	4
All other moving violations	3
Littering involving the use of the motor vehicle	1

Any person who commits an offense for which points may be assessed for violations while operating a commercial motor vehicle may be assessed double the amount of any fine or penalty authorized by statute.

### Insurance Points

Insurance companies use a different point system to determine insurance rates. If you have any questions concerning insurance points, contact your insurance agent.

### Suspensions and Revocations

In addition to criminal penalties that the court might mandate, conviction of certain traffic offenses will result in the loss of your driving privilege.

#### Your driving privilege will be revoked for at least 30 days if you are convicted of:

- driving any vehicle more than 15 mph over the speed limit, if you are driving at a speed higher than 55 mph.

#### It will be taken for 60 days if you are convicted of:

- a second charge of speeding over 55 mph and more than 15 mph above the speed limit within one year; or
- speeding plus reckless driving on the same occasion.

#### The DMV can also suspend your license for the following:

- Two convictions of speeding over 55 mph during the same year;
- One conviction of speeding over 55 mph and one conviction of reckless driving within a year;
- A conviction of willful racing with another motor vehicle, whether it is pre-arranged or unplanned.

- A suspended court sentence or part of a sentence mandating that you must not operate a motor vehicle for a specified period of time; and/or
- A conviction for speeding over 75 mph.

In cases like the above, the DMV may suspend your driving privilege as soon as it receives the conviction report from the court. If your driving privilege is revoked, you may have the right to a hearing in the judicial district where you reside. To request a hearing, call or write to the DMV in Raleigh. You will be notified by mail of the time and place for the hearing. At the hearing you may state any facts that you think should entitle you to driving privileges or to a reduction of the suspension period.

If you believe your driving privilege should not have been taken and the hearing gives you no help, you may appeal the DMV's decision within thirty (30) days to the Superior Court of the county where you live. The court will review your case to see if there were proper grounds for taking your driving privilege.

Offense	Suspension Time
Driving while under the influence of an impairing substance (first offense)	1 year
Driving while under the influence of an impairing substance (second offense)	4 years
Driving while under the influence of an impairing substance (third offense)	Permanent
Manslaughter	1 year
Death by vehicle	1 year
Manslaughter while under the influence of an impairing substance	Permanent

Speeding in excess of 55 mph and at least 15 mph over the legal limit while attempting to avoid arrest	1 year
Prearranged racing with another motor vehicle on the highway	*3 years
Watching, betting on or loaning a car for prearranged racing	*3 years
Willful refusal to submit to a blood or breath test	1 year
Two charges of reckless driving committed within 12 months	1 year
Getting a license or learner's permit under false pretense	1 year

*\* When an officer finds that someone has loaned or is operating a motor vehicle willfully in prearranged racing, he/she will seize the vehicle. If the person is convicted, the court may order the vehicle sold at public auction.*

#### Out-of-State Conviction

Convictions occurring outside North Carolina may result in your license being suspended or revoked just as if the violations occurred in this state.

#### Failure to Appear and/or to Pay a Fine

Your driving privilege will be revoked when the DMV receives notification from the court that you have failed to appear in court or to pay fines for a citation you received in North Carolina or another state. In the case of failure to appear and/or to pay a fine, your driving privileges remain revoked until the DMV receives notice that you have complied with the citation. Complying with the citation does not relieve you of the consequences for the actual offense, if you are convicted.

#### Provisional Licensee (under age 18)

There are other rules that apply to persons under 18 years of age. If you are a provisional licensee, your license may be suspended for:

- 30 days, upon conviction of a second moving violation occurring within a 12-month period;

- 90 days, upon conviction of a third moving violation occurring within a 12-month period; and
- six months, upon conviction of a fourth moving violation occurring within a 12-month period.

#### Some examples of moving violations:

- passing a stopped school bus;
- reckless driving;
- hit-and-run;
- following too closely;
- driving on the wrong side of the road;
- illegal passing;
- running through a stop sign or red light;
- failure to yield right-of-way;
- failure to stop for an emergency siren; and
- speeding.

### Driver License Restoration

North Carolina law requires that a restoration fee of \$25 be paid to the DMV before a suspension, revocation or cancellation can be cleared. (This fee is not required if the license was taken for medical or health reasons following a medical evaluation.) A \$50 restoration fee is required when the revocation results from a DWI conviction. Also, a service fee of \$50 is required upon restoration of a revoked or suspended driver license unless the license was surrendered to the court or mailed to the DMV before the effective date of the suspension or revocation.

#### For the reinstatement of your driving privilege:

1. visit any driver license office;
2. pay a restoration and/or service fee;
3. reapply for a driver license; and
4. take required tests, if any.

## Chapter 4

# Your Driving

Good driving skills should be developed and practiced at all times. You should also know your physical and mental limitations and not drive a vehicle when you are too tired or sleepy. When traveling long distances, plan ahead; know your route; and be alert to the driving conditions. Your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may save your life as well as the lives of others.

## Driver Safety

### Driver Condition

Your driving is affected by your physical and mental health. To obtain a driver license, you must be in good health. If you have health problems that are serious and long-term in nature, they will likely come to the attention of the DMV. More often, health problems are short term, like suffering from colds, headaches or flu. You should remember that any time you are not feeling well, your driving is likely to be different. You may be less alert and less responsive than normal.

### Fatigue

Careful planning can help to make sure you do not drive when you are too tired. A surprising number of serious crashes occur because a driver falls asleep at the wheel.

### Medications

Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications can affect your driving. Before you take any medication, find out how it will affect you. Try to do as little driving as possible while taking any type of medication. If you must drive, be especially careful. You may not be as alert as usual.

## Alcohol

### Remember:

- About 38 percent of all traffic fatalities involve alcohol.
- Alcohol will first affect your judgement—you may think you can drive safely when you cannot.
- The amount of alcohol in a one-ounce shot of whiskey, three-ounce glass of wine and 12-ounce bottle of beer is the same.
- Black coffee, fresh air and cold showers DO NOT help someone to become more sober — only time will help.

## Young Drivers

Why do young drivers have such high crash rates? On the whole, these drivers are very healthy. Their vision is good, and their reflexes are excellent. Yet, they are inexperienced drivers. Regardless of how old a beginning driver is, it takes years to become an experienced driver. During the time available, a driver education course can teach only the most basic skills. Most of the learning must take place on the highway.

## Mature Drivers

People age at different rates, and some people in their seventies are more alert than others in their thirties and forties. Nevertheless, as we become older we tend to lose some of our ability to react quickly to driving problems. Our vision, especially our night vision, might become worse. We might have difficulty hearing and become more likely to develop medical problems.

### Whenever possible, if you are an older driver:

- drive on familiar roads and streets;
- drive short distances;
- change your driving habits to fit your abilities; and
- avoid heavy and fast-moving traffic.

## Protecting Yourself and Your Passengers

No one can be completely protected from being in a crash. None of us can predict what other drivers will do.

**During an average lifetime of driving, we face about a one-in-three chance of being seriously injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash.**

### Seat Belts

Each front seat occupant who is 16 years of age or older and each driver of a passenger motor vehicle manufactured with seat belts shall have a seat belt properly fastened about his or her body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion on a street or highway in this state.

#### Exemptions to the seat belt law:

- Persons with verified, physical conditions preventing the use of a seat belt;
- Persons with a certified phobia of seat belts;
- Rural letter carriers during the performance of work-related duties;
- Drivers of certain delivery, commercial and agricultural vehicles (while the vehicles are employed for those purposes);
- Drivers of vehicles not required by law to be equipped with seat belts;
- Emergency vehicles

#### Exemptions to the child passenger safety law:

- Persons tending to a child's personal needs;
- Situations where all seating positions equipped with seat belts are occupied;
- Vehicles not required by law to be equipped with seat belts.

## Child Safety

Every driver who is transporting one or more passengers of less than 16 years of age shall have all such passengers properly secured in a child passenger restraint system or seat belt which meets federal standards applicable at the time of its manufacture. A child less than five years of age and less than 40 pounds in weight shall be properly secured in a weight appropriate child passenger restraint system. In vehicles equipped with an active passenger-side front air bag and a rear seat, a child less than five years of age and less than 40 pounds in weight shall be properly secured in the rear seat unless the child restraint system is designed for use with air bags. If a child reached the age of four years before October 1, 1999, this requirement is met by having them secured in a seat belt.

### Child Safety Seats

Each year hundreds of North Carolina children are seriously injured or killed in automobile crashes. In fact, the number one threat to the lives of young children is the automobile accident. Only crash-tested child safety seats can reduce these senseless tragedies. Since small children cannot make safety choices for themselves, adults must make sure children are protected every time they ride in cars. Infants and small children must be placed in safety seats that are specially designed for them and have been crash-tested. Properly used safety seats could save seven out of every ten children who are killed while unrestrained. Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the safety seat. The best seat for your child is a safety seat that is used every time the child rides in a car. It must fit in your car(s) and have a harness or shield system that is comfortable for the child. The seat should be one you are able and willing to use every time an infant or small child rides in your car. Safety seats are often available through low-cost rental programs operated by local service groups, hospitals and health departments.

**For information about child safety seats, contact:**

**UNC, Highway Safety Research Center**  
730 Airport Road, Bolin Creek Building  
CB #3430  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-3430  
phone: 1-800-TOTLINE (1-800-672-4527) (in N.C. only)  
or (919) 962-2202

**Booster Seats and Safety Belts for Children**

Booster seats should be used for children who have outgrown their standard safety seats at about 40 pounds and until they are big enough for seat belts. Adult safety belts should not be used for children until they are big enough for the seat belt to fit correctly. The lap safety belt must fit snugly across the child's hips, not across the stomach. The shoulder portion of a lap/shoulder belt must fall across the shoulder and chest, not across the face or throat. For shoulder belts that do not fit, belt-positioning booster seats designed to raise a child up for a proper fit of the lap and shoulder belts are readily available.

If the shoulder safety belt falls across the child's face or throat and no booster seat is available, place the child in a rear seat with a lap safety belt or with a lap/shoulder belt with the shoulder belt tucked completely behind the child's back. You should not use this method in the front seat and NEVER slip the shoulder safety belt under the child's arm. In emergency situations, safety belts may also be used for smaller children who can sit up by themselves when no safety seat is available.

**Automatic Restraints**

Equipment may vary from air bags that inflate upon impact to shoulder harnesses that automatically wrap around occupants. Under the safety belt law, front seat occupants MUST wear safety belts even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. If the vehicle is equipped with automatic shoulder harnesses, the lap belt MUST also be worn.

**Children and Air Bags**

Air bags save lives. They work best when everyone is buckled and children are properly restrained in the back seat. Children riding in the front seat can be seriously injured or killed when an air bag comes out in a crash. An air bag is not a soft, billowy pillow. To do its important job, an air bag comes out of the dashboard at up to 200 miles per hour — faster than the blink of an eye. The force of an air bag can hurt those who are too close to it. Drivers can help prevent air bag-related injuries to adults and children by following these critical safety points:

**Child Safety Points**

- Children 12 and under should ride buckled up in a rear seat.
- Infants in rear-facing child safety seats should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag. Small children should ride in a rear seat in child safety seats approved for their age and size.
- If a child over one year old must ride in the front seat with a passenger-side air bag, put the child in a front-facing child safety seat, a booster seat, or a correct fitting lap/shoulder belt — AND move the seat as far back as possible.

**Adult Safety Points**

- Everyone should buckle-up with both lap and shoulder belts on every trip. Air bags are supplemental protection devices.
- The lap belt should be worn under the abdomen and low across the hips. The shoulder portion should come over the collar bone away from the neck and cross over the breast bone. The shoulder belt in most new cars can be adjusted on the side pillar to improve fit.
- Driver and front passenger seats should be moved as far back as practical, particularly for shorter-statured people.

