



# Driver's Handbook

Prince Edward Island

Driver's Handbook



The Department Of Transportation and Public Works, Highway Safety Operations

## Letter from the Minister

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The purpose of this Driver's Handbook is to help you with the skills to prevent against collisions and injury to you and others on our roads. Driving is a privilege and as a driver, you have a responsibility to contribute to the overall safety of Island roads.

By following the safe driving practices in this book you will reduce the risk to yourself and to others on our roads. New drivers will want to study the Driver's Handbook and experienced drivers will find it a convenient reference for refreshing their knowledge.

Driving conditions are often affected by things beyond your control. Changing weather, road conditions and mechanical failures are just a few examples. Other drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists also make use of our roads and must be respected by drivers. Remember, as a new driver, safer roads begin with you.

Thank you,  
The Minister  
The Department of Transportation and Public Works



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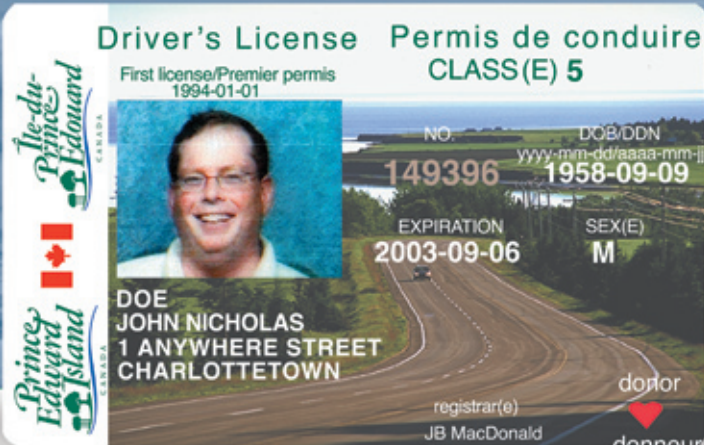
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# Chapter 1: Your Driver's License



# Chapter 1: Class 5 Driver's License Checklist

| MEDICAL   |                          | REGISTRATION   |                          | INSURANCE   |                          | VEHICLE                  |                          | SIGNAL LIGHTS  |                          | BRAKE LIGHTS             |                          | MIRRORS  |                          | BODY                     |                          | TIRES                    |                          | NOISE                    |                          | MIRRORS                  |                          | SEATBELTS                |                          | APPROVED HELMET          |                          | MISC                     |                          | OER                      |                          | OTHER                    |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| VEHICLE PLATE NO.   |                          | TEST CLASS: 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | ID NO.  |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
| <b>STARTING</b><br>1. UNABLE TO LOCATE OR USE SAFETY DEVICES / EQUIPMENT<br>2. FAILS TO RELEASE EMERGENCY BRAKE<br>3. FAILS TO OPERATE / CHECK TRAFFIC<br>4. FAILS TO SIGNAL<br>5. IMPROPER USE OF BRAKE, CLUTCH, ACCELERATOR, GEAR SHIFT<br>6. FAILS TO CLIMB / UNCLIMB<br>7. LACKS THEOR. TRIP INSPECTION KNOWLEDGE |                          |  |                          | <b>MANEUVERING</b><br>8. UNABLE TO STOP EARLY / TOO LATE / NONE / WRONG<br>9. FAILS TO CHANGE DOWN<br>10. FAILS TO TAKE PROPER LANE POSITION / TOO LATE<br>11. LANE CHANGE / SWAYE CARE<br>12. SWAYE WIDE<br>13. TOO FAST / TOO SLOW / INCORRECT USE OF BRAKE<br>14. POOR COORDINATION / CONTROL / INCORRECT<br>15. IMPROPER GEAR SHIFTING / WRONG GEAR / SLIPPERY<br>16. IMPROPER ACTION / USING ONE HAND / PLANNING / MIRROR / MIRROR / MIRROR / MIRROR |                          |                          |                          | <b>INTERSECTION</b><br>17. FAILS TO STOP<br>18. POSITION AT STOP SIGN / TRAFFIC LIGHT<br>19. FAILS TO YIELD TO PEDESTRIAN / VEHICLE<br>20. FAILS TO PROCEED ON GREEN / RED LIGHT / YELLOW<br>21. YIELD<br>22. RUN RED LIGHT<br>23. IMPROPER ACTION ON YELLOW LIGHT<br>24. FAILS TO MAKE LEGAL TURN ON RED LIGHT / SIGNAL<br>25. BLOCKS INTERSECTION / CROSSWALK<br>26. ACTION AT YIELD SIGN<br>27. FAILS TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONDITIONS / PEDESTRIAN<br>28. TRAFFIC / RIGHT OF WAY JUDGMENT<br>29. SWAYING / STALLING / WRONG GEAR / STARTS TOO EARLY<br>30. STOPPED / LANE / IMPROPER LANE<br>31. STOPS TOO EARLY / LATE / WRONG / DOES NOT STOP<br>32. RIGHT OF WAY JUDGMENT / PEDESTRIAN / TRAFFIC VEHICLE<br>33. FAILS TO CHECK BLIND INTERSECTION / SENSITIVITY<br>34. MIRROR / MIRROR / MIRROR / MIRROR |                          |                          |                          | <b>GENERAL DRIVING</b><br>35. FOLLOWING / PASSING / SIGNAL TOO CLOSELY<br>36. SPEED TOO FAST / TOO SLOW / TOO SLOW / TOO SLOW<br>37. BRUSH BRAKING / ACCIDENTAL<br>38. STRADDLES LANE / IMPROPER LANE / WRONG GEAR<br>39. USE OF MIRRORS<br>40. POOR COMFORT / TOO AGGRESSIVE<br>41. LACKS CONFIDENCE / MIRROR / EXPERIENCE<br>42. FAILS TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONDITIONS / PEDESTRIAN<br>43. INATTENTIVE DRIVING<br>44. POOR VEHICLE CONTROL / MIRRORS<br>45. POOR DRIVING AT INTERSECTIONS / APPROACHING<br>46. SLOW CHANGE / SIGNAL / CHECKED CHECK<br>47. MIRROR / MIRROR<br>48. USE OF MIRROR / SIGNALS<br>49. TRAFFIC VIOLATION / SPEED / LANE / ACTION<br>50. SENSITIVE GEAR SHIFTING / MIRRORS<br>51. IMPROPER GEAR SHIFTING / MIRRORS<br>52. ATTITUDE / GOOD / POOR<br>53. TOO AGGRESSIVE<br>54. INTERSECTION SKILL<br>55. STOPPING PROCEDURE / CLUTCH / TRANSMISSION / ACTION<br>56. POOR MIRROR / MIRROR / SPEED / TOO SLOW / CONTROL<br>57. POOR POSITION<br>58. POSITION OF FOOT / FOOT / FOOT / FEELS / TURNING<br>59. IMPROPER LANE POSITION / HEAD POSITION<br>60. POOR VEHICLE CONTROL / TOO / USE MIRROR<br>61. USE OF POOR GEAR SHIFTING / MIRRORS / MIRRORS |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
| COMMENTS  |                          |  |                          |   |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
| EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE  |                          |  |                          |   |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          | APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE    |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
| DATE  |                          |  |                          |   |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          |  |                          |                          |                          | DATE                     |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |

**Class 5 Driver's License Checklist Form**

# Chapter 1: Your Driver's License

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## INTRODUCTION

There are a number of things you should know about your Driver's License and you should read this section very carefully so that you will understand them.

You need a valid Driver's License to drive a motor vehicle in Prince Edward Island. It must not be expired, suspended, cancelled or invalidated. Your Driver's License gives you the privilege of driving only as long as you are careful, considerate and obey the traffic laws; otherwise, it will be suspended.

Driver's Licenses are valid only for the operation of the class(es) of the vehicle(s) shown on the license and are always subject to any restrictions shown on the license.

## WHO MAY APPLY FOR A LICENSE

You may apply for an Instruction Permit if you are 15<sup>1/2</sup> years old and in a Driver Education Program. If you are

16 or older you may apply for an Instruction Permit if your driving privilege is not under suspension. An Instruction Permit will allow you to operate a motor vehicle under supervision to receive instruction. The Instruction Permit is called a Class 7 license and is valid for one year from date of issue.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

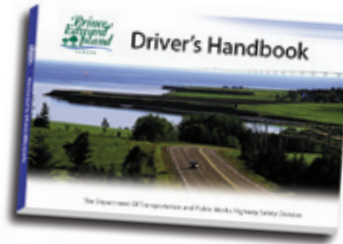
Every person applying for a first Instruction Permit, or Driver's License, must produce a birth certificate, passport, or Immigration Papers before a Driver's License or Instruction Permit will be issued.

If your previous address was outside of Canada, you must show your Canadian Immigration Identification Record of Entry form when you apply. The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada can assist you with the translation of your home country's Driver's License.

## INSTRUCTION PERMIT

If you are a beginning driver and have reached 16 years of age, you may apply for an Instruction Permit. To get this permit you must:

- study the Driver's Handbook carefully;
- make an appointment for your written test and pay the applicable fee;
- appear at the Highway Safety Operations office in your area for written and signs test based on the driver's Handbook;
- If you are less than 18 years of age, have your application signed by **BOTH** your parents or your legal guardian. The parents or legal guardian may withdraw such consent and if notice of withdrawal is given in writing to the Registrar, the permit or license will be cancelled at once to revoked;



- complete a vision test conducted by Highway Safety Staff;
- pay Permit Fee; and
- Driver Education schools conduct the Instruction Permit (Class 7) tests as well as the Driver's License (Class 5) road tests.

## GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

"Congratulations! You now have your Instruction Permit and have become part of the Graduated Licensing Program. The following restrictions apply:

- You can drive a motor vehicle only when a licensed driver who has held a valid Driver's License for at least four years occupies the seat beside you.
- No other people except members of the immediate family of the licensed driver are allowed in the motor vehicle.
- You must wait at least 180 days from the date of issue of your Instruction Permit before taking the road test.

# Chapter 1: Your Driver's License

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- You must fulfill the requirements of the Novice Driver Course.”

## FARM TRACTOR PERMIT

If you are 14 years old, you may be licensed to drive a farm tractor on the highway under supervision.

## DRIVER EDUCATION LICENSING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

If you are a student enrolled in a Driver Education Course, you will write your Instruction Permit (Class 7) examination at the driving school. After completion of the Driver Education Program, the driving school will also conduct the road test to certify you for a Class 5 Driver's License.

The Province monitors the Driver Education Licensing Certification Program. You may be required to have a second road test during your newly licensed driver probationary period. There is no fee for this evaluation

and it is conducted by a Highway Safety Operations examiner.

## STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

If you are a beginning driver enrolled in a licensed Driver Education Program to get your Instruction Permit (Class 7) you need to:

- successfully complete the written examinations at an authorized Driving School;
- go to the Highway Safety/Access PEI Office in your area for a vision test; and
- if you are less than 18 years of age, have your application approved by your parents or legal guardians by their signing the parents' consent form found in the "Co-Pilot" brochure, and present this consent form along with a birth certificate.

You will be issued an Instruction Permit valid for one year.

### DRIVER EDUCATION PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

- During this time you are permitted to drive a motor vehicle while accompanied by a Driver Education Instructor with no more than four other students in the vehicle.
- You may also operate a motor vehicle if a licensed operator, who has held a valid Driver's License for at least four years, occupies the seat beside you, and no other people, except members of the immediate family of the licensed driver, are allowed in the vehicle.
- You must wait a minimum 180 days and obtain 16 years of age before a road test can be conducted by the driving school for certification of a Class 5 Driver's License.
- When you successfully complete the road test by the Driver Education School Instructor, you must return to the Highway Safety/Access PEI office to get your photo Driver's License.

- Once you have passed the written and vision exams, you will get an Instruction Permit (Class 7) that has been certified by your Driver Education Instructor.