## Law on Transporting Children in the Back of a Pick-up Truck

On January 1, 1995, a separate NC law went into effect that prohibits children less than age twelve from riding in the open bed of a pick-up truck. (*NCGS §20-135.2B*) An open bed or open cargo area is a bed or cargo area without permanent overhead restraining construction. The operator of the vehicle having an open bed or open cargo is responsible for compliance with this law. The statute does, however, contain some exemptions. The provisions for proper securement of children do not apply:

- If an adult is present in the bed or cargo area of the vehicle and is supervising the child;
- If the child is secured or restrained by a seatbelt manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, installed to support a load strength of not less than 5,000 pounds for each belt, and of a type approved by the Commissioner;
- If an emergency situation exists;
- If the vehicle is being operated in a parade pursuant to a valid permit;
- If the vehicle is being operated in an agricultural enterprise; or
- If the vehicle is being operated in a county which has no incorporated area with a population in excess of 3,500.

Violators are issued tickets and are subject to a fine of \$25.00. Violations of this law have been defined as “infractions” and do not incur court costs, driver license points or insurance surcharges.

The following 32 counties are exempt from the “pickup truck” law based on the absence of incorporated areas with populations exceeding 3,500: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Bertie, Camden, Caswell, Cherokee, Clay, Currituck, Duplin, Franklin, Gates, Graham, Green, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Montgomery, Northhampton, Pamlico, Pender, Perquimans, Polk, Swain, Tyrrell, Warren, Yadkin, and Yancey.

## General Driving

### The Driver and Pedestrian

**When you are driving, always yield right of way to pedestrians.**

- At intersections without traffic signals, pedestrians have the right-of-way if they are in marked crosswalks, or in unmarked crosswalks formed by imaginary lines extending from the sidewalks across the streets.
- At intersections controlled by ordinary traffic signals, pedestrians must obey the same signals as drivers traveling in the same direction — Pedestrians should not start to cross during a red or yellow signal.
- When crossing with a green signal, pedestrians have the right-of-way over all vehicles, including those turning across the paths of the pedestrians.
- If a traffic signal changes to yellow or red while any pedestrian remains in the street, drivers must allow the pedestrian to complete the crossing safely.

At some intersections, special signals instruct pedestrians either to “Walk” or “Don't Walk”. When these signals are operating, pedestrians must obey them rather than regular traffic signals.

- Pedestrians crossing with special pedestrian signals have the right-of-way just as they do while crossing with a green light.
- If you are moving through an intersection with a green signal and a pedestrian starts to cross in your path against the red signal, give a warning with your horn.

The law requires drivers to use the horn whenever a pedestrian may be affected by a turn, stop or start from a parked position. If the pedestrian does not stop, the driver must. Saving a pedestrian's life is always worth the driver's lost right-of-way. The safe driver yields right-of-way to a pedestrian whether the pedestrian is entitled to it or not.

### Special Considerations for Blind Pedestrians

The law gives a blind pedestrian special consideration at intersections where there are no traffic signals. When the blind pedestrian extends a white cane or a white cane tipped with red or is with a guide dog, all vehicles approaching the intersection must come to a full stop. All vehicles must remain stopped until the pedestrian has crossed safely.

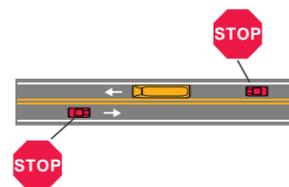
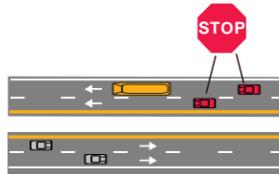
### Vehicles Requiring Special Consideration

#### School buses

The maximum speed limit for a school bus is 45 mph. School bus drivers travel more than half a million miles each school day and transport almost three-quarters of a million children every morning and afternoon. During the hours that school buses are operating (generally 7-9 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.), drivers should be especially careful.

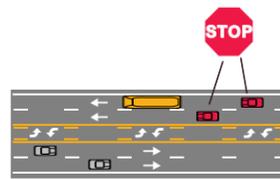
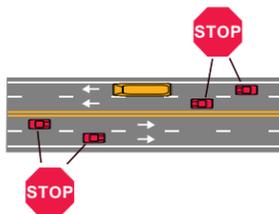
#### • Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:

When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.



• **Two-lane roadway:** When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.

• **Four-lane roadway without a median separation:** When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



• **Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane:** When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.

Children waiting for the bus or unloading the bus might dart out into traffic. Even when the school bus is not in sight, children at a bus stop sometimes will run into the street unexpectedly. **Always be careful around school buses and school bus stops.**

#### Emergency Vehicles

Police cars, ambulances, fire engines and rescue vehicles with flashing lights or sirens are always entitled to the right-of-way.

Follow these guidelines when approaching or being approached by an emergency vehicle:

1. As the emergency vehicle approaches (from ahead or behind), drive to the right-hand curb or edge of the road and stop completely.
2. Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, or until you are directed to move by a traffic officer.
3. Do not park within 100 feet of an emergency vehicle that has stopped to investigate an accident or to give assistance.
4. Do not drive or park closer than one block from fire trucks responding to a fire alarm.

**All vehicles, regardless of direction of travel, must yield right-of-way to an approaching emergency vehicle.**

5. Never drive a motor vehicle over a fire hose.

## Basic Driving Skills and Rules

### Driving on Your Side of the Road

The law requires you to drive on the right side of the road. Driving on the left side is legal only in some cases, such as on one-way streets and while passing. When you are moving slower than the posted speed limit on a multi-lane highway, drive in the extreme right lane unless you are passing, turning left or avoiding an obstruction.

### Adjusting Your Speed to Driving Conditions

The speed at which you drive determines the distance required to stop your vehicle. Stopping distance also depends on your reaction time. Stopping distances are longer at higher speeds because a vehicle travels farther during the driver's reaction time, and it takes more braking distance to come to a full stop. Even with ideal conditions, if you are traveling 55 miles per hour your vehicle requires approximately 211 feet to stop completely.

Driving at a high speed is more dangerous because each additional mile traveled per hour reduces the driver's ability to control the vehicle. Speed also increases the likelihood that a crash will result in serious injury or death.

On the other hand, driving below the posted speed limit can also be dangerous. If you must drive slower, you should still observe the minimum speed limit. At places where it is unsafe to pass, the slow driver forces other drivers to creep along behind or take unnecessary risks while trying to pass. Very slow driving is especially dangerous just after you have passed the crest of a hill or rounded a curve. Faster-moving vehicles can crash into the slower vehicle before they can slow down. For this reason, watch for slow-moving vehicles such as heavy

**Studies show that the vehicle moving at a speed considerably below the posted limit is much more likely to cause or be involved in a crash than the vehicle moving at a normal speed.**

trucks or farm vehicles. If traffic is collecting behind you, it is wise to pull over to the side of the road, stop and allow the vehicles to pass.

#### The most important rules about speed are:

- Never drive faster than the posted speed limit or at a speed that is unreasonable or unwise given the existing conditions.
- Allow a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you (the "two second rule").
- The faster you are moving, the farther ahead you must be able to see to allow enough distance for stopping.

Conditions often change as you drive. You will drive through different areas such as open country, residential communities and school zones. Watch for changing conditions and adjust your speed accordingly.

Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 35 mph in cities and towns. Special speed limits may be posted for special areas. To be a safe driver, you must often drive slower than the posted limit, but you should never drive faster.

#### Maximum Speed Limits

In Cities and Towns	35
For School Buses	45
For School Activity Buses	55
Outside Cities and Towns	55
For Interstates	70

### Rounding a Curve

#### The best way to handle a curve:

1. Slow down before you enter the curve so that you will not need to brake while you are in the curve.
2. Gradually increase your speed to maintain the traction necessary for good control of the vehicle as you round the curve.
3. If you must brake in the curve, apply the brakes gradually until you are sure it is safe to keep continuous pressure on the brake pedal.

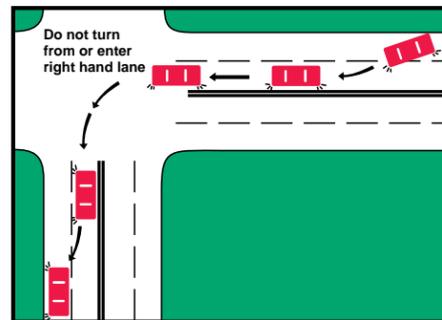
4. Begin to turn the vehicle just prior to the point where the road begins to turn
5. Stay on your side of the road and drive as far to the right as you can.

**If you encounter a curve while traveling downhill:**

1. consider the pull of gravity;
2. shift to a lower gear before moving downhill; and
3. begin to brake earlier and approach the curve more slowly than you would on a level roadway.

## Turning

Reduce the vehicle's speed before making the turn and then accelerate slightly. For right turns, stay close to the right edge of the road, so that another vehicle cannot move between your vehicle and the curb.



Motorcycles and bicycles are especially hard to see during a turn. Always give the proper signal and look before turning to make sure that you can turn safely.

## Following

Following too closely is a leading cause of traffic crashes. Maintain plenty of space between your vehicle and the one ahead. If the car ahead stops suddenly, you will need time to react. On the open road, keep enough distance between you and the car ahead so that a passing vehicle can safely move into and occupy the space. Remember to follow the "two second rule". (see page 64).

**Important rules about changing lanes:**

1. Signal your intended movement in advance.
2. Check the side and rear view mirrors;
3. Check over your shoulder to be certain the blind spot is clear.
4. Proceed with changing lanes.

## Changing Lanes

On a highway with multiple lanes of traffic, check the lane you are changing to, as well as the lane beyond, to be certain that another vehicle is not planning to move into the same space.

## Passing

1. Look ahead and behind to determine when it is safe to pass.
2. If it is safe to pass, signal to alert the drivers ahead and behind you of your intention so they can plan their moves accordingly.
3. Give a left turn signal so the driver behind you will know that you are about to pull out and pass.
4. Blow the horn to signal the driver ahead.

The horn signal places the driver of the car you are passing under a legal obligation to help you to pass. While passing, be sure you have plenty of room and keep a steady speed. You cannot pass safely unless you can see far enough ahead to insure that you can get back to the original lane of travel before you meet oncoming traffic. The law requires at least two feet of clearance

between your car and the vehicle or bicycle you are passing. You have not passed safely if the vehicle you have passed must slow down to allow you back into your correct lane. Never exceed the posted speed limit while passing.

**Places where passing is always unsafe and usually illegal:**

- at intersections in cities and towns or at railroad crossings;
- at marked intersections in rural areas;
- on any curve or hill where the driver cannot see at least 500 feet ahead;
- wherever there is a solid yellow line in the driver's lane;
- wherever there is a double solid yellow line;
- at intersections or crosswalks where a car has stopped to allow people to cross the street; and
- wherever the driver cannot see that the road is clear of traffic far enough ahead to pass safely.

**Passing on the right**

*Passing on the right is against the law* except in areas where it is specifically permitted. Passing on the right places your vehicle on the blind side of the car you are passing. The car you are passing could unexpectedly make a right turn or pull over to the right side of the road.

**Exceptions where passing on the right is allowed:**

- on highways having at least two lanes traveling in each direction;
- on one-way streets where all lanes of traffic move in the same direction;
- when passing a vehicle that is in the left-turn lane; and/or
- when driving in a lane set aside for right turns.

On three-lane highways, you must not pass except in the center lane, and then only where the center lane is marked for passing in your direction. **Exception: When the car in the center lane is making a left turn.**

**When your vehicle is being passed**

When you are being passed, you are required to help the other driver to pass. If the driver of the passing car blows the horn, move to the right edge of the road. Never increase your speed.

Effective December 1, 1995, if you increase speed and fail to give way to a passing vehicle, you will be charged with a misdemeanor if a crash occurs resulting in bodily injury or property damage.

**Backing**

**There are several rules you should follow when you must back your car.**

1. Before entering your car, check behind it for small objects or children — once you are in the driver's seat, it is hard to see them;
2. To maintain a full view of what is behind the car, steer with your left hand and look over your right shoulder through the back window — do not depend on mirrors alone or looking through the side window;
3. Back very slowly, not more than 10 mph — your car is harder to control and to stop when it is backing.