**NOTE: This is not a Class 5 Driver's License. It remains an Instruction Permit until a photo driver license has been issued. You must get your Class 5 photo license within 30 days after you successfully complete the road test. If you do not, you will have to be retested by a Highway Safety examiner and pay the appropriate fees.**





# Chapter 1: What the tests are all about

These tests are to protect the general public from incapable drivers. They are not designed to keep you off the road but to point out areas where you can improve. The tests represent the minimum requirements for safe and courteous driving practices.

Passing the tests does not guarantee that you will never become involved in a collision. As the number of cars on the road increases, the risk of collision increases. There are many traffic signs and controls and you must recognize and obey. Driving makes great demands on drivers. You must be skillful, alert, and always practice care, caution, and courtesy.

## THE KNOWLEDGE TEST

You will take a written or oral test which examines your knowledge of traffic laws and safe driving practices. This test includes recognition of standard road signs. All of this information can be found in this handbook.

If you can't read and understand the written test, you may ask for an oral test. You will be asked about the rules of the road and safe driving practices, recognition of road signs by their shape, and your ability to read and understand the meaning of the signs.

If you do not successfully complete the written or oral test, you may make an appointment and take another examination at a later date.

## THE VISION TEST

You must meet certain vision standards. If you cannot meet these standards, you may be referred to an eye specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) to have the findings checked. If you cannot meet the vision standards without the aid of corrective lenses (glasses or contact lenses) you



must obtain and wear corrective lenses while driving. Your Instruction Permit and Driver's License will contain a condition allowing you to drive a motor vehicle only while wearing corrective lenses. You will also be given:

- a colour vision test;
- a distance judgment test; and
- a field of vision tests.

Any deficiencies uncovered by these tests will be carefully explained to you so that you can compensate for them in your driving. For example, if you are colour blind, you will have to learn the relative positions of the traffic signal lights. You will also have to exercise greater care when visibility is poor and certain coloured cars may blend into the background, making them invisible to you.

If your field of vision is very narrow, you may be refused a license until the defect is corrected. In some

cases you may get a license if your vehicle is equipped with mirrors which give the driver a clear view to the rear and both sides. In this case your license will restrict you to driving with this kind of equipment at all times. If you cannot meet the minimum vision standard, even with glasses, you will be refused a license.

### THE NOVICE DRIVER COURSE

If you have an Instruction Permit (Class 7), you must complete the Novice Driver Course before you are eligible for a road test. This material is covered in the classroom component of the Driver Education Program. It is the beginning of the most important stage of your driving experience - learning how to operate a motor vehicle properly and safely.

The Novice Driver Course explains:



# Chapter 1: What the tests are all about

- the newly licensed driver process;
- the demerit point system;
- impaired driving aspects of the Criminal Code;
- alcohol and drug education; and
- how to handle certain driving conditions.

The course lasts about five hours and is usually taught on two separate sessions. You must register in advance. Bring your Instruction Permit to the first class. To inquire about a course location and to register, call a Highway Safety/Access PEI office near you.

## THE ROAD TEST

You must provide the vehicle for your road test, and you must be accompanied by a licensed driver. The motor vehicle used for the driving test will be checked before your test for:

- valid license plates;
- lights;

- horn;
- a rear-view mirror;
- seat belts;
- windshield wipers;
- muffler;
- brakes;
- tires;
- windshield;
- window glass; and
- valid inspection sticker.



vehicle registration

A driving test will not be given in any vehicle which is unsafe or does not meet equipment requirements. All vehicles used for road tests must be covered by public liability insurance and proof of insurance in the form of a pink insurance card, must be produced before the road test. A valid copy of the vehicle registration is also required.

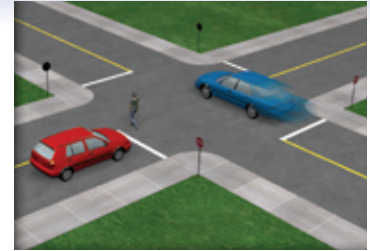
### THE PURPOSES OF THE ROAD TEST ARE:

- to measure your ability to operate the vehicle properly and safely under typical driving conditions;
- to determine whether or not retraining is necessary;
- to serve as a basis for additional training, and to assist you in correcting errors uncovered during the test.

Your examiner will tell you about the procedure of the road test. Simply follow the instructions of the examiner who will ride with you. During the driving test do not talk unnecessarily with the examiner, as this may distract your attention from your driving. The examiner will not coach you during the driving test. If there are questions you would like to ask, do so before the start of the test. No other person will be permitted to ride in the vehicle during the test.

The road test is a sample of your ability to perform certain manoeuvres properly and safely, you will be checked on:

- starting;
- stopping;
- turning;
- parking;
- traffic signs and signals;
- travelling through controlled, partly controlled and uncontrolled intersections;
- anticipation of potentially hazardous conditions,
- attitude toward others; and
- other safe driving practices given throughout this handbook.



The examiner will analyse your driving and make suggestions about ways to improve your driving skills. Please cooperate with the examiner as he or she is trying to assist you in obtaining a Driver's License.

**NOTE:** *Drivers must comply with all conditions on their Driver's License. Failure to do so is an offence under the Highway Traffic Act.*

# Chapter 1: Classified Licenses

The growth in the number and variety of motor vehicles requires frequent updating of the qualifications of drivers. Under the Classified License System, drivers are licensed for the class or classes of vehicles for which they are qualified to operate. Drivers must meet vision, physical fitness, knowledge and skill standards for the particular class or classes of vehicles they wish to operate.

Drivers who are learning to operate vehicles in Classes 5, 6 and 9 must obtain an Instruction Permit (Class 7).

Drivers applying to learn to operate vehicles in Classes 1, 2, 3 or 4 must have a valid Class 5 Driver's License as an Instruction Permit for the class of vehicle for which they wish to take instruction. They must be accompanied by a licensed driver who holds a valid class of license for the vehicle in which instruction is being given.

**NOTE:** All Driver's Licenses expire at midnight on the birthday of the licensed driver.

**NOTE:** Instruction Permits are valid from 1 year from the date of issue.

## LETTING SOMEONE DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE

Make sure anyone who drives your vehicle holds a valid Driver's License or Instruction Permit (In which case, he or she is accompanied by a licensed driver who has held a valid Driver's License for at least four years.)

## MOTORCYCLE AND MOPED OPERATORS' LICENSES

To qualify for a Motorcycle or Moped Operator's License a motorcycle or moped operator must successfully complete a knowledge test, a vision test and a road test on a motorcycle or



moped. The procedures for obtaining a Motorcycle or Moped Operator's License are very similar to those for obtaining a Class 5 Driver's License. The holder of an Instruction Permit who takes a road test on a motorcycle or moped but not in a car, will be issued a license specifying motorcycle or moped operation only. The holder of a Motorcycle License may also operate a moped.

The written test for a license to drive a motorcycle or moped examines an operator's knowledge of the rules of the road and safe driving practices for motorcyclists and moped operators.

A valid Driver's License (Class 5) must accompany this permit to be valid.

**NOTE:** Do not lend your motorcycle or moped to inexperienced drivers or to someone who does not have a valid Class 6 or 8 License. Follow this practice for both their protection and yours.

### CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

If you change your name by marriage or other legal process, you must have your license endorsed with a change of name or address form within 10 days from the effective date of the change. There is no charge for this service.

Changes of an address must be reported to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles within 30 days from the effective date of the change. Failure to notify the Registrar of changes of name or address is an offence under the Highway Traffic Act.

Changes of name or address may be reported at any of the Highway Safety/Access PEI Offices.

### LOST, DESTROYED OR ILLEGIBLE LICENSES

If you lose or misplace your Driver's License or if it becomes illegible, you must apply for a duplicate license. There is a fee for this service. Bring the number

# Chapter 1: Classified Licenses

of the license to be replaced and the date that license was issued. If you don't have this information, bring your birth certificate with you.

Duplicate licenses may be applied for at any Highway Safety/Access PEI Office.

## OUT-OF-PROVINCE DRIVERS' LICENSES

If you are 16 years or older and you hold a valid Driver's License from another province, state, territory or country, you may drive in PEI for up to 120 days if you have not been prohibited from driving under the laws of any province, state, territory or country. You are subject to any limitations or restrictions on the license. You may only drive a vehicle of the class for which you are authorized to drive under the license held.

This does not apply if you are attending university or college full time.

## LICENSE EXCHANGE

Nova Scotia & New Brunswick:

- A former resident of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick who holds a valid Class 5 Driver's License and is now a resident of Prince Edward Island may exchange their Class 5 Driver's License.
- The PEI license will be issued for the balance of time remaining on their previous license.
- The out-of-province license must be surrendered when you get your PEI license.

All other residents:

- A valid Driver's License from Canada and the United States may be exchanged without written, vision, or driving tests. (Immigration Visa may be required).
- Most other foreign licenses are not acceptable for exchange. Written, vision, and driving tests must be successfully completed.
- Any person applying for a PEI Driver's License with a previous address outside of Canada should produce



a Canadian Immigration Identification Record of Entry form at the time of application.

- Where no proof can be shown of previous licensing, all applicants must undergo a normal Instruction Permit procedure including successful completion of written and vision tests, issuance of an Instruction Permit (Class 7), and successfully complete the driving test.
- The out-of-province license must be surrendered at the time of issue of the PEI license.
- International Licenses are not proof of previous license and are not exchangeable.

#### **INSTRUCTION PERMIT (CLASS 7) EXCHANGE**

- The Instruction Permit (Class 7) must be valid.
- You must have residency on PEI.
- A Driver Education Program must be completed with proof, i.e., Driver Education Certificate, or a letter from a recognized driving school. If no Driver

Education Program was completed, you must take the Novice Driver Course.

- You must wait 180 days from date of exchange of an out-of-province Instruction Permit (Class 7) before taking the road test.
- Only Instruction Permits from Canada are exchangeable.

#### **EXPIRED INSTRUCTION PERMITS**

Applicants with Instruction Permits expired less than one year, will be required to complete the written and vision tests.

The 180-day waiting period will not apply if the previous Instruction Permit is expired less than one year.

#### **RENEWING OR OBTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENSE**

You must obtain a Driver's License:

- if you have never been licensed as a driver;

# Chapter 1: Classified Licenses

- if you allow your Driver's License to expire over an allotted time; and
- if the only license you hold is a license from another country which is not honoured in this province.

Anyone who holds a valid license may be required to be retested. You may be retested if you have had a number of collisions and/or convictions, your license has been suspended for any cause or you suffer from a medical condition that may affect your driving.

**NOTE:** Newly Licensed Drivers must hold a valid Drivers License for 2 years before they are eligible to obtain a Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 Drivers License.

CLASS 1



CLASS 2



CLASS 3



CLASS 4



CLASS 5



CLASS 6



CLASS 7



CLASS 8



CLASS 9



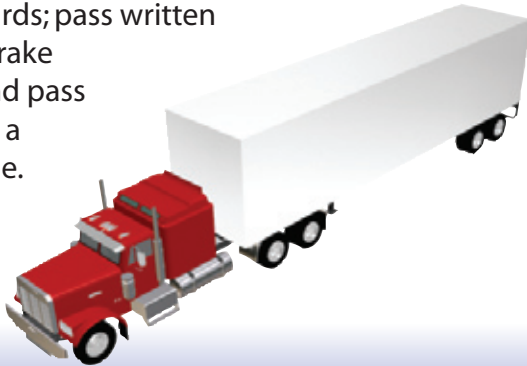
### CLASS 1

CLASS 1 VEHICLES are any combinations of a truck-tractor and trailer, 5th wheel with air brakes, but not a bus carrying passengers.

A CLASS 1 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 1 LICENSE:

Minimum age: 18 years; a medical certificate is required; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written tests on air brake operation; and pass a road test in a Class 1 vehicle.



### CLASS 2

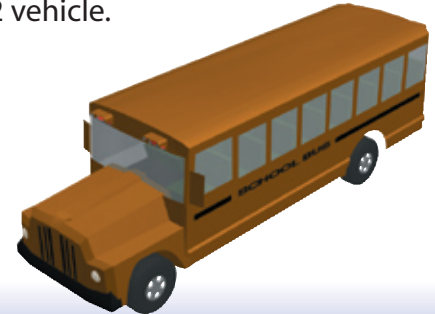
CLASS 2 VEHICLES are buses carrying more than 24 passengers, including school buses.

A CLASS 2 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR A CLASS 2 LICENSE:

Minimum age: 18 years (21 years for a school bus) a medical certificate is required; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written tests on air brake operation; and pass a road test in a Class 2 vehicle.

School bus operators must have held a Class 1, 3, 4 or 5 license for at least 5 years preceding application.



# Chapter 1: Classified Licenses

## CLASS 3

CLASS 3 VEHICLES are trucks exceeding 14,000 kgs gross mass or any combination of such vehicles; any special mobile equipment; and gooseneck trailers.

A CLASS 3 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 3, 5, 8 and 9.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 3 LICENSE

Minimum age: 18 years; a medical certificate is required; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written tests on air brake operation where required; and pass a road test in a Class 3 vehicle, or Class 5 with a gooseneck trailer.

## CLASS 4

CLASS 4 VEHICLES are any motor vehicles used as ambulance, taxis or buses carrying 24 passengers or less.

A CLASS 4 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 4, 5, 8 and 9.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 4 LICENSE

Minimum age: 18 years; a medical certificate is required; you must meet prescribed vision standards; and pass a road test in a Class 4 vehicle.



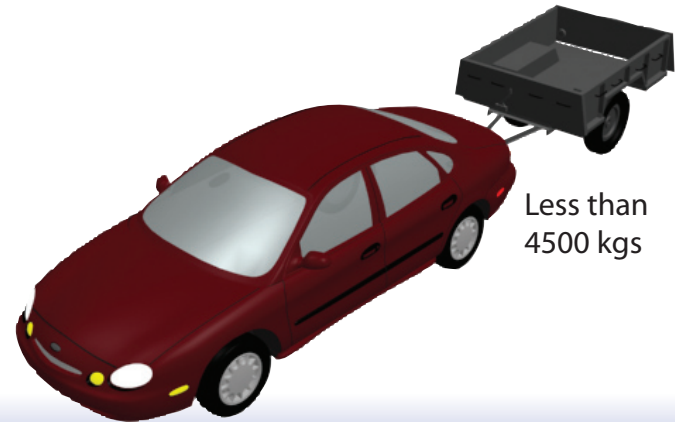
### CLASS 5

CLASS 5 VEHICLES are any motor vehicles not exceeding 14,000 kgs gross mass, and any combination of such vehicles and a towed vehicle not exceeding a gross mass of 4,500 kg, but excluding  
(a) a motorcycle; or  
(b) a bus carrying passengers.

A CLASS 5 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 5, 8 and 9.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 5 LICENSE

Minimum age: 16; a medical certificate is required when requested; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written or oral tests on basic rules and signs (not required if a holder of a Class 6 or 7 license); and pass a road test in a Class 5 vehicle.



## Chapter 1: Classified Licenses

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**CLASS 6** are motorcycles.

A CLASS 6 LICENSE permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in Classes 6 and 8 only.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 6 LICENSE

Minimum age: 16 years; a medical certificate is required when requested; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written or oral tests on this class of vehicle; pass a road test in a Class 6 vehicle; parental approval if under age 18; and a birth certificate is required (not required if a holder of any other class of license).



**CLASS 7** is an instruction permit.

A CLASS 7 LICENSE permits the holder to operate a motor vehicle in Classes 5, 6, 8, and 9 when accompanied by a licensed driver for that class of vehicle.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR A CLASS 7 LICENSE (INSTRUCTION PERMIT):

Minimum age: 15<sup>1/2</sup> years (if actively engaged in Driver Education) or 16 years; a medical certificate is required when requested; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written or oral and sign recognition tests; and parental approval is required if less than 18 years; a birth certificate is required.



**CLASS 8**

CLASS 8 VEHICLES are mopeds.

A CLASS 8 LICENSE permits the holder to operate Class 8 vehicles only.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 8 LICENSE**

Minimum age: 16 years; a medical certificate is required when requested; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written or oral and sign recognition tests; pass a road test on a Class 8 vehicle; parental approval is required if less than 18 years; and a birth certificate is required (not required if a holder of any other class of license).

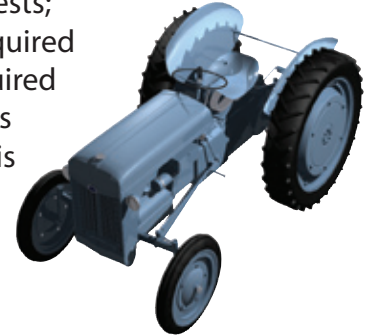
**CLASS 9**

CLASS 9 VEHICLES are farm tractors.

A CLASS 9 LICENSE permits the holder to operate Class 9 vehicles only.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR A CLASS 9 LICENSE**

Minimum age: 14 years; a medical certificate is required when requested; you must meet prescribed vision standards; pass written or oral and sign recognition tests; and a birth certificate is required and parental approval required if less than 18 years. There is no roadtest required for this CLASS.





# Chapter 1: Vehicle Registration

You may not operate, or, being the owner, allow another person to operate a motor vehicle on a highway in Prince Edward Island unless:

- the motor vehicle is registered;
- any trailer drawn by the motor vehicle is registered;
- the vehicle and trailer have a license according to its class; and
- the motor and trailer have the proper number plates, valid inspection stickers or markers which have been issued under the Highway Traffic Act.

## IN-TRANSIT PERMITS

Permits for single journeys of unregistered unladen vehicles may be issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, for a fee, for such purposes as movement to a registration office for registration of the vehicle or movement of the vehicle from one place to another for repairs or for inspection prior to registration, etc. Proof of public liability must be shown when making application for in-transit permits.

## APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

To apply for registration, you need:

- the proper application form from your Highway Safety/Access PEI office;
- the public liability insurance card; and
- a successful motor vehicle inspection report form.

An application for registration of a vehicle owned by a corporate body should be signed by a signing officer, on behalf of that body.

A Highway Safety official may require that the vehicle be re-examined at your expense to confirm its condition. An inspector may ask you to dismantle and expose any part of the vehicle.

## NUMBER PLATES

Highway Safety issues one number plate only for all vehicles including trailers, motorcycles and mopeds. Validation stickers may be issued to put on the number plate. Make sure the plate is always securely

fastened to the vehicle. It must be at least 200 millimetres (12 inches) from the ground measured from the bottom of the plate.

Motorcycle and trailer plates must be clearly visible from the rear.

Keep your number plate clean and in good condition so it is always clearly visible and legible. The vehicle or its equipment or load must not obscure the view of the plate. At night a rear light must shine on the plate.

Do not put a plate or number on your vehicle which could be confused with your proper number plate.

A traffic officer may seize the plate if he or she suspects that:

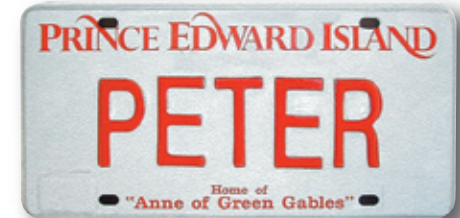
- it was issued for a different vehicle;
- it was obtained by false pretenses; or
- it is being used contrary to the Act or the Regulations.

The traffic officer may keep the number plate until the facts about the plate have been determined.

### PERSONALIZED PLATES

Personalized plates are available and may be used on vehicles normally requiring passenger vehicle or commercial plates. There is an additional fee for these plates.

Applications for personalized plates may be obtained from any Highway Safety/Access PEI Office.



### PARKING PERMIT FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Hanging passes for the physically challenged are also available for use on vehicles. Application forms

# Chapter 1: Vehicle Registration

must be obtained from the PEI Council of the Disabled prior to issue at Highway Safety/Access PEI. To obtain a Parking Permit application contact the Council of the Disabled or one of the Access PEI sites. Application forms must be completed by a doctor and returned to the Council of the Disabled. There is an annual fee for the permit.



**Access for the physically challenged.**

## REGISTRATION PERMIT

The registration permit will be kept in the vehicle for which it is issued and the driver of the vehicle will produce the permit whenever a traffic officer or an inspector asks for it.

## MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION

All motorcycles and mopeds operated on public streets and highways must be registered and must

display valid license plates. Motorcycles and mopeds must be covered by public liability insurance in order to be registered.

**NOTE:** Minibikes are not registered for highway use on Prince Edward Island. They cannot be used on public roads or sidewalks. They **MUST** be registered for off-highway use according to the Off-Highway Vehicles Act and display an off-highway vehicle plate.

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Off-Highway vehicles are important equipment to farmers, wood lot operators, trappers, and others whose jobs require travel over rough terrain, however, the vast majority of them are used for recreation - sometimes by people who lack experience with either the vehicle, the environment, or both.

Off-highway vehicles may be fun, but they are not toys. With a capacity for speeds up to 100 kilometres per hour, these machines can be dangerous in the hands of inexperienced operators.

In addition to the risk of injury, off-highway vehicles can do serious environmental damage, destroy crops, or harm private property. The restrictions placed on the use of off-highway vehicles are intended to lessen the potential for injury or property damage, without depriving responsible operators and their families of the benefits and pleasures of using off-highway vehicles.

The following is a list of all vehicles included in the PEI Off-Highway Vehicle Act:

- four-wheel drive or low pressure tire vehicles,
- power motor cycles and related two-wheel vehicles,
- amphibious machines,
- all terrain vehicles,
- miniature motor vehicles,
- snow vehicles, and
- minibikes.



**NOTE:** Children from the ages of 10 to 14 years who drive an off-highway vehicle (including snowmobiles) must be directly supervised by an adult.

## REGISTRATION OF SNOWMOBILES

Registration is required for snowmobiles annually on or before November 30th. If a transfer of ownership occurs, the snowmobile must be registered in the new owner's name within 7 days. All other off-highway

# Chapter 1: Vehicle Registration

vehicles only have to be registered once by the owner and only have to be re-registered if there is a transfer of ownership.

When a snowmobile is registered, a number plate is provided which must be firmly attached to the rear of the machine. If the number plate should become lost or illegible, the owner must purchase a new plate from any office of Highway Safety/Access PEI.

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE INFORMATION

All off-highway vehicles must be registered. You must produce the certificate of registration if any peace officer asks for it. A peace officer is any police officer, a Highway Safety officer, or a park warden. The peace officer will give the vehicle operator reasonable time to produce the certificate of registration.

If you do not follow this rule, you may be found guilty of an offence and be fined.

## CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

If a motor vehicle's certificate of registration is issued to you and you change your name or address you must notify the Highway Safety office of the change within 30 days.

## EXPIRATION OF REGISTRATION

All vehicle registrations, including the license or identification plate, marker and permit expire on the registered owner's birthday or company's registration date.

## NON-RESIDENT PRIVILEGES

If you are a non-resident of Prince Edward Island, you may operate your passenger vehicle which is registered in your province, state, territory or country for your own private use in Prince Edward Island for up to four months in any year without registering the vehicle here.

If you are a non-resident who enters Prince Edward Island with the vehicle to solicit business, you may operate the vehicle in this province for up to 10 days in any year without registering the vehicle.

No commercial motor vehicle owned or operated by or on behalf of a non-resident may be operated in Prince Edward Island unless it is registered here.

Every vehicle owned or operated by a non-resident in this province is subject to all the restrictions and regulations as to dimensions, equipment and traffic control which apply to a vehicle registered in the province.

## **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

Whenever the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or sells the vehicle the owner must within 7 days of the transfer notify Highway Safety of the transfer on a

Notification of Transfer form (contained on the vehicle registration permit or available from any Highway Safety/Access PEI Office).