**Parking**

Always park on the right side of the road, except on one-way streets.

Before pulling out from a parallel parking space, check for approaching traffic and give a left turn signal, unless you are parked on the left side of a one-way street.

If you are driving and notice that a car ahead of you is pulling out from a parallel parking space, slow down and be prepared to stop.

**Places where you should not park:**

- at an intersection or in front of a driveway;
- within 25 feet of the curb line of an intersecting street or within 15 feet of the intersecting right-of-way lines if there is no curb;

- on a crosswalk, sidewalk or bridge;
- within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or entrance to a fire station;
- on the paved or primary-travel portion of any highway — parking on the shoulder is also against the law unless the parked vehicle can be seen by approaching drivers from both directions for a distance of at least 200 feet;
- on the roadway side of another vehicle (double parking);
- where there are *no-parking* signs;
- within one block of a fire or fire truck in city limits or within 400 feet of a fire or fire truck outside the city;
- anywhere within the right-of-way of an interstate highway, except in designated parking areas or in cases of an emergencies; and
- parking spaces designated for handicapped use unless your vehicle is displaying a *handicapped* license plate or placard.

## Special Driving Situations

### Intersections, Roads, Streets and Highways

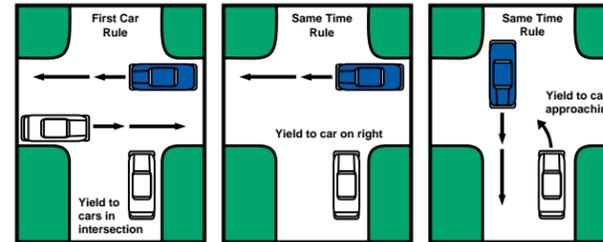
An intersection is any place where two or more roads meet or cross each other. Crashes occur most frequently at intersections, and they are considered the most dangerous places on a street or highway. More than one-third of fatal traffic crashes involving motor vehicles occur at intersections.

On four-lane highways separated by a median of more than 30 feet, each crossing constitutes a separate intersection. The law requires that you slow down when you come to an intersection, even if you have the right-of-way.

**In intersections without traffic signs or signals, the right-of-way rules state that:**

- the vehicle already in the intersection has the right-of-way ahead of any car that has not yet entered;

- when two or more vehicles reach an intersection at the same time, the car to the right has the right-of-way;
- a vehicle with the right-of-way may move straight ahead or, if legal and after signaling, turn right or left; and
- even with the right-of-way, be careful to avoid hitting other vehicles and pedestrians.



When two facing vehicles approach an intersection at the same time, the right-of-way rules are not much help. Both drivers can move straight ahead or turn right. If one driver is going straight while the other wants to turn left, the driver who wants to turn must wait. The driver who wants to turn left must give the proper signal and wait until the turn can be made safely. Therefore, in this case, the driver who is traveling straight ahead has the right-of-way. Never change lanes while you are moving straight ahead through an intersection.

### Right-of-way at intersections

When you approach an intersection with a stop sign, you must come to a complete stop and yield to the traffic on the through-street. Do not move ahead or turn until you can proceed safely.

Drive with caution at intersections with traffic signals and wait until the signal permits you to turn or to move straight ahead.

A traffic circle is a specially designed intersection. All cars in a traffic circle travel to the right. You drive around the circle in a counter-clockwise direction until you come to the road or street where you want to turn. You leave the traffic circle by making a right turn. If there is more

than one lane in the circle, be sure you are in the outside lane before you come to the place where you intend to exit the circle. Look and signal before you turn or change lanes. Never make a right turn from an inside lane. An entire traffic circle is an intersection. Vehicles already in the circle have the right-of-way.

When exiting a private driveway, stop and yield to all other vehicles and pedestrians. At unmarked intersections where it is hard to see in all directions, stop and then move forward slowly and cautiously.

### Interchanges

Many intersections may have roads crossing each other at different levels. These are interchanges and the method of turning at these specially designed intersections may vary. As you approach an interchange, slow down and give careful attention to the signs that direct you about how to make the turn.

### Railroad Crossing Safety

#### As you approach a railroad crossing, you must:

- slow your speed;
- keep alert; and
- watch for the railroad crossing signal.

A yellow and black “RR” sign indicates that you are approaching a railroad crossing. As you approach the tracks, look both ways and listen because you may have to stop. Trains can approach a crossing at any time. If there is a stop sign, you must come to a full stop before crossing.

A railroad crossbuck sign is used at the crossing itself. A smaller sign below the crossbuck indicates if there is more than one track. Many crossings have flashing red lights or flashing red lights with gates. If the warning signal activates, you must stop before the gates lower across your side of the road. **It is unlawful to move through a railroad crossing when the gates are lowered.**

### Remember these railroad crossing rules:

- When flashing red lights are used with crossbuck signs at the railroad crossing, you must STOP, just as you would stop for any flashing red traffic signal.
- If you are waiting for a train to pass, be patient.
- Do not proceed to move immediately after the train has passed — there may be another train moving in the opposite direction from or following the first train.
- Always wait until the red lights have stopped flashing before moving ahead.
- Be prepared to stop for vehicles that must stop at crossings, such as school buses, motor vehicles carrying passengers for-hire or vehicles transporting explosives or hazardous materials (these vehicles are marked with placard signs).

**Never move onto a railroad track unless you are certain you can drive across safely.**

- If you happen to be crossing the tracks and the warning lights begin flashing or gates start to come down, do not stop, KEEP MOVING! The warning signals will allow enough time for you to finish driving through the crossing before the train arrives. The gate on the far side of the tracks will not block you in. If you stop and try to back up, your vehicle may stall.
- Crossing gates will not trap you, but stopping traffic might. Be sure the traffic ahead of you will not stop and block you in on the tracks.
- If your vehicle is blocked in or stalls on the railroad track, make sure everyone vacates the vehicle immediately.
  - Post a lookout in each direction of the track to see if a train is approaching.
  - If there is no train in sight, attempt to push the vehicle clear of the tracks or to restart it (if stalled).

**Remember, no vehicle is worth a human life.**

With rail traffic increasing throughout North Carolina, it is more important than ever to practice safety at railroad crossings. Some trains require more than a mile for stopping distance. Trains cannot stop quickly, but your vehicle can.

### Bicycle Lanes

When a bicycle lane or bike path travels on or adjacent to the roadway, please pay special attention to bicyclists as you approach and move through an intersection. Because bicyclists ride to the right of motor vehicle traffic, a high potential exists for a crash between the bicyclist who is moving straight ahead through the intersection and the motorist who is turning right.

### City Driving

Driving in cities and towns can pose problems for some drivers. Traffic is often heavy in urban areas. Watch for approaching traffic at side streets. When driving in heavy traffic, be alert for drivers who make quick stops. To avoid a rear-end crash by another vehicle, check your rear view mirror often and stay aware of dangerous situations that might exist behind you. If you intend to make a turn and find that you are not in the proper lane, continue to the next intersection and turn there.

#### Other rules to follow when driving in cities:

- Give yourself plenty of space to make decisions — leave a “margin of safety” around your vehicle.
- Communicate your intended movements to other drivers.
- Watch the road far enough ahead of you to detect possibly dangerous situations earlier and to take proper defensive actions.
- Avoid driving side-by-side, especially in another driver's blind spot — if you cannot see the inside rear view mirror of the car ahead, you are probably in the driver's blind spot.

- Never “weave” in and out of traffic — stay in one lane if you can and plan lane changes ahead of time.
- Be prepared to apply the brakes.
- Watch for parked cars that might be pulling out and pedestrians who might dart onto the street from between parked cars. Parked cars can also block your view of intersecting traffic, driveways and alleys.
- On a one-way street, use the center lane(s) for through-travel and the outside lanes for turning.

### Open Roads

Rural highways can be narrow two-lane roads or multi-lane highways. **Driving on rural roads is often more dangerous than driving in heavy city traffic because:**

- the road may not be as wide;
- the lighting is often not as good; and/or
- the travel speeds may be higher

### Secondary Roads

A paved secondary road is not always designed for heavy traffic or regular highway speed. Most secondary roads are built for local transportation, and not for main highways. On these roads, hills are likely to be more steep and curves are likely to be more sharp than on primary roads. Sight distances are often very short. Secondary roads cannot be traveled safely at speeds that would be proper for primary highways.

### Interstate Highways

Interstate highways are safer roads because they have separate traffic lanes for vehicles moving in opposite directions and fewer places where traffic can enter and exit. Also, Interstates do not have railroad crossings, sharp curves, stop signs or traffic signals.

#### When driving on the interstate, follow these rules:

- Plan your trip in advance.
- Be sure to check the vehicle's water, oil, tires and gas before leaving on your trip.

- Decide in advance where you must enter and exit the highway.
- When entering the interstate, use the acceleration lane until your vehicle's speed matches that of the other traffic and then merge safely.
- Keep to the right, use the left lane(s) for passing.
- Do not tailgate.

**Remember these tips when you drive:**

- As your speed increases, look farther ahead.
  - Give particular attention to hidden intersections and driveways.
  - Watch for warning signs that signal changes in the road.
  - Watch for other vehicles, especially oversized and slow-moving ones.
  - Maintain a safe following distance
  - Use the vehicle's headlights when visibility becomes poor.
  - Be especially alert to oncoming vehicles because they are only a few feet away on some two-lane, undivided highways.
  - If you see a line of cars approaching, watch for drivers who might be trying to pass.
  - Always have a possible "escape route" to avoid colliding with an oncoming vehicle.
  - Signal at least 100 feet before turning or stopping. The faster you are driving, the further ahead you should signal.
- Keep a safe following distance for the speed you are traveling — one of the most frequent types of crashes on an interstate highway is the rear-end crash — use the "two second rule". (see page 64)
  - Remember that faster speeds require greater stopping distances and times.

- Stop at indicated rest areas frequently, preferably at least once every 100 miles.
- Never stop in the travel lane.
- If a vehicle breakdown forces you to stop, move far off the road. Tie a white cloth on the radio aerial or left door handle and raise the hood. If the breakdown occurs at night, engage the vehicle's emergency flashers or parking lights. If you are a driver who spots a vehicle breakdown, immediately contact the Highway Patrol or local law enforcement.
- When leaving the highway, signal your turn well in advance, and without slowing down, enter the deceleration lane. Proceed at the posted exit speed limit.
- Keep aware of cars in the lanes next to you.

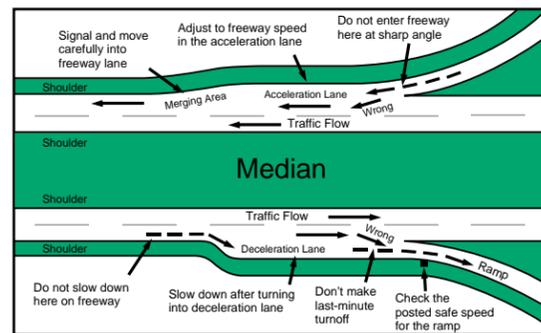
**If you enter an interstate headed in the wrong direction, pull over to the right shoulder of the road and stop. When the way is clear, turn around and head in the proper direction (Avoid this error by watching for DO NOT ENTER signs.)**

Traffic moves much faster on the interstate than on an ordinary highway. It is dangerous to drive very far below the posted speed limit. Follow the flow of traffic if you can do so without speeding. Crashes are more likely to occur when a vehicle moves significantly slower than the flow of the traffic.

**Entering and Exiting the Interstate**

A dangerous error made by drivers on an interstate is to attempt to leave the highway after missing an exit. If you miss an exit, do not slow down, back up or try to turn around. Proceed to the next exit and leave the highway there instead. You can always find a service or side street to return to your intended exit.

Many interstate highways have cloverleaf intersections. A cloverleaf intersection occurs where a bridge takes one road over another road and all turns are right turns.



### Safe Driving Tips

- Plan ahead.
- Allow time for frequent rest stops.
- Stop, get out of the car and move around at least once every 100 miles.
- When you feel sleepy, stop and rest or have something to eat.
- Constantly scan the road ahead, however do not look at any one object for more than a few seconds at a time and never stare into the distance.
- Use the rear view and side mirrors frequently to reduce the chance of your vehicle being hit from the rear.
- Slow your speed any time you see a situation that might be dangerous.
- Do not impair your view through the windshield or windows (an official inspection sticker and a current city decal, used in place of a city license plate, are allowed at the lower driver's corner of the windshield).
- Load your vehicle so that the driver's view of the road will not be blocked.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while driving.
- Except to make a hand signal, no driver or passenger should ever place an arm, head or foot outside a moving vehicle.

**To drive safely, your vehicle must be equipped with specific items that should be in good working order.**

### Lights

**Make sure all the lights on your vehicle work.**

- When you engage the high-beam headlights at night, you should be able to see a person who is 200 feet away. When using the low-beam headlights, you should be able to see someone who is 75 feet away.
- When headlights are improperly adjusted, they can shine in the eyes of approaching drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Vehicle vibration can cause the headlights to become out of adjustment.
- It is a good practice to routinely check and adjust the headlights.
- Overloading the rear of your car may cause the front of your car to tilt and produce an uncomfortable and sometimes hazardous headlight glare for oncoming drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Taillights must be red in color and visible for at least 500 feet.
- The law requires a white light shining on the license plate to make the numbers visible for at least 50 feet.
- All motor vehicles produced since 1955 must have red or amber lights that engage when the brakes or turn signals are used — these lights may be combined with the taillights or may be separated, and they must be visible for at least 100 feet in normal daylight.
- Because hand signals are difficult to see at night, it is very important that a vehicle's lights have clean lenses and stay in proper working order.

## Mirrors

Check and adjust the mirrors before you begin to drive. The rear view mirror should show what is directly behind you. Adjust the side mirrors to show the scene to the left and right rear of the vehicle. The mirrors should barely reflect the side of the car.

## Brakes

**You cannot drive safely without good brakes.**

- Every motor vehicle that operates on a public roadway must be equipped with brakes to adequately control the movement of, stop and hold the vehicle.
- All vehicles should have originally equipped brakes in good working condition — having two separate means of applying the brakes.
- The brake pedal should be at least one-third of its original distance from the floor when fully depressed. If it is not, you must have the brakes checked and, if necessary, repaired.
- If the pedal gradually lowers under the pressure of your foot, you must have the hydraulic system checked.
- Brakes that squeak when you depress the brake pedal can indicate a problem — have them checked — do not risk a possible loss of the brakes.

## Tires

Every vehicle operated on the streets and highways of North Carolina must be equipped with tires that are safe for the operation of the vehicle and do not expose the public to needless hazards. Tires are considered unsafe if they are cut, cracked or worn so as to expose the tire cord, or when they have visible tread separation, chunking or less than two thirty-seconds inch tread depth.

Tires are important for stopping your vehicle. Never drive on smooth tires or tires that have fabric showing. Tires without enough air wear out more quickly. Also, tires without enough air increase the likelihood of a blowout. Over-inflated

tires reduce traction and wear heavily on the middle of the tread.

The air pressure of tires must be checked at least once every week. For safe driving and fuel economy, tires should have the right amount of air. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation. The best time to check air pressure is when the tires are cool. If you do not have an air pressure gauge, you can take your car to a nearby service station or auto center to have it checked.

## Horns and Sirens

- Every licensed motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order.
- The horn must be loud enough to be heard for at least 200 feet, and it must not make any unreasonably loud or harsh sound.
- If the horn fails, have it repaired right away.
- The horn must be used as a reasonable warning device. You should not use the horn unnecessarily or unreasonably.

**Only law enforcement and emergency vehicles may have emergency lights or sirens.**

## Muffler and Exhaust System

Every motor vehicle must have a muffler that is in good working order. The muffler filters smoke and excessive noise. One function of the exhaust system is to take harmful fumes from the engine to the rear of the vehicle to be released. Check your exhaust system often to be sure it is not leaking. A leak in the exhaust system can allow poisonous carbon monoxide gas to enter the passenger compartment of the car. Carbon monoxide poisoning often can be fatal, and even small amounts can cause you to become sleepy or unconscious and lose control of the car. For this reason, it is suggested that you keep a window open about one inch at all times.

## Suspension System

If a vehicle sways freely, leans heavily to one side during a turn or seems to bounce continuously, there may be a problem with the suspension system. Have a mechanic inspect the suspension system, including shock absorbers, and immediately correct any defects. A faulty suspension system can cause you to lose control of the vehicle.

## Emergency Warning Flashers

Most cars are equipped with an emergency warning device that flashes all four turn signal lights. These flashers can be used as a warning by any vehicle to signal other drivers of a possible danger or that a vehicle is stopped or disabled.

## Defensive Driving

### Driving involves two important types of skills:

- skills that enable the driver to drive defensively and to avoid a crash in spite of driving errors by others; and
- skills for the basic rules about turning, passing, backing and parking the vehicle.

## Defensive Driving Skills

Some skills used for driving defensively include:

### ◆ Scanning

What you see is important for defensive driving.

- Good drivers try to see 10 to 15 seconds ahead on the roadway (about one city block). By looking ahead, you might avoid last minute moves such as sudden stops or quick lane changes.
- About every 10 seconds check the mirrors to see if any vehicle is following too closely
- When changing lanes, backing, slowing down or driving down a long hill, it is important to check for traffic from behind the car and in your blind spots.

- While checking the mirrors, do not take your eyes off the road for more than an instant. The vehicle in front of you could stop suddenly.
- Always leave yourself an “out”.

Although mirrors are useful, you should remember they do not show the full picture. Mirrors leave “blind” spots in your field of vision. “Blind” spots are the areas near the left and right rear corners of the vehicle that you cannot see using the mirrors from the driver’s perspective. Therefore, before you make any lane changes or turns, quickly turn your head and look over your shoulder to see what is in the blind spot. Additional blind spots can be created by glaring lights, dirty windshields, vehicles parked too closely to an intersection, bushes and/or buildings. In these cases, slowly ease your vehicle forward until you can see clearly. Avoid driving in other drivers’ blind spots where it is more difficult for them to see you.

### ◆ Communicating

Communicating means letting others know what you plan to do early enough to avoid a crash. Any time you plan to slow down, stop, turn, change lanes or pull away from the curb, you should signal your intention. Be in the habit of signalling your movements even when you do not see others on the road. Before you signal, you must first see that your movement can be made safely.

### ◆ Hand Signals

#### Hand signals are given from the driver’s window, using the left arm and hand:

- To signal a left turn, hold the arm and hand straight out and point the first finger.
- To signal a right turn, hold the arm straight out and the forearm and hand straight up, palm facing forward.
- To signal stopping and slowing down, point the arm and hand down, palm facing back.

### ◆Flashers

Flashing light signals for turns are legal substitutes for hand signals, but there are times when they are hard to see. In late afternoon and early morning, the lenses may reflect sunlight, making it difficult to tell whether the signals are flashing. At night a flashing light signal is much easier to see than a hand signal. Use the type of signal you believe will communicate best. A good rule is to use both hand signals and flashing light signals in the daytime, especially in the late afternoon or early morning when the sun is bright and low in the sky. The flashing light signal is sufficient at night.

Signal at least the last 100 feet before turning or stopping. If the speed limit is 45 mph or more, signal at least the last 200 feet before turning. The faster you are driving, the farther ahead you should signal.

### Keeping a Margin of Safety

Allow a margin of safety around you by staying clear of other vehicles. Make sure there is enough room ahead and behind to pass or stop safely. Use the “two second rule” to determine if you are far enough behind a vehicle to react if it stops suddenly.

#### The Two-Second Rule

**The “two-second rule” says that you should allow two seconds between the time the vehicle ahead of you passes a given point and the time your vehicle reaches the same point.**

Drive at a steady speed, and signal well in advance whenever you are slowing down or stopping to warn other drivers from following too closely. If another vehicle follows you too closely, move to another lane and signal for the driver to pass you. Stay in the middle of the lane and leave space on both sides of your car. Allow ample room between your car, parked cars and oncoming traffic.

### ◆Adjusting

In situations when you have to deal with two or more unavoidable dangers at the same time, adjust by giving the most room to the greatest or most-likely danger. Suppose there are approaching cars to your left and a child on a bicycle to your right. The child is most likely to make a sudden move, so give the child more room. This may mean moving closer to the oncoming cars. If the dangers are equally hazardous, such as oncoming cars and parked cars, you should stop and allow the oncoming cars to pass safely before proceeding.

### Hazardous Driving

**Adjusting to road conditions is the key to successful driving.**

- You should be able to judge dangerous conditions and adjust your driving accordingly.
- Most importantly, you should know when conditions are too dangerous to risk driving at all.

### Work Zones

A street or highway work zone warns of construction or maintenance activities that are on or adjacent to the road used by vehicles. The work zone may or may not actually interfere with the normal traffic flow, but it will usually contain activities that may tend to draw the driver's attention or otherwise distract a driver from traffic. It is very important to STAY ALERT in work zones and to be prepared at all times to react safely to unexpected conditions.

It is unlawful to drive a motor vehicle greater than the speed limit that is set and posted while driving in a work zone. A highway work zone is the area between the first sign that indicates the beginning of a work zone and the last sign that indicates the end of a work zone. The penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$250.00 if a sign is posted at the beginning of the

zone listing the penalty. This penalty is required in addition to any other penalties assessed for the speeding conviction.

A highway work zone can be easily identified by unique orange warning signs immediately preceding the work zone. The orange signs with messages in black letters are reserved strictly to identify work zones. In addition to alerting drivers as they approach and enter work zones, black-on-orange signs are used within the work zone to convey specific information and directions to drivers as they travel through the work zone.

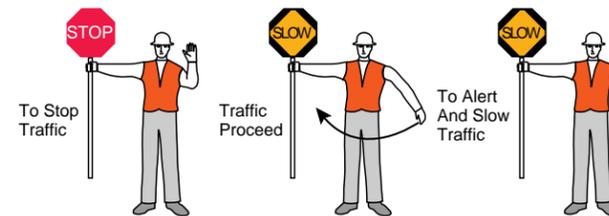
**Remember, black-on-orange signs identify work zones.**



#### Examples of typical work zone signs



The “flagger” sign warns drivers of construction or maintenance on the road ahead where a flagger wearing an orange vest is stationed at the site to control traffic. The flagger uses a “STOP/SLOW” paddle to either stop traffic or allow traffic to proceed. When you see the “Flagger” sign, STAY ALERT and be prepared to stop.



Warning signs alert drivers of unusual features or conditions that they are about to encounter.

#### How should you react to work zone warning signs?

- Recognize that when you see black-on-orange signs, you are about to enter a work zone and should STAY ALERT.
- Advance work zone signs may require you to take some action like shifting your vehicle to another lane.
- When you are expected to take some action, black-on-orange signs will convey the message far in advance, so you will have enough time to take the action.
- Do not wait until the last minute to take action — the signs provide sufficient time for the driver to react without impeding traffic.

Driving slower than the surrounding traffic is a major cause of rear-end crashes in work zones. In the work zone, driving areas may be confined, and there may be no maneuvering space or escape route for vehicles that unexpectedly approach a slow-moving vehicle ahead. Traffic control devices such as barricades, cones, drums, flaggers, etc., are used in work zones to guide and direct drivers safely through the work zone.

**When driving through a work zone:**

- **STAY ALERT:** Equipment and personnel are working very close to the roadway.
- Obey the signs.
- Maintain a steady speed consistent with the traffic flow unless otherwise directed.
- Do not slow your speed abruptly, which can create a hazard for the traffic behind you.

**Night Driving****Night driving is much more dangerous than daytime driving because:**

- you cannot see as well at night;
- there are more impaired drivers on the road at night;
- drivers are frequently tired and therefore less alert at night;
- a driver can be blinded by the headlights of an oncoming vehicle; and
- dirty windshields and poor lights can cause problems for some drivers.