The new owner must within 7 days of the transfer have the registration permit transferred into his/her name; the vehicle registration permit, the motor vehicle inspection report form and proof of liability insurance must be presented to the Highway Safety/Access PEI Office, and the required fee paid.

# Chapter 1: Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection

Most registered motor vehicles and trailers must have a yearly safety inspection at an official inspection station. These stations are situated all across the province. An authorized inspection mechanic will conduct a prescribed safety inspection in accordance with Motor Vehicle Inspection Regulations. A motor vehicle inspection approval sticker will be placed in a prescribed area. It must be kept in good condition. You will also receive a motor vehicle inspection report that must be kept in good condition in the vehicle and must be shown to a peace officer on request. Approval stickers issued for the month in which a vehicle was inspected will normally be valid until the end of that month in the following year. You cannot register a vehicle that you have bought unless it has a valid approval sticker. The Registrar or any peace officer may order a vehicle to be reinspected at any time.

When a registered owner takes up residence in Prince Edward Island, a private passenger vehicle inspected in either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick may be registered without local inspection. Its provincial inspection will be considered valid until the expiry date. Then it must have an inspection in Prince Edward Island. Vehicles from all other places must be inspected in Prince Edward Island before being registered here.

## REJECTED VEHICLES

The owner or operator of a rejected vehicle has 10 days from the date of rejection to have the defects corrected and the vehicle reinserted. This does not permit the operation of an unsafe vehicle during this time.



**Note:** While a rejected sticker is valid for 10 days after it has been punched, it will not be accepted on a vehicle to be used for a driving test.

# Chapter 1: Required Vehicle Equipment

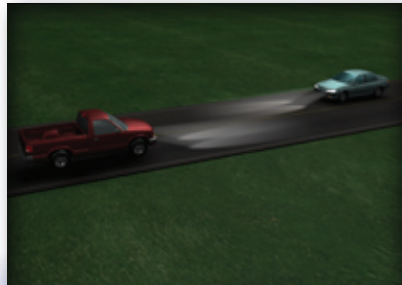
28

The Highway Traffic Act requires certain equipment on your vehicle which must be maintained in good working order.

## HEAD LAMPS AND REAR LAMPS

Every vehicle on the highway must be equipped with front and rear lamps as required for each class of vehicle. These lamps must be lighted during the period from sunset to sunrise, and at any other time when visibility is limited by fog, rain, snow or other atmospheric conditions, or when there is not sufficient light to see a person or a vehicle on the highway 150 meters (500 feet) ahead. At times when lights are required, it is illegal to use parking lights alone.

All vehicles 1990 and newer will be equipped



with daytime driving lights. These lights will come on automatically when the vehicle engine is started.

**TIP:** Check all your vehicle lights regularly and keep them clean.

## HEAD LAMPS

Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle must be equipped with at least two head lamps at the front and on opposite sides of the vehicle. These lights should produce a colourless driving light that is not glaring or dazzling. The head lamps on a motor vehicle will provide at least two beams, high and low, either of which may be selected by the driver according to the requirements of traffic.

**TIP:** Have your head lamps checked periodically for proper “aim” by a mechanic.

**NOTE:** After-market headlight covers are not permitted.



# Chapter 1: Required Vehicle Equipment

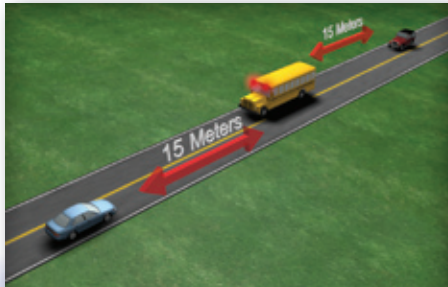
## TAIL LAMPS

Every motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer that is being towed must have at the rear two lamps which exhibit a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at a distance of 150 meters (500 feet) to the rear. A white light illuminating the number plate which enables the plate to be read from a distance of 15 meters (50 feet) is also required.

## FLASHING LIGHTS

The use of flashing or revolving lights on motor vehicles is restricted. A flashing RED light visible from the front may only be used on:

- an ambulance (red);
- a police vehicle (red and blue);



- fire department's vehicle (red);
- a school bus while taking on or unloading passengers (red);
- the cars of a voluntary fire department members, when acting in an emergency (red); or
- hearses (purple).

A flashing/revolving/strobe AMBER light visible from any direction may only be used on:

- service trucks or towing trucks which are equipped for lifting and towing vehicles, when towing or rendering service to a disabled motor vehicle; and
- vehicles of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, or of a city or town, being used for removal of snow or maintenance of the highway.
- school buses, which must be equipped with flashing red and amber lights.

In addition, flashing amber lights may be used on:

- a vehicle transporting explosives; or
- a motor vehicle towing an oversized load.

## CLEARANCE LAMPS AND REFLECTORS

Every vehicle other than a standard passenger motor vehicle having a width in excess of 2 meters (80 inches) must have:

- on the front, two amber clearance lamps, one at each side;
- on the rear and as high as practical, two red clearance lamps, one at each side, visible for 150 meters (500 feet);
- in the center, three indicator lamps; on each side two amber reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the midpoint; and
- at the rear, a red marker light.

## STOP LIGHTS

All motor vehicles required to be registered must be equipped with two “stop” lights. These must give a red signal to the rear of the vehicle that is plainly visible in normal sunlight from a distance of 150 meters (500

feet). They must light up when the brakes are applied. They may or may not be the same as the signal lamp unit.

## SIGNAL LIGHTS

When a vehicle is equipped with signal lights to signal the driver’s intention to turn, they must give an amber or yellow signal to the front and a red or an amber signal to the rear, on or toward the side of the vehicle in the direction in which the turn is to be made. A signal must not project a glaring or dazzling light. Electric turn indicators must show a flashing light to indicate a turn and must have a device within the driver’s vision to indicate to the driver that they are working.

## PARKING LIGHTS

Whenever a vehicle is stopped or parked along the right side of the highway during the times when lights

## Chapter 1: Required Vehicle Equipment

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are required, it must display its parking lights, which are two amber lights visible from the front of the vehicle and two red lights visible to the rear of the vehicle from a distance of 150 meters (500 feet). If the stopped vehicle presents a temporary hazard to other traffic, its flashing hazard lights should be displayed.

### **BRAKES**

Every motor vehicle including a motorcycle must be equipped with adequate brakes, having two separate means of application. Parking and emergency brakes must be kept in effective working order.

### **HORN**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a horn in good working order capable of being heard at a distance of 60 meters (200 feet). Sound your horn whenever it is reasonably necessary to do so and when passing another vehicle. It is an offence to use a bell, siren, compression or exhaust whistle on a private

vehicle or to use the approved horn when unnecessary.

### **MIRROR**

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror that reflects to the driver a view of the highway for at least 60 meters (200 feet) behind the vehicle. An outside rear view mirror on both sides of a motor vehicle is required when the view to the rear is obstructed by a trailer being towed or by the load of the vehicle.

### **WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS**

Every motor vehicle operated on a highway, except a motorcycle, construction equipment or farm equipment, must be equipped with a windshield. Windshields and windows must be kept clear of all nontransparent material other than stickers or devices required or permitted to be displayed by the Highway Traffic Act and its regulations. The glass in the

windshield or any window must not be broken, shattered or otherwise damaged or discoloured, and must be kept completely clear of snow, ice, dirt, or other matter that obstructs the driver's vision.

### TINTED GLASS OR WINDOW GLAZING

It is illegal to apply or operate a motor vehicle with after-market vehicle glass darkening material to the windshield and the front side windows. It is permitted on the rear side windows and the rear window, if you have two side mirrors.

### WINDSHIELD WIPERS

Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle or farm tractor must be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or moisture from the driver's and passenger's side of the windshield. The driver must be able to control and operate the windshield wipers. The wipers must be kept in good working order.

### ORNAMENTS

Ornaments and decorations, either inside or outside of the vehicle, must be located so that they do not obstruct the vision or distract the attention of the driver.

### FLAG OR LIGHT AT END OF LOAD

Whenever the load of any motor vehicle extends more than 1.2 meters (4 feet) beyond the rear of the body, a red flag not less than 0.3 meters (12 inches) in length and width must be displayed during daylight hours. A red light which is plainly visible for 150 meters (500 feet) must be displayed during hours of darkness.

### SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE SIGN

Any motor vehicle not capable of maintaining a rate of speed in excess of 40 km/h (25 mph) under normal conditions and every farm tractor must display a slow-moving vehicle sign at the rear.

# Chapter 1: Required Vehicle Equipment

## MUFFLER

No person may drive a motor vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle is equipped with a muffler in good working order so as to prevent excessive or unusual noise. The use of a muffler cutout bypass, straight exhaust, gutted muffler, Hollywood muffler or similar device is prohibited. In addition, the engine of any vehicle may not emit excessive smoke or fumes.

## SPEEDOMETER, BUMPERS, SAFETY GLASS, TIRES

Motor vehicles must be equipped with:

- a speedometer in good working order;
- front and rear bumpers (if the motor vehicle has been so designed by the manufacturer); and
- tires must be replaced if their tread depth is less than 1.6 mm (2/32 of an inch) when measured in any three locations 120 degrees apart.

## FLARES OR LANTERNS

A passenger vehicle with a seating capacity of eight passengers or more and a vehicle having a capacity of more than one-half ton of freight must be equipped with at least two flares, reflectors or red lanterns, and two red flags for warning other drivers of an emergency breakdown.

A commercial vehicle of 2.05 meters (80 inches) or more in width, a passenger bus with a seating capacity of eight or more, and a motor vehicle towing a travel trailer must be equipped with at least three flares or three red electric lanterns, each of which is capable of being seen at a distance of 150 meters (500 feet) under normal night time conditions.

A truck tractor or vehicle carrying flammable liquids in bulk or compressed flammable gases must be equipped with at least three red electric lanterns.

When any vehicle described above becomes disabled on the traveled portion of any highway or shoulder at any time when lighted lamps are required on vehicles, its driver must display three lighted lanterns or flares, one at a distance of 30 meters (100 feet) to the rear of the vehicle, one at a distance of 30 meters (100 feet) to the front of the vehicle and one on the traffic side of the vehicle approximately 3 meters (10 feet) rearward or forward. During daytime hours these vehicles are required to display two red flags on the roadway in the lane of traffic it occupies at distances of 30 meters (100 feet) to the front and the rear of the vehicle. Flares should be displayed in poor weather conditions or when the vehicle has to be stopped where oncoming drivers cannot easily see it.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

Every school bus commercial vehicle transporting any explosives as cargo must be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for use.

## **WIDTH, HEIGHT AND LENGTH OF VEHICLE**

No vehicle may exceed a total outside width, including loads, of 2.6 meters (102 inches), or a height of 4.15 meters (14 feet 6 inches) without a special permit. A single motor vehicle may not exceed a length of 12.5 meters (40 feet), and a combination of vehicles coupled together may not exceed a total length of 25 meters (81 feet) without a special permit.

## **TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Only qualified people may transport dangerous goods. It is illegal to transport these materials in your vehicle. Always make sure that you know the law and follow all safety precautions when hauling these types of materials.

# Chapter 1: Transportation of Dangerous Goods



**Class 1  
Explosives**



**Class 2.1  
Compressed Gas**



**Class 2.2  
Non-Flammable  
Non-Toxic**



**Class 3  
Flammable Liquids**



**Class 4  
Flammable Solids  
and Spontaneous  
Combustion**



**Class 5  
Oxidizers and Organic  
Peroxides**



**Class 6  
6.1 Poisonous  
Substances**



**Class 7  
Radioactive**



**Class 8  
Corrosives**



**Class 9  
Misc. Products and  
Substances**

## Chapter 2: Rules of the Road





Automobile collisions can be traumatic events. Responsible drivers greatly reduce the risk of a collision by obeying traffic regulations. They realize it is their responsibility to drive carefully so as not to cause any harm to themselves, other persons or damage to property.