**Tips for nighttime driving:**

- Use the headlights from sunset to sunrise and when visibility is 400 feet or less.
- When you drive at night in a city, use low-beam headlights. On the open road, use high-beam headlights unless you are approaching or following another car.

**Remember:**

- When an approaching car does not dim its headlights, you can remind the driver by blinking your high-beams once.
- If the driver still does not dim the lights, keep your lights on low-beam.
- Stay on the right side of the road and use the edge of the road as a guide.
- Reduce speed and watch the road as far ahead as possible, looking slightly to the right so you will not be looking directly into the headlights of oncoming traffic.

- At night, never drive at a speed at which you cannot stop within the distance you can see on the road ahead.
- Keep a lookout at all times — bright headlights from another vehicle make it difficult to see beyond their source.

**When parking on or along a highway at night:**

- Turn on your emergency flashers.
- Never leave your headlights on when you park at night — they can blind the drivers of oncoming vehicles.

**Sun Glare**

Sunlight, either direct or reflected, poses a dangerous driving situation for drivers. To reduce this problem, adjust your sun visor and wear sun glasses. If these do not help, stop on the roadside until you can drive safely.

**Rain**

Rain reduces visibility and makes pavement dangerous. You may be able to see only a few feet ahead; therefore you should drive more slowly than usual, **and you must use your headlights and windshield wipers.** Stopping distances on slippery pavement increases from two to ten times farther than on dry pavement; therefore, slow down and allow yourself at least twice the normal following distance.

Roads are dangerous just after the rain has begun to fall, especially if it has not rained for a while. For the first 10 to 15 minutes, the rain combines with oil from asphalt and cars, and with dirt, dust and rubber to create a slick surface. You should drive with extreme caution. Drive at least five to ten miles per hour slower on wet pavement than you would on dry pavement. You must also be prepared if your vehicle hydroplanes.

## Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning occurs when a thin sheet of water gets between the road surface and a vehicle's tires, causing them to lose contact with the road. The vehicle then begins a skatinglike movement across the road. Hydroplaning can start at speeds as low as 30 miles per hour and in water little more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch deep.

When your speed increases, so do the chances of hydroplaning. Your ability to slow, stop, or even slow your vehicle, is greatly reduced. Once you begin to hydroplane, any sudden jerking of the wheel or even a strong gust of wind can send you into an uncontrollable skid that can result in a crash. If you do begin to hydroplane, take your foot off the gas pedal.

**Resist your instinct to use the brakes.** Keep your steering wheel straight and let the car's momentum ease down until the tires grip the road again and you regain control.

Before going out in rainy weather, check your tires. Tires with deep, open treads allow water to escape and help prevent hydroplaning at moderate speeds. Tires with worn tread and those that are underinflated have less grip on the road surface, increasing your chance of hydroplaning. To properly handle skids, it is better to have tire pressure on the high side, rather than the low side, of the manufacturer's specifications.

Be alert to warning signs of standing water on the roadway, which can lead to hydroplaning. These include visible reflections on the surface of the water; "dimples" created by rain drips as they hit the water; a "slushing" sound made by your tires; and a "loose" feeling in your steering wheel. If you are driving after a rainstorm has just ended, continue to be cautious. Rain leaves puddles in the road for several hours, sometimes even days, after the showers stop that can cause your car to hydroplane.

## Windshield Wipers/Headlights

All North Carolina motorists are required to use headlights whenever they are using windshield wipers due to inclement weather.

## Fog

### If you must drive during fog:

- turn on the low beam headlights;
- reduce your driving speed and be alert for taillights of the vehicle in front of you; and
- watch for the vehicles behind you.

### If you have extreme trouble seeing, you need to:

- pull far off the roadway;
- stop, secure the vehicle and turn on its emergency flashers; and
- leave the car from the passenger side and stay away from the road.

## Snow and Ice

Snow and ice make roads very slippery, especially when the temperature is at or below freezing. Hard-packed snow increases the danger of skidding. As you drive, watch for shady spots, bridges and overpasses since these places are often the first to freeze as the temperature drops. If you must drive during a snowstorm, reduce speed, use windshield wipers and turn on the low beam headlights. It is recommended that you reduce speed by more than half for packed snow and slow to a crawl on ice. Use chains if necessary for better traction, but do not forget that even chains and snow tires can slide on ice and packed snow. You cannot start, stop or maneuver quickly in these conditions. Watch for other drivers.

**When you are starting or stopping on snowy or icy roads:**

- increase your speed slowly;
- get the “feel of the road” by testing your steering control and the braking friction;
- start to move in second gear or higher and release the clutch slowly (for manual shifts);
- allow at least three times the normal stopping distance as you begin to slow down;
- (when you stop) keep your foot off the brake and let the engine slow the vehicle; and
- maintain extra distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you.

## Emergencies

It is important to know what to do if you have a mechanical problem or if some unusual situation occurs. Most importantly, do not panic, but react promptly and appropriately to the emergency. Below are some tips and suggestions for dealing with emergency situations.

### Brake Failure

- Shift into a lower gear, release the clutch pedal (for manual transmissions) and apply the emergency brake.
- If the car is equipped with automatic transmission, apply the emergency brake and move the gear control lever into the low-range position.

This could cause damage to the emergency brake and the transmission, but under the circumstances of brake failure there is no better choice.

## Wet Brakes

**You can help to dry the brakes by:**

- driving a short distance; and
- applying light pressure to the brake pedal.

The heat generated by the friction of the brakes against the brake drum will evaporate the water from the brake linings.

To prevent excessive wear on brakes when moving down a long hill or steep grade, use a lower gear instead of the brake pedal to control speed. It is best to shift to the lower gear at the top of the hill before you descend.

## Gas Pedal Sticks

**If your gas pedal sticks:**

- tap the gas pedal to try to unstick the throttle linkage or lift the pedal with your foot;
- shift to neutral and apply firm pressure to the brakes without locking the wheels; and/or
- find a safe place to move the vehicle completely off the road.

## Blowouts

**If a blowout occurs:**

- hold the steering wheel tightly and try to keep the car straight on your side of the road;
- reduce speed;
- do not apply the brakes until the engine has slowed the car to allow you to maintain control of the vehicle; and
- find a safe place to move the vehicle completely off the road.

If you begin to feel a bumpy ride when there is no obvious reason, stop and check your tires. You can tell a blowout by a loud noise and by the way the car begins to swerve.

**Use caution before changing a flat tire.**

- Move the vehicle completely off the road.
- Set the parking brake and use emergency flares (if you have them) to warn other drivers.
- Direct all passengers to leave the car by the passenger side of the car. Never allow passengers to remain in the vehicle during a tire change. Move passengers off the road or shoulder — do not allow them to stand in front or to the rear of the vehicle.
- Turn on the emergency flashers and parking lights.
- Block the wheels to prevent the car from rolling.

**Breakdowns**

Do not attempt to make repairs on a vehicle while it is in an area exposed to other traffic. Ask a passing driver to get help for you by calling any law enforcement agency.

**What you should do if your vehicle breaks down:**

- Exit the main part of the road — move the vehicle completely onto the shoulder of the road.
- Make sure you leave the car by the passenger side, and do not allow passengers to remain in the car.
- Stand off the road and away from the car — do not stand in front or to the rear of the vehicle.
- If you need help, tie a white cloth to the left door handle or the radio aerial and raise the hood of the car.
- If it's dark, turn on the parking lights or emergency flashers. Always have flashlights or flares in your car for emergencies.

**Unusual Emergencies****An approaching car that crosses the center line into the path of your vehicle is a danger.****You should:**

- reduce speed immediately;
- sound your horn; and
- keep to the right even if this means running off the road.

**Tips to follow if you run off the pavement and onto the shoulder:**

- Do not immediately apply the brakes or try to turn back; you could skid, lose control or overturn.
- Slowly remove your foot from the accelerator and steer straight ahead.
- Allow the engine to slow the vehicle.
- When the car is stopped or nearly stopped, check for approaching traffic and if it's safe, gradually drive back onto the road.

**Skids**

Certain roadway conditions such as wet roads, ice and packed snow are more likely to cause skids.

**To avoid skidding when driving with these roadway conditions:**

- reduce speed gradually;
- start to move in second or high gear and slowly release the clutch (manual transmission) or use second gear (automatic transmission); and
- pump the brakes gently to slow the car down. Pumping your brakes gives the tires better traction.

**If you find yourself in a skid:**

- Slowly ease your foot off the accelerator.
- Turn the steering wheel in the direction the rear of the car is skidding.
- As soon as the vehicle's path begins to straighten, turn the steering wheel back the other way so you will not over-steer.

## Safe Driving Around Farm Equipment

The agricultural industry is one of the largest employers in North Carolina. Slow-moving agricultural equipment can be found in all parts of the state, including suburban areas. Caution should be taken when sharing the road with farm equipment.

Most of the crashes that involve farm equipment occur on a clear day, during daylight hours, and/or on a dry surface that is paved. Typical crashes with farm equipment include sideswipes and angle crashes.

These types of crashes typically occur while farm equipment is turning left and another automobile attempts to pass. In some cases, a machinery operator uses a left hand signal, and drivers may mistake this as a sign for them to pass. When the farm machinery slows to make the turn, the automobile following attempts to pass and crashes with the equipment. It is important to know that many farm machinery operators use hand signals to warn other drivers when they are turning or stopping.

When sharing the road with farm equipment, you must obey the rules of the road. It is illegal and very dangerous to pass farm equipment in a no passing zone. Farm equipment may be wider than what is visible from behind and may require ample space in both lanes. Furthermore, it may also be difficult to see traffic approaching in the opposite direction.

The key to safety when sharing the road with farm equipment is to be patient. If farm equipment is causing a delay in traffic, the operator should move off the road at the nearest practical location and allow the traffic to pass. This is the only advisable time to pass farm equipment on public roads.

During the harvesting and planting seasons, farmers work longer hours and are often on the road in the early morning and evening hours. Farm equipment is required to have one front white light as well as a rear red light that is visible for up to 500 feet. Two red reflectors that are at least four inches in diameter can replace the rear red light.

*Remember, when approaching farm equipment the closure time is much quicker because of the slow speed of the equipment. Always approach farm equipment with care.*

Farm equipment is legally entitled to travel on most roads in North Carolina (except interstates).

## Crashes

### If a crash seems possible:

- sound the horn;
- keep to the right;
- turn away from oncoming traffic, even if you must leave the road; and/or
- drive off the road, into an open field if possible.

### If you are about to be hit from the rear, and there are no vehicles in front of you:

- press the accelerator and move away as quickly as possible;
- be ready to apply your brakes if there is no room to move;
- brace yourself between the steering wheel and the seat; and
- press the back of your head firmly against the head rest.

### If you are about to be hit from the side:

- keep a tight grip on the steering wheel; and
- prepare to turn fast so that you can try to control the car.

### If you are about to be hit from the front:

- use your arms and hands to protect your face from breaking glass; and
- throw yourself against the seat to keep from hitting the steering wheel or windshield.

### In the event you are involved in a crash:

- You must stop the car immediately — if you do not stop, you have violated the law.
- Take precautions to prevent further crashes at the scene.

- Do whatever you can to help those who have been injured.
- Contact the nearest law enforcement agency. Try to insure that someone informs a law enforcement officer immediately.

**The law protects persons who stop and render aid at the scene of an accident from civil liability except for intentional wrongdoing or unruly conduct.**

You are required by law to make an immediate report to the nearest enforcement officer or agency of any crash when any person is killed or injured or the total damage to cars and other property appears to amount to \$1,000 or more. Failure to make the report may result in prosecution, and your driver license could be suspended. You should also report any crash to your insurance company. In certain cases, North Carolina law also requires the driver of a vehicle involved in a reportable crash to provide proof of financial responsibility (liability insurance) on forms provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles. These forms must be completed and filed with the DMV.