Collisions do happen even to the most careful driver. The force of a collision is so great that unrestrained persons may strike each other, the interior of the vehicle, or may be ejected from the vehicle. Severe injuries or death often result. Using a seat belt or child restraint system correctly helps hold all persons in place in the vehicle. This provides them with a far better chance of avoiding serious injury.

Seat belts and child restraints also help prevent injuries during "regular" driving. A driver may have to swerve and stop, or stop suddenly to avoid a collision.

Unrestrained persons may strike each other or the vehicle interior.

Fewer than one percent of all injury-producing collisions involve fire or submersion. In these situations, wearing a seat belt greatly increases the chances of remaining conscious in order to escape from the vehicle.

Everyone 16 years of age and older, whether a driver or passenger riding in a motor vehicle in Prince Edward Island, is required by law to wear a seat belt if a seating position with a seat belt is available to them.

A driver is responsible for ensuring that all passengers under 16 years of age are wearing a seat belt in a seating position with a seat belt available to them. Young children must be placed in an approved child restraint system that is appropriate for them.

## Chapter 2: Driver Responsibility

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### INFANTS

Infants from birth weight to 9 kg (20 lb) must travel rear-facing in a child restraint seat that conforms to the requirements of Standard 213.1 under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada) and the PEI Seat Belt Regulations. This may be a portable infant carrier or a convertible seat that will serve infants and toddlers.

The child must be able to pull to a stand prior to moving into a forward facing Child Safety Seat.

**NOTE:** Never place a rear-facing infant carrier in the front passenger seat equipped with an air bag.



### TODDLERS

Toddlers from 9-18 kg (20-40 lb) must travel in a child restraint seat conforming to the requirements of the Children's Car Seats and Harnesses Regulations under the Hazardous Products Act (Canada), the PEI Seat Belt Regulations, or to the requirements of Standard Products Act (Canada). This can be the convertible type of seat used by infants too, or a child seat made just for toddlers. When a toddler travels in a vehicle, other than a parent's or legal guardian's, a lap belt may be used.

**NOTE:** Restraint seats must have a properly installed anchor. You can contact Highway Safety for installation instructions.



### **PRESCHOOLERS**

Preschoolers from 18-23 kg (40-50 lb) who have outgrown the child restraint seat must use the lap belt portion of the seat belt assembly, worn securely fitted, low on the hips. If a child of this size must ride in the front seat and there is a shoulder strap, make sure it fits correctly. If it passes across the child's face or neck the child needs to be in a booster seat.

A booster seat should be used with the lap belt for children who have outgrown their forward-facing child restraint seat. Make sure it is in the back seat and the lap belt is worn snugly over the child's hips (not over the stomach). Children under the age of 12 should be seated in the back seat of the vehicle, if possible.

### **OLDER CHILDREN**

Older children from 23kg (60 lb) or over must use the full seat belt assembly provided in the seating position being occupied. You may elect for a higher rated booster seat up to 35 kg (80 lb).

### **PROPER FIT OF SEATBELTS**

Lap belts should be worn snugly and as low around the hips as possible. Shoulder belts must never be worn without a lap belt. Shoulder belts should not be too tight. Leave a fist's width between your chest and the belt. The use of a shoulder belt is not recommended for a child or an adult less than 140 cm (47 in) in height.



## Chapter 2: Driver Responsibility

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### AIR BAGS

Air bags are safety devices that protect the head and upper body from injury in a collision. They prevent the driver's head from hitting the steering wheel and the front passenger's head from striking the dashboard.

While air bags save many lives each year, they do not protect in all kinds of crashes. They deploy in frontal impacts only, and not in rear-end collisions, side impacts or rollovers. They may also deploy in low-speed collisions sometimes as low as 15 kilometers per hour. Seat belts, on the other hand, protect the entire body and are effective in all types of collisions. In low and moderate-speed impacts, seat belts alone provide all the protection necessary.

Air bags are most effective in high-speed crashes, where they are often necessary to prevent serious injury. Together, seat belts and air bags offer good protection in most collisions

**CAUTION:** People who sit close to the air bag module, usually because they are short, are at risk of injury when the air bag is deployed. Children are also vulnerable because they are small. They should be properly belted, and those under the age of 12 should be seated in the back seat.

**WARNING:** It is very important to prevent children from sitting or standing close to the dashboard. Never install a rearward-facing infant restraint system in a seat equipped with an air bag. If the air bag deploys, the infant restraint system will be propelled into the back of the seat.

### SOME SEAT BELT AND AIR BAG FACTS

- **You are many times more likely to be killed or seriously injured if thrown from the vehicle in a collision.**

- Fire or submersion in water is rare in collisions. Safety belts keep you conscious and uninjured, enabling you to get free of the car.
- Safety belts can help prevent serious collisions by keeping the driver behind the wheel and in control of the vehicle.
- Many injuries and deaths result from collisions at 40 mph (60 km/h) or less.
- Most accidents occur close to home.
- Unbelted vehicle occupants can seriously injure fellow passengers by striking or crushing them against the car in a collision.
- Children should never be held on an adult lap, because the force of a collision may tear the child from the adult's arms. In addition, the child may be crushed between the adult and the car if the adult is not buckled in.
- Injuries from safety belts are very rare, usually occurring only in very severe collisions and resulting from improper use or adjustment of the belts.
- Never have more than one person in a seat belt.



## Chapter 2: Rules of the Road

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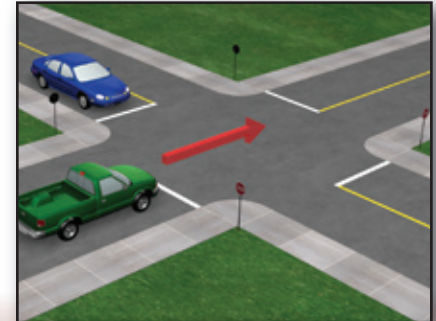
The Rules of the Road are laws and safe practices that have developed out of custom and experience. They are for the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, pedestrians and other road users. They cover such things as starting, signaling, turning, overtaking and passing, stopping and other actions of drivers and other road users. You will be required to demonstrate your knowledge of these rules and your ability to apply them properly before you can get a license.

### RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THREE-WAY OR FOUR-WAY INTERSECTIONS CONTROLLED BY STOP SIGNS

When two or more vehicles enter such an intersection from different directions at approximately the same time, the vehicle on the left will yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right when arriving at about the same time. It is a good practice to slow down to a speed that will permit you to stop if you see a vehicle coming from your right which is travelling at such a

speed, or is so close, that a collision will occur if each continues on its respective way. Since most of these intersections are in residential areas, your view of approaching cars, cyclists, pedestrians and children will often be obscured. Under such conditions you should slow down to a speed that will permit you to have complete control of your vehicle. Remember that you do not automatically acquire the right-of-way by entering the intersection first.

The law says that before entering a highway you must come to a complete stop and not proceed unless you can do so safely. The stop must be made before any marked or unmarked crosswalk, or where none exists, then before the travelled

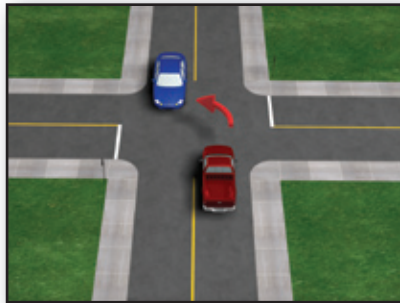


portion of the highway you are about to enter.

### RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A CAR TURNING LEFT

There are many duties and responsibilities of a driver making a left turn. When you turn left you must:

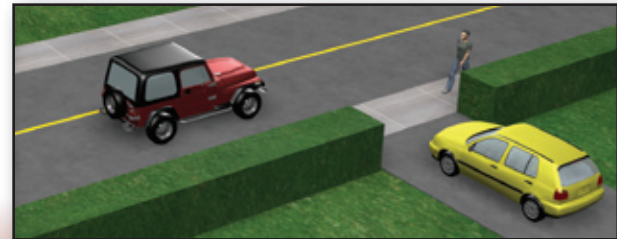
- be in the proper lane;
- give a visible signal of your intention to turn; and
- yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian within, or so close to the intersection that a collision could result.



### RIGHT-OF-WAY AT LANES, DRIVEWAYS AND ALLEYS

If you are driving in a rural area and you wish to enter or cross a highway from a private road, lane, driveway, or building you must:

- stop and yield the right-of-way to traffic on the highway;
- not enter the highway if there is any danger of collision;
- not enter the highway if the other driver would be forced to swerve or brake to avoid a collision; and
- stop and yield the right-of-way to all traffic on the street or highway.



## Chapter 2: Rules of the Road

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If you are driving in a restricted speed area, such as a 50 km/h (30 mph) zone in any city or town, you must:

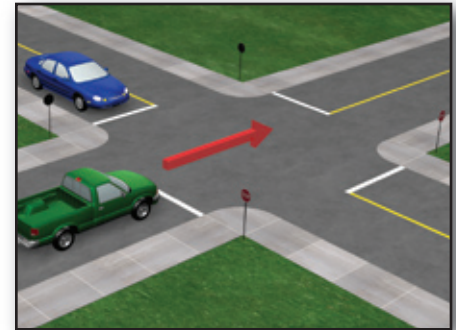
- stop your car before driving onto the crosswalk;
  - check for pedestrians and other vehicles that may be approaching and yield the right-of-way to them; and
  - do not proceed until you are sure it is safe to do so.
- Always remember that the responsibility to avoid a collision rests with you.

### **RIGHT-OF-WAY AT STOP SIGNS**

Stop signs are placed at those intersections where extra hazards exist, such as heavy traffic or limited visibility. When you approach a stop sign always follow these rules:

- start slowing down soon enough so that you can stop smoothly;
- in a city or town, stop your vehicle:
  - A) before entering a crosswalk; or

- B) at a clearly marked stop line; or
  - C) at a point nearest the intersecting roadways where pedestrians would normally cross.
- in rural areas:
    - A) stop your vehicle before the edge of the roadway you are about to enter;
    - B) look carefully in both directions to observe the speed and distance of approaching traffic before starting;
    - C) if the road is slippery you will need a larger gap in traffic before you can start up;
    - D) look twice in both directions starting with the left (or closest lanes of traffic); and





- E) yield the right-of-way to any traffic that is close, or is traveling at such a speed, that there would be danger of a collision if you proceeded.

Rolling a stop sign is illegal. Remember that stop signs are placed at those intersections where extra hazards exist, such as heavy traffic or limited visibility. Slowing rather than stopping for stop signs is a dangerous practice and one that will eventually lead to accidents. If you are a beginner, develop the habit of always making a full stop. If you have driven for some years, you may have developed the habit of “rolling” through stop signs; this habit should be corrected.

### **RIGHT-OF-WAY OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

Whenever an emergency vehicle, ambulance, fire department vehicle, or police car, sounding a siren, horn or warning signals, approaches from any direction, you must yield the right-of-way by:

- immediately moving clear of an intersection;
- driving as closely as possible to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway; and
- stopping and remaining stopped until the emergency vehicle or vehicles have passed.



**NOTE:** On one-way streets, pull to the right or left.

### **RIGHT-OF-WAY OF FUNERAL PROCESSION**

Drivers of vehicles in a funeral procession with lighted headlights are required to exercise care when coming to a red traffic light or stop sign. Only if a

## Chapter 2: Rules of the Road

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police officer is present and directs, then may you proceed through the red light or stop sign with caution. All approaching vehicles must reduce their speed to half the posted speed limit. At no time will a driver of a vehicle attempt to pass through a funeral procession from behind. Funeral vehicles on PEI will be equipped with purple flashing lights.