**Three things you MUST do if involved in a crash:**

- Provide your name, address, driver license number, vehicle registration number and the name of your vehicle insurance company.
- Be sure to obtain the same information from others who were involved in the crash.
- If you do not know the occupants of the other vehicle or the owner of damaged property, write down all the information you can gather and give it to the nearest law enforcement officer.

## Chapter 5 Signals, Signs and Pavement Markings

Traffic signals, signs and markings are used for traffic control to provide a smooth, orderly flow of traffic. It is important to understand their meanings.

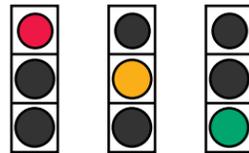
### Traffic Signals

**The traffic signal is used to control traffic and pedestrians at some intersections and mid-block crosswalks.**

- A circular green signal means “go”, but left turning traffic is “unprotected” and must yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic.
- A circular yellow signal means “caution” and indicates that the signal is about to turn red.
- A circular red signal means “stop”.

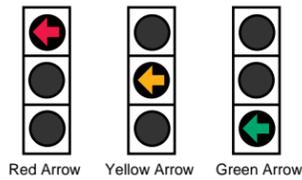
**Remember:**

- Stop for a yellow signal unless you are too close to the intersection to stop safely — in that case, drive cautiously through the intersection.
- Never speed up for a yellow signal to “beat” the red signal.
- Unless there is a sign indicating “NO TURN ON RED,” you can turn right on red after stopping and making sure that the turn can be made safely. North Carolina law requires the red signal to be placed at the top of the signaling unit and the green signal to be placed at the bottom.



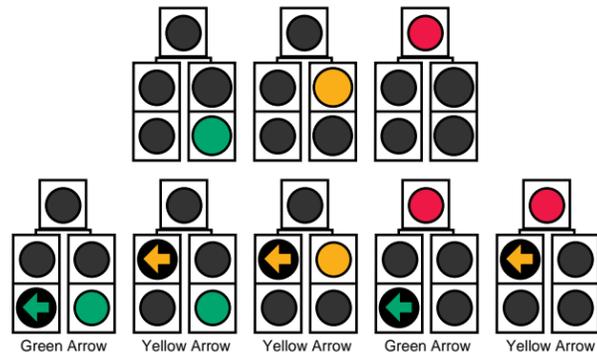
### Arrow signals are also important traffic signals.

- A green arrow means that you have a “protected” turning movement with no other conflicting traffic in the intersection except U-turn traffic that should yield to all other traffic entering the intersection.
- A red arrow means turning traffic must stop.
- A yellow arrow indicates that the “protected” green arrow signal is about to turn to a regular circular green signal, circular red signal or red arrow signal.



Red Arrow Yellow Arrow Green Arrow

Some traffic signals have a combination of “protected” turn arrow signals and “unprotected” circular signals based on traffic demand. At these intersections, both through-traffic and turning traffic are controlled by circular signals if no arrow signal is displayed. When arrow and circular signals are both displayed, turning traffic is controlled by the arrow signals and through traffic is controlled by the circular signals. Below are examples of combination signal displays you may see.



Green Arrow Yellow Arrow Yellow Arrow Green Arrow Yellow Arrow

### Flashing Signals

The flashing red signal has the same meaning as the stop sign: Stop and do not proceed to move until you can enter the intersection without interfering with approaching traffic. The flashing yellow signal has the same meaning as a warning sign. Slow down and proceed with caution.

### Traffic Signs

Shape and color make it possible to recognize the various kinds of highway signs at a glance.

Traffic signs are divided into three types:

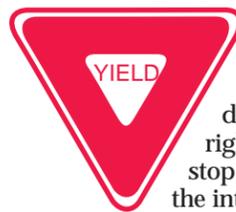
#### 1. Regulatory Signs

The eight-sided (or octagonal) sign is the *stop* sign. The word “STOP” is printed in white on a red background. The octagonal shape is used for stop signs only. The stop sign is usually posted six to 50 feet from the intersection. When you approach this sign, the law requires you to come to a FULL stop. Do not proceed to move again until you are sure the way is clear.



When a stop sign, stoplight, flashing light, or other traffic-control device requires a vehicle to stop at an intersection, the driver must stop at the appropriately marked stop line. If there is no stop line or marked crosswalk, the driver must stop before entering the intersection where he/she has a view of the intersecting street.

The *yield* sign is triangular shaped with the point at the bottom. This sign is red and white with the word “YIELD” in large letters at the top. When you approach the yield sign, you must slow down and yield the right-of-way. Your need to stop depends on the traffic on the intersecting street. To avoid interfering with that traffic, you must stop and wait for it to pass.



Rectangular and square-shaped signs, which are normally black and white or red and white, are also used to show speed limits and other regulations. These signs will also have messages such



as "NO U-TURN" or "KEEP RIGHT EXCEPT TO PASS." Failure to obey these signs is unsafe



as well as a violation of the traffic laws.

The *handi-capped*

*parking* sign indicates that a space is reserved for persons who qualify for a handicapped license plate or a dashboard placard.



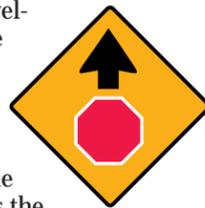
**2. Warning Signs**

The pennant-shaped yellow warning sign emphasizes, rather than replaces, the rectangular regulatory "DO NOT PASS" sign. The pennant is located on the left side of the road and points to the beginning of the no-passing zone (solid yellow line in your lane).



Diamond-shaped signs are also caution or warning signs. They are normally black on yellow,

but when they are black on orange, they warn of conditions for construction or maintenance areas. When you see one of these signs, drive with extra care. One of the most important caution signs is the "STOP AHEAD" sign. It is placed far ahead of a



stop sign when the driver's view of the stop sign is blocked by a curve or other objects.

Diamond-shaped caution or warning signs that are orange with black messages warn about construction or maintenance areas. Highway work zones are covered in more detail in *Chapter 3 — Your Driving Privilege*.

**Samples of caution or warning signs**



A circular sign, with a black cross and the black letters "RR" on a yellow background, gives advance warning of a railroad crossing. When you see this sign, slow down. Stop if necessary to be sure you can safely clear the crossing.



At the railroad crossing itself is the railroad crossing *crossbuck* sign. The words "RAILROAD CROSSING" are printed in black on the white crosspieces. If there are multiple tracks at the crossing, they are shown on a sign below the crossbuck. You must stop at a railroad crossing whenever a flagman, signal or gate indicates an approaching train. You must

remain stopped until the gate lifts or the signal or flagman indicates that it is safe to proceed. Take the time to check twice in each direction before crossing a railroad track.

The five-sided (or pentagon) sign warns of a school zone or a school crossing. You should be especially watchful for children in these areas. In many school zones, the speed limit is reduced during certain school hours.



### 3. Guide/Informational Signs

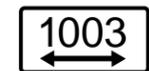
Guide/informational signs give directions, routes, distances and indicate services.

**Interstate, U.S. and N.C. highways are numbered and marked.**

- Odd-numbered highways generally run north and south.
- Even-numbered highways generally run east and west.



- Route markers for U.S. highways are in the shape of a shield.
- North Carolina route markers are diamond shaped.
- N.C. secondary road signs are rectangular in shape.
- Interstate highways are marked by a red, white and blue shield.



- Signs indicating a nearby hospital, highway patrol station or telephone are blue and white.



- Guide signs, also rectangular in shape, may be green, brown or blue. They provide directions and distances. If you are lost, a mileage and directional sign can help you.



Do not endanger other drivers by stopping in the middle of the road to read a sign. Move to the shoulder of the road and wait until you have figured out where you are and which route you should take.



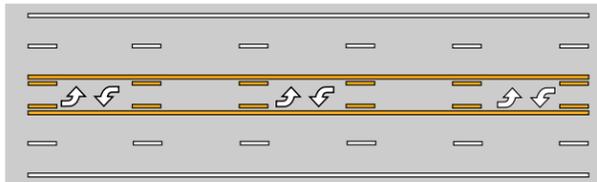
### Pavement Markings

Yellow lines separate travel lanes moving in opposite directions. White lines separate travel lanes moving in the same direction. A yellow *skipped* or *broken line* is used as the center line on a two-lane, two-way road where passing with care is permitted in both directions. When continuous, double, solid, yellow lines are the center lines you cannot cross them to pass in either direction. On a two-lane road, passing with care is permitted if the skipped yellow line is in your lane.

Single, solid, white lines are used as right-edge lines along the roadway and for guiding traffic traveling in the same direction. Single,

solid, yellow lines are used as left-edge lines on divided highways. If you see the reverse, you are traveling in the wrong direction.

On certain multi-lane highways, a special center lane is reserved exclusively for two-way left turn movements in both directions. The two-way left turn lane must not be used for passing or overtaking another vehicle. The marking for this type of lane is shown by the diagram below.

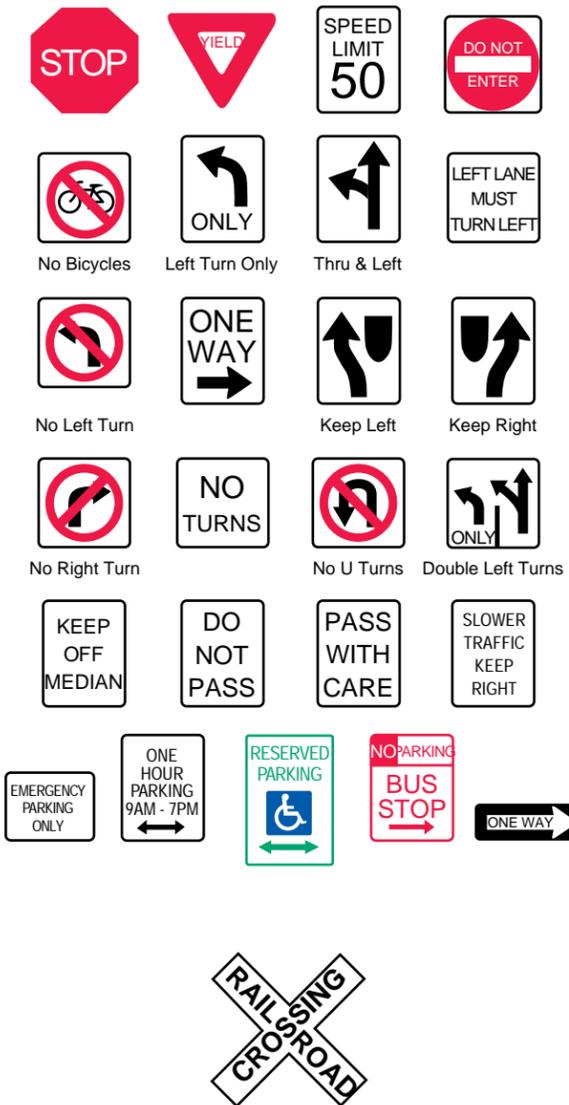


White and yellow pavement “markers” are reflective devices used in the pavement to improve the visibility of marking lines at night when the road is wet. Red markers indicate wrong-way movements for motorists.

### Traffic Officers

Under special circumstances, an officer may be directing the flow of traffic. If so, obey the officer’s hand signals instead of the normal traffic signals or signs. Most traffic officers signal drivers to stop by holding up one hand with the palm facing the vehicle and giving a long blast on the whistle. The officer signals drivers to start or to keep moving by motioning with the hand and giving a series of short blasts on the whistle. At night, the traffic officer may signal by using a flashlight.

### Regulatory Signs



### Warning Signs



### Chapter 6 Sharing the Road

Our streets and highways are becoming more crowded every day. Therefore, it is necessary that you, as a driver or pedestrian, know and practice the rules of the road. You should always be aware of the traffic around you and be prepared for emergency situations.

#### Bicycles

Bicycle riding is an important means of transportation, particularly for traveling to work and school. Drivers must always be alert for bicycle traffic on any road at any time. Because bicycles are vehicles, bicyclists must obey the same traffic laws as other drivers.

**Like drivers, bicyclists must:**

- ride on the right side of the road;
- stop for stop signs and red lights; and
- give hand signals.

A bicyclist should not transport more riders than the bicycle is built to carry and should always have both hands free to operate the bicycle.

Many crashes happen because drivers do not see cyclists soon enough. In North Carolina, most bicycle crashes occur in residential areas during the summer months and on Saturdays. Usually, the crashes occur during daylight hours and on straight, dry roads, intersections, alleys, or driveways. The most fatal crashes occur on open country roads.

Bicyclists are legally entitled to use most roads in North Carolina. Even though their slower speeds can pose problems for motorists, it is important to respect the bicyclist's right to be on the roadway. Yield the right of way to the bicyclist in the same way that you would for a car. If possible, make eye contact with the bicyclist, especially at intersections. If you must use your horn, a gentle "beep" should alert the bicyclist without startling him or her. Road defects are even more of a problem for bicycles than for cars.

Be prepared to leave the bicyclist plenty of room in case he or she must swerve to miss a pothole or other hazard in the road. In a crash with a bicycle, the bicyclist is usually the person most likely to be hurt seriously.

**Drivers must take special care to watch out for bicycle riders. Take the following precautions:**

- Wait until the cyclist has cleared the intersection before making a turn to the right or left. The most common error for drivers is to make a left turn directly into the path of an oncoming cyclist— without seeing the bicycle until it is too late to stop. Drivers will also frequently make right turns in front of cyclists they have just passed, cutting them off and causing crashes.
- When passing a cyclist, slow down and make sure the bicycle rider is aware of your presence. Leave plenty of room between the bicycle and your vehicle. If there is no room to pass because of approaching traffic, wait until it has gone by, and then pass. The law requires that you pass at least two feet to the left of the bicycle, but you should leave more room if there is any danger that your vehicle's windstream could cause the bicyclist to lose control.
- Be careful while judging a bicycle's speed. The bicycle might be traveling faster than you think. Drivers sometimes cut in front of bicycles too quickly because they have not judged the bicycles' speeds accurately.
- Be alert for cyclists to swerve or to turn suddenly in front of you with little or no warning. Cyclists sometimes wait until the last second to move to the center of the roadway to make a left turn.
- Use extra caution during the morning and afternoon hours when cyclists are traveling.
- At night, do not assume that bicycles always will have lights and reflectors — be alert for them. When meeting an oncoming cyclist, always dim your headlights.
- Since the bicycle is the primary vehicle for personal transportation for children under

16 years of age, be certain your child has been instructed about how to ride a bicycle properly and that he or she knows the necessary signs, signals and rules.

For more information about bicycle riding skills for yourself and your child, write to:

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Bicycle Program  
P. O. Box 25201  
Raleigh, NC 27611-5201  
or call (919) 733-2804

### You as a Pedestrian

As drivers, we must watch out for pedestrians on the roadway. In cities, about two of every five persons killed by motor vehicle crashes are pedestrians; in rural areas, the rate is about one of every 10. Most of the pedestrians killed are children, elderly persons or those who have been drinking alcoholic beverages. When you are a pedestrian, do all you can to make yourself visible and to help drivers to prevent crashes.

**Pedestrians should always:**

- walk on the left side of the road facing traffic;
- wear or carry something white — do not assume that drivers can see you;
- do everything you can to make yourself visible to drivers;
- be ready to move out of the way in case a driver cannot see you; and
- at night, remember that it is more difficult for drivers to see you — use a flashlight.

### Trucks and Other Vehicles

**It is more difficult to drive a large truck than a passenger car for the following reasons:**

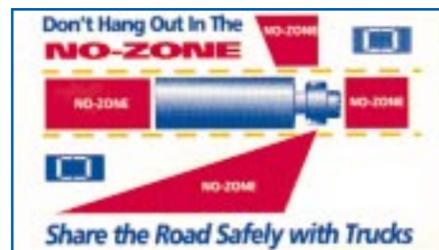
- Heavy trucks cannot gain speed as quickly as cars, especially while travelling uphill. However, because of its large size, a tractor-trailer often appears to be travelling at a slower speed than it is.

- Large trucks require additional turning room because their rear wheels do not follow the path of their front wheels. When following a tractor-trailer, observe its turn signals before trying to pass. If it appears to be starting a left turn, check to see which way he's signaling before you attempt to pass.
- Truck brakes create heat when the truck is traveling downhill. This condition requires additional stopping distance for the truck.

When driving beside large trucks or any large vehicle, the wind currents created by the larger vehicle may affect your steering. Give the truck plenty of room. When following large trucks, your vision may be blocked. Use caution while attempting to pass these vehicles.

### No-Zones

Many motorists falsely assume that truckers can see the road better because they sit twice as high as the driver of a car. However, truckers still have serious blind spots or NO-ZONES into which a car can disappear from view—up to 20 feet in front of the cab, on either side of the tractor-trailer, particularly alongside the cab, and up to 200 feet in the rear. (see diagram)



Motorists lingering in the NO-ZONES hamper the trucker's ability to take evasive action to avoid a dangerous situation. An excellent rule of thumb for motorists sharing the road with a tractor-trailer is, *"if you can't see the truck driver in his side view mirror, he can't see you."*

### Recreational Vehicles and Trailers

- Most recreational vehicles, including motor homes, campers and travel trailers, are longer, higher and wider than passenger cars.

- Recreational vehicles and trailers accelerate and stop more slowly than cars and require more room for turning.
- Visibility is a major problem with recreational vehicles — remember that the closer you are as you approach a recreational vehicle, the more it will block your field of vision.
- Drivers of recreational vehicles can lose sight of you because their blind spots are much larger than those of cars.

#### When you approach a vehicle towing a trailer:

- watch for any sway or possible hazards, such as crosswinds or slippery curves;
- be aware that sudden braking might cause the trailer to jackknife; and
- use extreme caution while passing a trailer and the towing vehicle — it may take you a half-mile of clear roadway to safely pass.

Towing a trailer or boat requires special skill, as well as consideration on the part of each driver.

### Motorcycles and Mopeds

There is no question that a motorcycle or moped is more difficult to see than a car. Yet these vehicles have the right to use the highway and must be given consideration. There have been steady increases in the uses of motorcycles and mopeds. **Drivers share the road with motorcycles and mopeds, and they must be especially careful to look for them and to observe these precautions:**

- Give the motorcyclist or moped rider the same right of way consideration as you would for the driver of any other vehicle.
- Motorcycles are entitled to the full width of their lane — To pass a motorcycle, you must change lanes and pass in the same manner as you would for a larger motor vehicle.
- A moped should travel using the right-hand side of the lane — To pass a

moped, you must stay at least two feet to the left.

- You must leave any cyclist sufficient room when you pass so that your vehicle's windstream cannot cause the rider to lose control.

Be especially watchful for motorcycles and mopeds while turning or changing lanes at intersections or entering the road from a driveway. Mopeds and motorcycles are difficult to see, and they can be entirely hidden by your blindspots. In many left-turn situations it is even more difficult to see the motorcycle or moped. Look out for motorcycles and mopeds, as well as other vehicles, before you turn, change lanes or proceed to move.

### Motorcycles

#### Things to remember when you encounter a cyclist:

- Never crowd the motorcycle or moped — following too closely does not allow enough reaction time in the case of an emergency.
- Allow a greater following distance when road surfaces are slippery — It is easier for the motorcycle or moped to become unstable because they have only two wheels in contact with the road surface.
- Always allow the cyclist plenty of room to maneuver, especially at railroad crossings or on rough and uneven roadways — if the crossing is rough or at an angle, the rider might need to slow down to cross.
- Steel bridge expansion joints, metal grating on bridges and other metal surfaces are hazardous for cyclists — leave plenty of space between yourself and the cyclist.

About two-thirds of motorcycle crashes in North Carolina involve a car. In most of these crashes, the driver of the car is at fault. The driver usually claims he or she did not see the motorcycle. Because the motorcycle offers little or no protection to the rider, the motorcyclist often is seriously injured or killed.

Many small motorcycles do not accelerate rapidly and may not maintain speed going uphill or against a headwind. Stopping distances for motorcycles are also different. Most can stop more quickly than cars, but motorcycles stop more slowly when there is a second rider or when they are traveling on poor road surfaces where sudden braking could lead to a fall.

On the road, a cyclist traveling ahead of you could lose control when materials such as sand, gravel, wet leaves or water are on the pavement. Be aware of conditions that may cause a motorcyclist to fall. Watch out for motorcycles that wobble or jerk while starting to move, or cyclists who hesitate while making traffic decisions. These are signs of a beginning cyclist, so allow plenty of room.

### Mopeds

North Carolina law defines a moped as a vehicle with two or three wheels with a motor of no more than 50 cubic centimeters of piston displacement and no external shifting device. Legally, a moped's top speed cannot exceed 20 mph. Although some mopeds on the market have top speeds higher than the 20 mph limit, they are illegal for use in North Carolina. Be sure you know a moped's size and maximum speed before you buy it. Otherwise, you may not be able to operate it legally.

In North Carolina you must be at least 16 years old and wear a helmet to operate a moped on a public roadway or public vehicular area. The same DWI laws that apply to the drivers of other motor vehicles also apply to moped operators. When riding a moped on a public roadway you must follow all the rules of the road.

#### In addition, you should follow the rules for riding a moped listed below:

- Stay out of traffic, as much as possible.
- Try to find routes that are not traveled heavily.
- Keep your distance — in every situation leave a reasonable amount of space between you and the other vehicle.
- Keep to the right of your lane — give yourself as much space as you can.

- Because you will probably be moving more slowly than the other traffic, other drivers will want to pass you — Stay out of their way, as much as possible.
- Do not share lanes with other vehicles.
- At an intersection, never “squeeze” between parked cars and moving traffic.
- Make sure other drivers can see you — wear light or brightly colored clothing.
- If possible, install electric turn signals on your moped. Otherwise, be sure to use hand signals when you turn or stop.
- Look as far ahead as possible.
- Anytime you cross the path of traffic, slow down, stop and look carefully before you proceed to move.
- Be sure to look over your shoulder before you move into traffic and always be careful around parked cars.
- Protect your body — wear protective clothing that covers your body and always wear shoes.
- Moped riders are required by law to wear a helmet if riding on a public road or public vehicular area.

## Fuel Economy

### To observe some of the basic concepts of fuel economy:

- Drive at a moderate, steady speed.
- Keep your car in good mechanical condition.
- Maintain the correct tire pressure.
- Avoid quick starts and stops.
- Plan your trip to reduce the total miles traveled.

## Keeping the Road Litter-Free

In North Carolina, **littering is illegal**. When litter is thrown from or blown from a vehicle, the driver of the vehicle is held responsible. If convicted, the minimum fine is \$250.00, and the maximum fine is \$1,000.00. Any second or subsequent offense within three years after the date of a prior offense is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,000.00, if convicted.

### Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program

The North Carolina Department of Transportation began the Adopt-A-Highway Program in April 1988. More than 7,000 volunteer groups have adopted approximately 15,000 miles of state-maintained roadsides, making North Carolina's Adopt-A-Highway program the largest of its kind in the nation.

To join the program, a civic, business, social or family group agrees to pick up litter at least four times a year along a two-mile section of state-maintained roadway. The Department of Transportation furnishes most groups with two sets of signs. These signs identify the adopted stretch of roadside and recognize the group's contribution. In addition, the NCDOT provides safety vests and training for each volunteer.

A recycling component has been added to the Adopt-A-Highway program. Since February 1990, volunteer groups have been asked to recycle as much of the litter they pick up as they are able. By recycling, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers are making an even greater contribution to their communities' environments.

The tremendous success of the Adopt-A-Highway program shows the great pride North Carolinians have in the beauty of their state. Please show your appreciation for these volunteers by obeying North Carolina's laws against littering.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Highway program write to:

**NC Department of Transportation**  
**Beautification Programs**  
 P.O. Box 25201  
 Raleigh, N.C. 27611-5201  
**or call** (919)715-3188

## Chapter 7

# How DMV Serves You

The Division of Motor Vehicles is responsible for promoting highway safety and serving the citizens of North Carolina through driver license, vehicle registration and vehicle inspection programs.