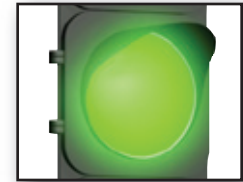
### RIGHT-OF-WAY AT YIELD SIGNS

Yield signs provide a realistic and flexible means of controlling traffic at certain locations. When approaching a yield sign, you must slow down to a speed that will make it possible for you to stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and vehicles. If necessary, stop and yield the right-of-way to anyone on the roadway, then proceed with caution.



### PEDESTRIANS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES AT INTERSECTIONS CONTROLLED BY TRAFFIC SIGNALS

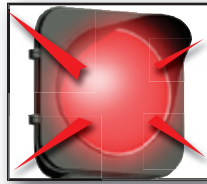
Both drivers and pedestrians must obey the traffic signal that controls an intersection. Whenever a pedestrian enters the crosswalk with a "walk" or green signal light, the pedestrian has the right-of-way over all vehicles. A pedestrian must not leave the curb and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close that a driver cannot safely yield the right-of-way.



When the amber light or "wait" sign appears a pedestrian must not start to cross. If a pedestrian is in the intersection when the amber light or "wait" sign appears, he or she must proceed to the nearest sidewalk. A driver must yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian and must not proceed until the pedestrian is safely across the street.

### PEDESTRIANS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES AT FLASHING LIGHTS FLASHING RED

When approaching an intersection controlled by a flashing red light, a driver must come to a full stop and remain stopped until it is safe to proceed. Pedestrians may enter the roadway with caution, and have the right-of-way over vehicles.



### FLASHING AMBER

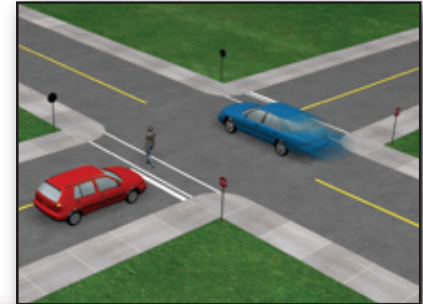
When approaching an intersection controlled by a flashing amber light, a driver must enter with caution and yield the right-of-way to any pedestrians within the crosswalks. Pedestrians should remember that drivers are not required to come to a full stop for a



flashing amber light, and before entering the roadway against an amber light a pedestrian should exercise extra care and be on guard against drivers who may not be prepared to stop.

### PEDESTRIANS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES AT INTERSECTIONS WITH NO TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Pedestrians have the right-of-way within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection with a stop sign or yield sign, and at an open intersection. Drivers must yield to a pedestrian. Pedestrians should always exercise caution when entering an intersection where drivers are not required to stop.

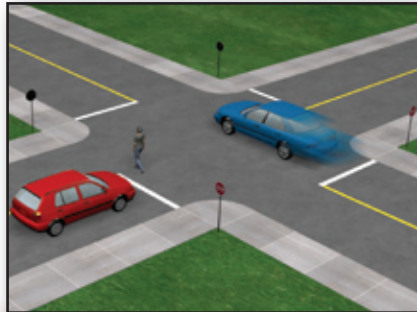


## Chapter 2: Rules of the Road

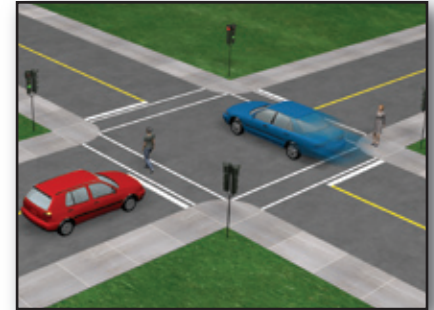
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### VEHICLES STOPPED FOR PEDESTRIANS

One of the frequent causes of pedestrian collisions is one vehicle passing another that is stopped for pedestrians. The law requires that where a vehicle has stopped for a pedestrian, a driver approaching from behind must not pass the stopped vehicle. The driver of the first vehicle approaching the crosswalk should attempt to stop a sufficient distance away to give other drivers a clear view of the crosswalk and the driver of the oncoming vehicle must also stop. Always use extreme caution before you attempt to pass a vehicle which is stopped or slowing down at an intersection. Remember that he or she has a clearer view of the road ahead.



If you are about to pass a larger vehicle always be aware of the pedestrian who may walk or run into your path. This is particularly true if you are driving in the lane next to the stopped vehicle. Slow down as you are about to pass. Never pass a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian.



### ADVICE TO PEDESTRIANS

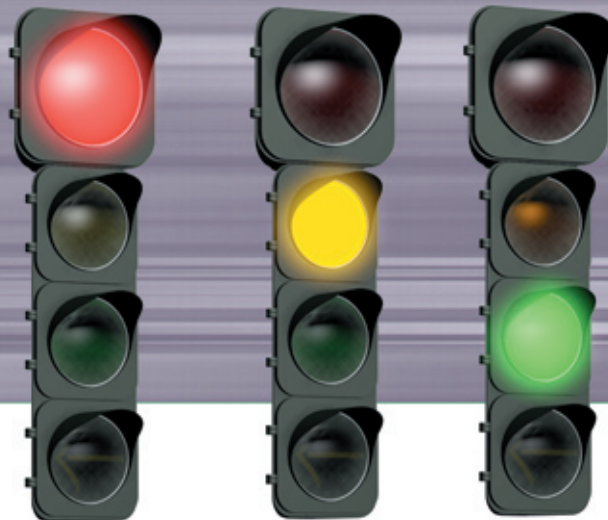
- Always cross at intersections and keep within the crosswalk. Crossing between intersections is a hazardous practice. If you must cross between intersections, first yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

- Never walk into the roadway from behind parked vehicles or from the rear of a stopped bus. If the driver cannot see you, he or she cannot avoid you.
- Always look for turning vehicles before trying to cross.
- Teach your children never to play on or near the roadway, and always to use the crosswalks.
- At night wear white, light coloured or retro reflective material clothing. The driver will be able to see you at a greater distance.
- On the highways, always walk on the left, facing traffic, so that you can see approaching vehicles; whenever possible stay off the pavement.
- New crosswalks have sounds in addition to the light signalling pedestrians that it is safe to cross the road. This is for the visually impaired pedestrians.

### ADVICE TO DRIVERS

- The law requires that you exercise care for the safety of pedestrians **WHEREVER** they may be crossing.
- In residential areas, slow down and be on alert for youngsters who may suddenly run into your path.
- If you see any children, or a confused or incapacitated person, slow down and be prepared to stop.
- Always stop for pedestrians within crosswalks and never pass a vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian.
- A blind or partially blind person carries a white cane to indicate that he or she cannot see. Whenever you see a pedestrian carrying a white cane, drive with caution and be prepared to stop. Often a blind person will raise his/her cane when they are uncertain of crossing the street in safety. That is your signal to **STOP** and allow him/her to go ahead. The same courtesy should be extended to persons led by a seeing-eye dog. Remember that their lives may depend on you.

## Chapter 3: Signs, Pavement Markings, and Work Zones



Traffic lights are placed at busy intersections to make them safer. Both drivers and pedestrians must obey traffic lights, except in cases when a police/traffic officer directs otherwise.

### GREEN LIGHTS

One of the most important misconceptions is that the green light gives the driver an absolute right-of-way. The green signal is only a qualified permission to proceed carefully in the direction permitted by the signal. It does not give you the right to rush into an intersection without regard for the safety of others. When the green light is in your favour, observe the following:

- Yield the right-of-way to any other vehicles lawfully **within** an intersection, and to pedestrians within the crosswalk.



- Proceed only in the direction of the “green arrow” when a “green arrow” signal is accompanied by a red light.
- When turning right or left you must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrians who are within your half of the roadway, or so close that there may be danger of a collision.
- Do not enter an intersection unless you are certain of clearing it before the next change of signal lights.

### AMBER LIGHTS

The purpose of the amber light is to allow persons **within** the intersection to clear the intersection before the light changes.

Whenever you are approaching an intersection controlled by traffic signal lights, be alert to the fact that the lights may change against you.



## Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

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Have your car under control, and never speed up as you approach an intersection. Try to be aware of traffic lights at least a block ahead of you in order to anticipate that a green light may change before you get there. It is a violation of the Highway Traffic Act to enter an intersection on an amber light, unless stopping cannot be done safely.

### RED LIGHT

A red-light means you must bring your vehicle to a stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if none, at the nearest crosswalk or, if none, before entering the intersection.

Wait until signal changes to green before proceeding through intersection unless signs or signals permit special movements of traffic to proceed.



### RIGHT TURNS AT RED LIGHT

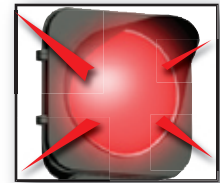
A right turn is permitted at a red light after making a complete stop, providing there is no sign prohibiting a turn, and subject to the right-of-way of pedestrians or other traffic in or approaching the intersection.

Do not impede or hold up traffic behind you, after you have stopped and the way is clear safely proceed.

### FLASHING RED LIGHT

A flashing red-light means you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop and proceed only when it is safe to do so.

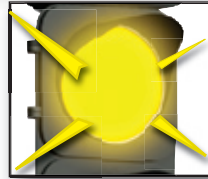
The flashing red light may be an overhead light, a standard traffic signal light or a beacon located directly above a stop sign.





### FLASHING AMBER LIGHT

A flashing amber light means caution. When facing a flashing amber light, slow down and be prepared to stop.



### SCHOOL SIGNAL LIGHTS

At many points where traffic is heavy signal lights have been placed at intersections and between intersections to make crossing of these streets safer for children. These signals are in operation when children are going to or from school. There may be advance warning signs before the signal light.

### RAILROAD CROSSING LIGHTS

Although there are not any railways on Prince Edward Island extra caution should be taken by drivers when driving outside of Prince Edward Island. Signal lights or warning lights flash when a train is approaching. When approaching a railroad crossing where a signal device

is warning of the approach of a train, you must stop not less than 5 meters (15 feet) from the nearest rail. The same rule applies when a flagperson signals that a train is coming.

The deadliest of all highway collisions occur between a motor vehicle and a train. Public highway/railway crossings are marked with signs, and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices. Learn what they are and watch for them.

- **ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS**

These signs tell you to look, listen and slow down because you may have to stop. There may be an advisory speed tab erected below the advance warning sign to show that the safe road speed is less than the posted speed. The advance warning sign also advises the driver of the angle it crosses the road.

## Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

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- **PAVEMENT MARKINGS**

Pavement markings consist of an "X" and/or STOP line that may be painted on the pavement at the approach to highway/railway crossings.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS**

Railway crossing signs are found at all public highway/railway crossings. A railway crossing sign means drivers must yield to all trains. If there is more than one track, the sign below the railway crossing sign indicates the number of tracks.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS WITH A STOP SIGN**

If a stop sign is erected at a highway/railway crossing, the driver must stop no closer than 5 meters (15 feet) and no further than 15 meters (45 meters) from the nearest rail. Drivers must not proceed until they can do so safely.

- **RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNS WITH FLASHING LIGHTS AND BELL**

If flashing lights and bell are erected at a highway/railway crossing, the driver must stop when the lights and bell are activated because this means that a train is approaching. All drivers must stop at the stop line painted on the roadway or if none exists, no closer than 5 meters (15 feet) from the nearest rail. Do not proceed until the lights and bell have stopped, the train has passed or until you can do so safely. If there is more than one track, make sure all the tracks are clear before crossing.

### CROSSWALKS

Crosswalks are provided at intersections and other locations where they may be required by the volume of vehicles and pedestrians.

### CROSSWALKS AT INTERSECTIONS

Crosswalks connect sidewalks on each side of the roadway that indicates the path that pedestrians are to follow when crossing the street. At intersections without traffic signals drivers are required to stop when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk on or close to the side of the roadway that the driver is using.

### SCHOOL CROSSWALKS

School crosswalks are provided where the school or community posts a crossing guard to control the students and traffic in order to provide a safe time for the students to cross. When a school crossing guard is posted, drivers must stop when signalled to do so by the crossing guard and remain stopped until the crosswalk is clear and the guard has left the crosswalk.

### SPECIAL CROSSWALKS

Utilizing overhead signs and flashing amber beacons provide greater warning to drivers especially on

multi-lane streets. When special crosswalks are installed and beacons are activated by pedestrians, the drivers must stop before entering the crosswalk when the beacons are flashing.



### CROSSWALKS WITH TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Where crosswalks are equipped with traffic signals, the driver must respond to the traffic signals.

### PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings are placed on a highway to indicate to the driver where the driving lanes are and provide any additional information which may be appropriate.

## Chapter 3: Traffic Signals

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### YELLOW LINES

Yellow lines are used to separate traffic travelling in the opposite directions. The yellow line must always be on the left of the driver except when passing another vehicle. Yellow lines are also used to mark the left shoulder on ramps and multi-lane highways. Solid yellow lines indicate that passing is not safe at the location. Broken yellow lines indicate that passing is permitted if there is no opposing traffic.

### WHITE LINES

White lines are used to separate traffic lanes in the same direction and to mark the right shoulder line along the roadway. Shoulder lines are solid except at intersections



where they are turned onto the other roadway or become broken at a ramp. Solid lines indicate that lane changes should not be made. Broken lines indicate that lane changes may occur with the proper precautions.

White lane lines at intersections may be wider and shorter with shorter spaces to emphasize that vehicles will be merging, changing lanes, accelerating and braking in order to make the desired manoeuvres. Drivers should be alert to traffic changing lanes at these locations.

### DIAGONAL MARKINGS/CROSSHATCHES

Diagonal markings/Crosshatches may be used in advance of traffic islands, merging areas, lane transitions, or medians, to warn traffic that the paved area is not intended for use as a traffic lane. Drivers should not use such areas as traffic lanes and should observe the colour of the markings and keep to the appropriate side.

### STOP LINES

Stop lines may be painted on the highway's surface at intersections to indicate to a driver the appropriate locations to stop. The driver should stop so that the front of the vehicle does not extend beyond the stop lines. Stop lines are always white. Stop signs do not show where to stop.

### CROSSWALK LINES

Crosswalk lines are painted on the highway surface to indicate the location of a crosswalk. When a stop is required and there is a crosswalk without a stop line, a driver must stop his/her vehicle before any part of it extends into the crosswalk. Crosswalk lines are always white.



### INTERSECTION ARROWS

Intersection Arrows may be used in advance of an intersection to indicate which lane the driver must be in to make a specific manoeuvre. Intersection arrows are always white.

## Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

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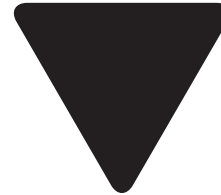
Along with traffic signal lights, traffic signs provide for the safe and efficient movement of traffic. There are several different types of traffic signs, including regulatory, warning, construction and information signs. The shape and colour of each sign, as well as the message printed on it, carry a message for the driver. For instance, red is used to indicate prohibited manoeuvres while green designates permitted movements. Stop signs always have an eight-sided shape, yield signs are always triangular in shape, and speed limit signs are always a vertical rectangle. Each shape carries a distinctive meaning so that if darkness or falling rain or snow obscure the lettering, the safety message can still be identified.

All the provinces use uniform traffic signs. In most instances these are the same as those used in the United States making driving easier and safer for all. Familiarize yourself with them, so that you will be ready to recognize their message and be prepared to obey their direction.

### SIGNS SHAPES AND THEIR MEANINGS



**stop**



**yield**



**regulatory**



**slow moving  
vehicle**



**warning**



**school zone**

### **Stop Sign - White Letters on Red Background**

- Make a complete stop at the clearly marked stop line, or before entering the crosswalk, or in places

where there are no stop lines or crosswalks, before entering the intersection.

- Look right and left and ahead and yield to traffic and pedestrians before proceeding.



### Yield Sign - Red on White

- Slow down when approaching this sign.
- Look left and right and ahead and yield to traffic and pedestrians.
- Stop when necessary to avoid pedestrians or traffic on a protected street.



### Vertical Rectangle

White with black or other coloured lettering; these regulatory signs state the law, such



as speed limits, parking regulations and turning and passing movements.

- This sign is used to indicate streets or highways upon which the traffic is allowed in one direction only.



- This sign indicates the street or highway is divided by an island and approaching vehicles must keep to the right.



- This sign is on the right-hand side of the roadway facing traffic entering the roadway or ramp in the wrong direction. A white on red WRONG WAY sign may be placed further down the prohibited direction.



### PLAYGROUND WARNING SIGN

Reduce speed, be prepared to make an emergency stop as children may run onto the roadway.



# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

## CONSTRUCTION SIGNS

Traffic can expect to be delayed due to construction repair operations. Please obey flagperson's signal. Speed limits in construction zones must be obeyed at all times, even when workers and equipment are not working. Construction hazards such as bumps, detours, fresh oil and loose gravel may still be present.



Cyclists use caution



Lane ends



Lane ends ahead



Construction ahead



Road work ahead



Survey crew ahead



Detour ahead



Bump or rough road ahead



CONSTRUCTION SIGNS CONTINUED...



Uneven lanes



Low Shoulder Ahead. Difference in elevation due to construction



High Shoulder Ahead. Difference in elevation due to construction



Detour ahead



Tar construction ahead



Traffic control person ahead

INFORMATION SIGNS

Guide signs are essential to guide the motorist along established roads, to inform of intersecting roads, and generally to give such information as will help the driver in the most simple, direct method possible. These signs are square in shape. They indicate the location of various facilities.



gas



food



lodging



telephone



camp ground



trailer park



picnic tables



hospital zone

# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs



airport



ferry



P.E.I. highway route



Trans-Canada Highway



Police post sign



## REGULATORY SIGNS



No left turn permitted



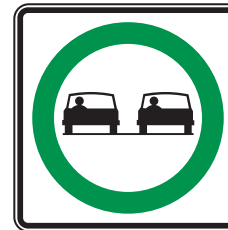
No U-Turn permitted



Do not enter



Cyclists Use caution



Passing permitted



Do not litter

## REGULATORY SIGNS CONTINUED...



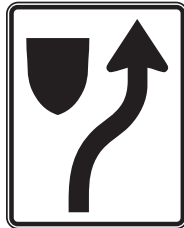
No parking in either direction



One way



Do not enter



Keep to the right of traffic island



Indicates only the turns permitted



Maximum speed limit ahead



TRUCK ROUTE

Truck route



No turns



No right on red signal



Hazard warnings. Drive to the direction the slopes are pointing



School zone sign



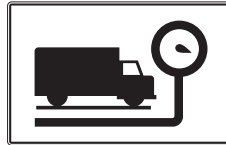
Access for the physically challenged

# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

## REGULATORY SIGNS CONTINUED...



Parking



Truck Inspection Station



Truck Inspection Station Advance



Truck Inspection Station Exit



Dangerous goods route



Dangerous goods prohibited



Cul-de-sac sign



Snowmobile Route



Snowmobile Restricted

**WARNING SIGNS**



These guide drivers around sharp curves



Hidden intersection ahead



Merge



Narrow Bridge



Low Clearance Underpass ahead



Divided highway ahead



Steep incline ahead



Bumpy or rough road ahead



Road narrows ahead



Divided highway ends



Right lane ends



Stop sign ahead

# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

## WARNING SIGNS CONTINUED...



Traffic signal lights ahead



Slippery when wet



Truck entering



Sharp turn or bend in the roadway ahead



Right curve ahead. Posted speed sign indicates safe speed for this turn



School bus entrance



Bridge opening ahead



Fire truck entrance ahead



Road narrows ahead



Snowmobile entrance



Bridge ices



Bicycle crossing

WARNING SIGNS CONTINUED...



Pavement ends

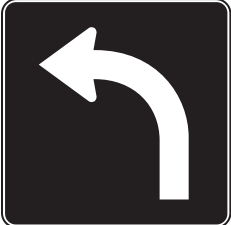


T Intersection

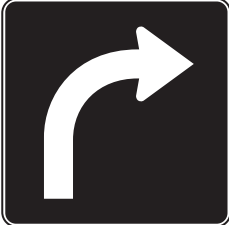


Double Arrow

LANE ARROWS



Left turn only



Right turn only



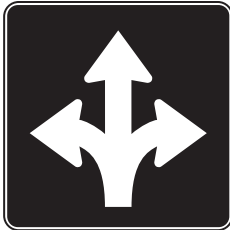
Straight through or left turn only



Straight through or right turn only



Right or left turn only



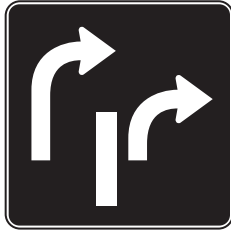
All movements permitted

# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

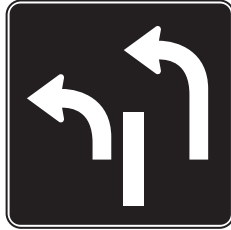
## LANE ARROWS CONTINUED...



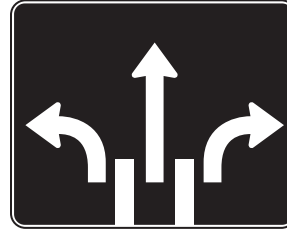
**Straight through only**



**Side-mounted multiple lane designation signs**



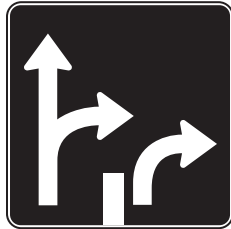
**Side-mounted multiple lane designation signs**



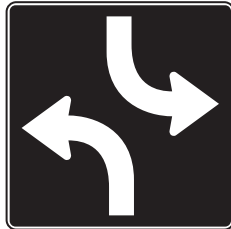
**Side-mounted multiple lane designation signs**



**Side-mounted multiple lane designation signs**



**Side-mounted multiple lane designation signs**



**Two-way left-turn lane**



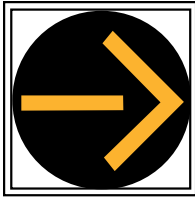
## CHANGE LANE DESTINATION LIGHTS



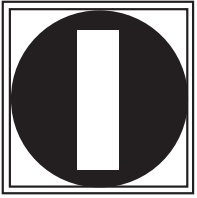
**Steady through green arrow**



**Flashing green arrow**



**Steady amber arrow**



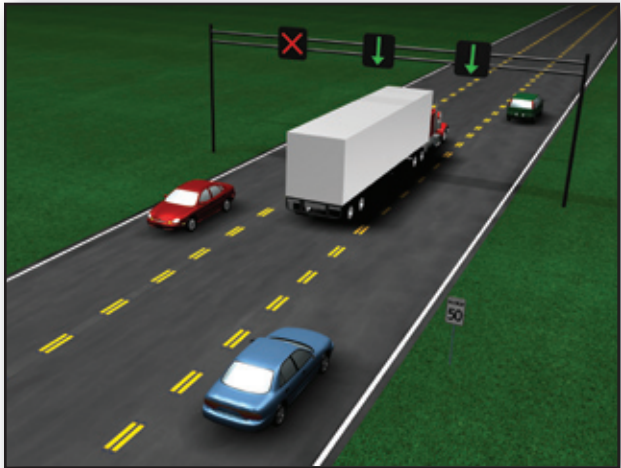
**Transit priority signal**



**Downward pointing green arrow**

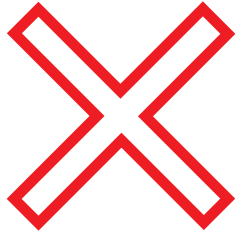


**Flashing/steady red X**

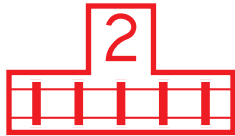


# Chapter 3: Traffic Signs

## RAILROAD SIGNS



Crosswalk



Indicates number of tracks to cross



Posted in advance of a railway crosswalk sign

## CROSSWALK SIGNS



Pedestrian crosswalk



School crosswalk



Pedestrian pushbutton sign

## ADDITIONAL SIGNS



Wide load/Oversized



Cycling prohibited



Pedestrians prohibited



Slow moving vehicle



Littering prohibited

## Chapter 4: Speed Limits, Following Distances and Driving Skills



A driver must not drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed that is greater than is reasonable and prudent according to the conditions and hazards on or near the highway. A driver must exercise due care and attention and reasonable consideration for other people. A driver must control the speed of a vehicle to avoid a collision with people, vehicles, animals or other obstacles on the highway.