### DMV Mobile Service Centers

#### Bringing driver license services to a town Near You...

Expanding and improving customer services to North Carolinians is a DMV goal. In keeping with that goal, DMV has equipped three mobile units with the latest driver license technology and turned them into Mobile Service Centers (MSCs). The units offer the same services as permanent, full-time sites eliminating congestion at those locations. DMV is now delivering driver license services to areas where people previously had to drive 30 or 40 miles to the nearest DMV office.

#### You can do the following when visiting a MSC:

- Take the driver license written and skills test.
- Receive an original driver license.
- Receive a duplicate driver license.
- Take the commercial driver license written test. *(The skills test is not available at these sites.)*
- Receive a commercial driver license.
- Update your driver information.
- Obtain a photo identification card.

### Driver Records

You may obtain a copy of your driving record upon prepayment of the required fees by writing to or visiting:

**NC Department of Transportation**  
**Division of Motor Vehicles**  
**Driver License Section**  
 1100 New Bern Avenue  
 Raleigh, N.C. 27697-0001

*Please include your full name, date of birth and driver license number if available, with your request and indicate the type of record that you are seeking.*

Three- and seven-year driving record checks normally are used for insurance and employment purposes and cost \$5. A certified driver license record check usually is required for court appearances and costs \$7. For the record check to include crash information, the request must include the written permission of the driver.

### Vehicle Registration

Except for owners of mopeds, exempt farm vehicles and exempt road construction equipment, every vehicle owner must register his or her motor vehicle with the Division of Motor Vehicles.

#### To register a vehicle:

- the owner must complete the required application forms; and
- pay the appropriate registration fee.

#### Upon receipt of the application for motor vehicle registration:

- The DMV will issue a registration card, certificate of title, registration plate (license plate) and validation stickers to the owner.
- The registration card should be kept in the vehicle at all times and must always be available to show a law enforcement officer upon request.
- The license plate will show the unique number that has been assigned to the vehicle; the expiration date of the registration; and that the vehicle is registered in North Carolina.
- The license plate must be displayed as required by law.

**Remember these things when registering a vehicle:**

- Before a vehicle can be registered in North Carolina, the DMV requires proper proof of ownership.
- For new vehicles, the manufacturer's certificate of origin is the official transfer document.
- If you purchase a used vehicle which has already been registered, you must present the certificate of title properly assigned by the former owner.
- To register a used vehicle for the first time in North Carolina, you must present the title from the state where the vehicle was formerly registered.
- If the used vehicle is from a non-title state, you must present the current vehicle registration card with a properly notarized transfer of ownership on the back or a notarized bill of sale from the former owner and the former owner's proof of purchase.

**Insurance and Financial Responsibility**

In addition to proof of ownership, North Carolina law requires that before a motor vehicle can be licensed, the owner must certify that the vehicle is covered by liability insurance; cash or bond deposited with the State Treasurer; or a certificate of self-insurance. This law is enacted to insure that the costs of a crash are paid by those who are responsible.

**The minimum amount of liability insurance required is:**

- \$25,000 for injuries to any one person in a crash;
- \$50,000 for all personal injuries in a crash; and
- \$15,000 for all property damage in a crash.

The required amount of liability insurance coverage for a commercial motor vehicle is \$750,000.00.

If the DMV is notified that a vehicle owner is operating a motor vehicle without proper liability insurance, the vehicle's license plate might be revoked for 30 days unless proof of insurance coverage can be furnished.

North Carolina law requires the owner of every registered vehicle to maintain continuous liability insurance coverage. The company providing the insurance must be licensed to do business in North Carolina. Liability insurance policies are effective at 12:01 a.m. on the date of issuance, remain in effect for a period of six months and expire at 12:01 a.m., six months later. In North Carolina there is no grace period for coverage.

**To avoid a fine or penalty, surrender a vehicle's valid license plate prior to the termination or cancellation of liability insurance.**

**Vehicle Registration Renewal**

Upon expiration of vehicle registration, the vehicle's owner must renew the registration by submitting a renewal application and paying the appropriate registration fee. Upon payment of the appropriate fee, the DMV will issue license plate stickers to indicate the new period of valid registration. The DMV uses a staggered vehicle registration system. This method of registration staggers registration renewals over twelve months of the year.

**Transfer of a Motor Vehicle**

When a motor vehicle owner wishes to transfer his interest in the vehicle to someone else, reassignment of ownership should be made by using section "A" on side two of the certificate of title. In order for the transfer to be valid, the reassignment must be made in the presence of a Notary Public and the actual delivery of the vehicle to the new owner must be made.

**Transfer of License Plates**

License plates can be transferred from one vehicle to another of the same category provided ownership is in the same name and insurance coverage has been continuous.

### Replacement of Lost Title or Registration Card

If a certificate of title is lost or stolen, a duplicate title may be obtained by completing an application for duplicate title and paying the appropriate fee. A duplicate title cannot be issued until 15 days after the application and fee are received by the DMV. Application forms are available at any local DMV vehicle registration office.

A duplicate registration card can be obtained with payment of the appropriate fee. Application forms are available at any local DMV vehicle registration office.

### Property Tax Law

The property tax system requires counties to assess the values of motor vehicles registered with DMV and to prepare tax bills. Three months after the motor vehicle's registration renewal date, the vehicle owner will receive a tax bill which is payable on the first day of the following month.

The property tax law calls for counties to charge interest for overdue accounts. Recent legislation now allows counties to block the license plate (registration) renewal for any vehicle for which the owner owes an overdue property tax.

A county tax collector can place a "block" on the registration of any vehicle for which property tax payment is at least four months overdue, when the overdue tax exceeds \$5.00. If a county places a "block" on the vehicle registration, the DMV is unable to renew the license plate for that vehicle until the owner presents the DMV with a standardized paid tax receipt.

The DMV is not involved in establishing the value of a vehicle for property tax purposes. It furnishes a record of the make and model of the registered vehicle, and the local county assessment office determines the tax accordingly.

#### The new law covers all motor vehicles except:

- vehicles exempt from registration by North Carolina law;
- manufactured homes;

- mobile classrooms and offices;
- semi-trailers registered on a multi-year basis;
- motor vehicles owned or leased by public service companies; and
- vehicles in confidential status.

North Carolina residents who have not registered their vehicles or who have not renewed their vehicle registrations are required to list their vehicles with their county of residence by January 31 of each year.

#### Change of name or address

If you change your name or address, you must notify the DMV within 60 days by writing to:

**NC Division of Motor Vehicles  
Vehicle Registration Section  
1100 New Bern Avenue  
Raleigh, N.C. 27697-0001.**

*Change of name/address forms are available at any local DMV office.*

### Vehicle Inspection

All motor vehicles registered in North Carolina must be inspected annually for mechanical safety. The DMV oversees the inspection process. The objective of the inspection is to make sure the motoring public is safe.

A North Carolina vehicle safety inspection is required within 10 days of receiving a North Carolina license plate or by the last day of the month printed on the inspection window sticker. The annual cost of the sticker is \$9.25.

The North Carolina vehicle inspection can be performed at any of the 7,500 licensed inspection stations throughout the state. Most service stations, automobile dealerships and vehicle repair garages are licensed inspection stations.

If a vehicle fails the safety inspection, it cannot be operated beyond the expiration date on the current sticker. However, the owner will have 30 days to repair any safety defects and qualify for a re-inspection at no additional cost,

**Inspection items include:**

- brakes
- lights
- horns
- steering mechanism
- windshield wipers
- turn signals
- tires
- rear view mirrors
- exhaust system
- window tint

provided the owner repairs the defects and presents a receipt of the initial inspection at the same inspection station. If the inspection sticker expires after the initial inspection but before re-inspection, the owner may request a single-trip permit from the DMV to drive the vehicle to the inspection station for re-inspection.

**Emissions Inspection**

The emissions inspection is performed in conjunction with the annual safety inspection and costs \$19.40. Diesel-powered vehicles and motorcycles are exempt. Vehicles that fail the initial inspection qualify for re-inspection within 30 days at no additional charge, provided the owner repairs the defects and presents a receipt of the initial inspection.

**Any motor vehicle, model year 1975 and newer, registered in these nine counties must pass an annual emissions inspection:**

- Cabarrus
- Durham
- Forsyth
- Gaston
- Guilford
- Mecklenburg
- Orange
- Union
- Wake

**Window Tinting**

Vehicles with after-factory window tinting must pass the 35 percent visible light requirement during an annual vehicle safety inspection.

In addition to the annual safety inspection fee, there is a \$10 charge for any vehicle that has an after-factory tint. If you have any questions about window tinting, contact your nearest DMV Enforcement Office, or call (919) 733-7872.

**Operation Rest Assured**

“Operation Rest Assured” arose from the deep concern that rest stops and the highways they serve be made safer for the traveling public in North Carolina.

Division of Motor Vehicles Enforcement officers all across our state have joined in an intense effort to increase patrols at rest stops and along our highways to provide extra security to the motoring public who use these facilities.

In addition to increased patrols, signs are posted in all 58 North Carolina rest areas, giving emergency numbers for an immediate response from a law enforcement officer.

Please help us in this important effort by immediately reporting any unusual or suspicious activity.

“Operation Rest Assured” is our way of informing the traveling public that the Division of Motor Vehicles Law Enforcement Team has made safety at our state’s rest stops a top priority.

### Sample Test Questions

1. **A driver license is required for which of the following?**
  - I. Sitting in the driver's seat of a car while the engine is running.
  - II. Steering a car while it is being pushed or towed by another vehicle

A. I only            C. Both I and II  
B. II only            D. Neither I nor II
2. **If a law enforcement officer swears that a driver has refused a legal chemical test, the Division of Motor Vehicles must:**
  - A. place the driver on probation
  - B. wait for a court decision before taking action
  - C. assign the driver to the Driver Improvement Clinic
  - D. revoke the driver's license for at least 12 months
3. **Which of the following happen(s) under the point system?**
  - I. A driver is sent a warning letter when he/she gets 4 points within 3 years.
  - II. A driver who gets 12 points within 3 years may lose his/her license.

A. I only            C. Both I and II  
B. II only            D. Neither I nor II
4. **When a driver has a total of 7 points, which of the following may happen?**
  - I. The driver can be required to file proof of financial responsibility
  - II. The driver can have 3 points deducted if he/she satisfactorily completes a Driver Improvement Clinic.

A. I only            C. Both I and II  
B. II only            D. Neither I nor II
5. **Conviction for which of the following carries the highest number of points?**
  - A. reckless driving
  - B. hit and run with property damage

- C. driving without a license
  - D. passing a stopped school bus that is unloading children
6. **A driver will lose his or her license if he or she is convicted of:**
  - A. driving without a license
  - B. passing a stopped school bus
  - C. failing to yield the right of way
  - D. speeding more than 70 mph in a 55 mph zone
7. **To have a revoked driver license restored, a person must do which of the following?**
  - I. Obtain permission from the Driver License Section in Raleigh to reapply for a license
  - II. Go to a driver license office, pay the restoration fee, and reapply for a license

A. I only            C. Both I and II  
B. II only            D. Neither I nor II
8. **About 38% all traffic fatalities involve which of the following?**
  - I. a drunken person
  - II. more than one car

A. I only            C. Both I and II  
B. II only            D. Neither I nor II
9. **The percentage of highway deaths caused by drunken persons is about:**

A. 10%    C. 38%  
B. 25%    D. 67%
10. **Which of the following statements about pedestrian deaths is (are) correct?**
  - I. In cities, 2 of every 5 people killed in motor vehicle crashes are pedestrians.
  - II. Most of the pedestrians killed in all traffic crashes are teenagers.

A. I only    C. Both I and II  
B. II only    D. Neither I nor II

**Sample Test Questions  
Answer Sheet**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. D  |
| 2. D | 7. C  |
| 3. B | 8. A  |
| 4. B | 9. C  |
| 5. D | 10. A |