A driver of a motor vehicle must when on a highway and approaching or passing an animal, exercise reasonable caution to avoid injuring the animal.

Speeding is risky, but the safest speed is not always the slowest speed. If you drive much slower than surrounding traffic, other drivers might get frustrated and try to pass you. What you are aiming for is a speed appropriate for the conditions in which you are driving.

**The maximum speed limit in Prince Edward Island unless otherwise posted is 80 kilometres per hour (km/h). The basic speed limits are:**

- **40 km/h (25 mph) in most municipalities (municipalities may establish the maximum speed limit within their boundaries);**
- **50 km/h (30 mph) in urban areas;**
- **60 km/h (40 mph) in school zones designated as such by the erection of signs at the entrance and the exit, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. when children are present on or near the highway on school days;**
- **80 km/h (50 mph) on most provincial highways; and**
- **90 km/h (55 mph) on the Trans Canada and other designated highways.**

**Posted speed limits indicate the maximum safe speed under favourable driving conditions.**

## Chapter 4: Speed Limits, Following Distances and Driving Skills

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A reduction in speed is essential when driving under unfavourable conditions, such as:

- poor visibility, due to darkness, rain, fog or snow, etc;
- wet or slippery road surfaces;
- heavy traffic;
- pedestrians on or near the highway; or
- fatigue, illness or nervous tension on the part of the driver.

### SLOW DRIVING

A driver must not drive a vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. If for some reason you must drive slowly because of mechanical or other problems, it is a matter of common sense and courtesy to:

- move over to the right lane and permit other traffic to pass; or
- pull off the roadway and stop to allow traffic to get by.

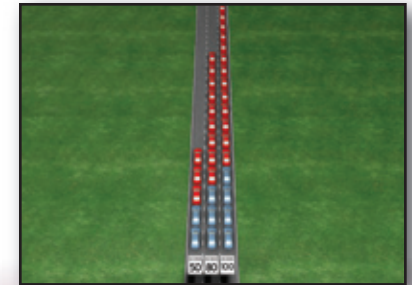
### DRAG RACING

It is illegal to race a vehicle or bicycle on any street or highway. This extremely dangerous activity is prohibited. Drivers may lose their driving privileges if convicted of this offence.

### FOLLOWING DISTANCES - THE TIME-INTERVAL FORMULA

The "Time Interval Driving Method" will allow you to calculate a safe following distance between your vehicle and a vehicle ahead.

Under normal conditions, follow at a distance of at least two seconds. When the driver ahead of you passes a fixed marker, begin counting from the back of the vehicle



to the front of yours --- “one thousand and one, one thousand and two.” If you reach the mark before you’ve finished counting, you are following too closely. Ease off the accelerator and check yourself again. Under normal conditions, the two-second time-interval will provide you with enough distance to stop in.

Here’s what to do under other conditions:

When you are pulling a trailer, increase your time interval to four seconds. You will need the extra time and space to stop.

Motorcycles are light and can stop quickly. Allow yourself another second or two of following distance when following a motorcycle.

When driving under adverse weather, road, or traffic conditions, add more seconds to your following distance to three or more seconds.

It is sometimes hard to estimate a reasonable distance between your vehicle and the vehicle you are following to be sure of having a safe space in which to stop. The volume of traffic, road conditions and traffic speed constantly demands adjustments in your following distance.

To stop your vehicle, three separate acts are involved. These are actions that involve only you, the driver.

- 1) You must see a reason for stopping. To see the reason for an emergency stop calls for continual close attention to road and traffic conditions.
- 2) You must react. Reaction time varies with individual drivers but the average is about three-quarters of a second. In three-quarters of a second a vehicle traveling at 50 km/h (30 mph) will go 10 meters (33 feet) or about two vehicle lengths before the driver can start to apply the brakes.
- 3) You must then depress the brake pedal and bring the vehicle to a complete stop.

## Chapter 4: Speed Limits, Following Distances and Driving Skills

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Remember that the total stopping distance also depends on the efficiency of your brakes and tires and the condition of the road surface.

The distance traveled before the brakes will stop the vehicle depends on:

- the speed the car is being driven;
- the condition of the brakes;
- the condition of the tires;
- the condition of the road surface; or
- whether the vehicle is being driven on a level highway or on a hill.

**CAUTION:** On wet or icy roads your vehicle cannot be stopped as quickly as on dry roads. When slowing or stopping, pump or apply the brakes quickly (but gently) and as quickly release them. Keep repeating this on and off braking until you come to a full stop or the speed you desire. Do not apply hard, steady brake pressure as this will lock the wheels and start

you skidding. Always drive at a speed which will enable you to stop within the clear, visible distance ahead.

**Note: This does not apply to vehicles with ABS (Antilock Braking Systems)**

*Following Distances... continued on next page*

## Chapter 4: Speed Limits, Following Distances and Driving Skills

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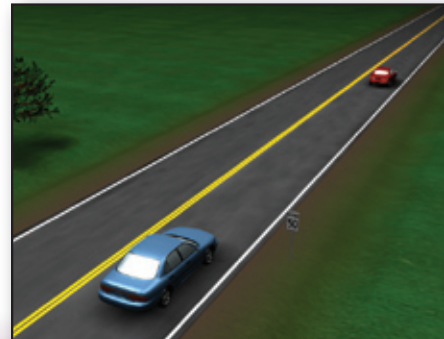
**1.** The car ahead is about to pass a checkpoint (sign, driveway, pole or other marker.)



**3.** If it takes fewer than two seconds for your car to pass the same checkpoint, your interval is too short to allow you to stop in the assured clear distance ahead



**2.** Begin counting seconds as the rear of the car you are following passes your selected checkpoint.



**4.** If it takes two seconds or more for your car to pass the same checkpoint you have developed a reasonable interval between your car and the vehicle ahead.



## Chapter 4: Changing Lanes

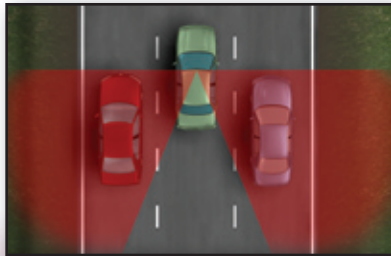
79

### CHANGING LANES

When you must change lanes always practice these steps:

- make sure that you are not following other traffic too closely;
- look in your rear view mirror for traffic approaching from the rear;
- look in your side view mirrors for any traffic;
- signal your intention; or
- turn your head in the direction of your turn, and check over your shoulder for cars that are too close to be visible in your rear view mirror.

All vehicles have a “blind spot” in the right and left rear corners. Your inside rearview mirror will not show a vehicle in the lane next to yours,



when the front bumper is about even with, or past your rear bumper.

### SIGNALS AND CHANGING LANES

One of the most fundamental principles of safe driving is using reasonable care and signalling before turning, changing lanes, or stopping. Giving signals properly and in sufficient time is an important practice. The proper signals are simple and can be easily learned. Moreover, all vehicles made during or after 1971 must be equipped with signal lights, which makes signalling even easier. To be effective, signals must be given in sufficient time to warn other drivers of your intentions; in the city signal 30 meters (100 feet) in advance of a turn or stop. On highways where traffic travels at much higher speeds, signals should be given at least 150 meters (500 feet) before turning or stopping. Even if your vehicle is equipped with a signalling device, know the proper hand signals.

You are required to give a signal before:

- changing from one lane to another;
- turning;
- pulling over to stop;
- pulling out from a parked position; or
- attempting to pass, and after you have passed and are moving back into the right lane.

Make it a practice to give signals at all times. If you misjudge a situation, at least the other driver will be better prepared to avoid a collision.

### HAND SIGNALS



**left turn**



**right turn**



**stop**

## Chapter 4: Turning

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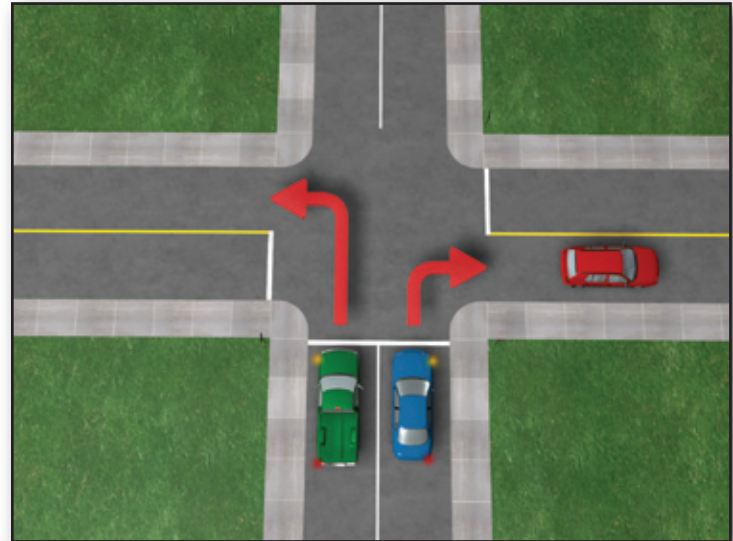
### TURNING AT INTERSECTIONS

These are the steps for making safe, courteous and legal turns.

- Prepare for the turn before you get there. Decide well ahead where you want to turn. If you are not sure, drive slowly until you can read the street signs or markers or decide in some other way the direction you desire to turn. Never make last minute turns; they are dangerous.
- Get into the correct lane as soon as possible. You should get into the proper lane sooner in fast moving and/or heavy traffic.
- Look behind and on both sides to see where other traffic may be so that you can change lanes and make the turn safely.
- Signal your intention to change lanes and to turn,
- If you are going faster than is safe to make the turn, slow down before you reach the crosswalk and complete the turn at the same speed at which you

enter the intersection. Do not have the brake or clutch pedal pushed down or shift gears while actually turning but be prepared to.

- Finish the turn in the proper lane.



### LEFT TURNS

Drivers making left turns must be alert for pedestrians and other traffic. Pedestrians in a crosswalk have the right-of-way to proceed across the street. The driver turning left must watch not only for traffic approaching from the opposite direction, but also for any other vehicles that may be entering the intersection.

When turning left into a lane or driveway, make sure that you:

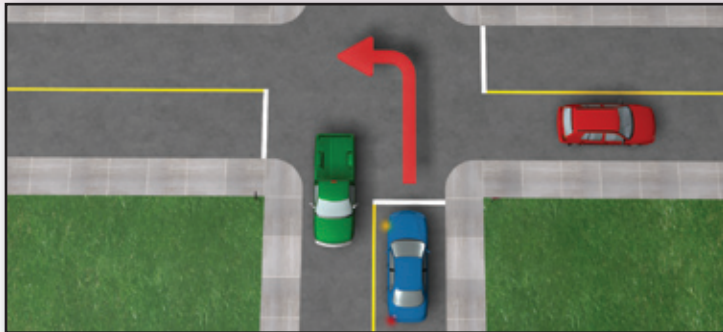
- are in the proper lane for a left turn;
- have given a signal for a sufficient distance; or
- yield to oncoming traffic (oncoming vehicles have the right-of-way even if you have reached the turning point first).

**CAUTION:** If you have stopped to make a left turn, and must wait for oncoming traffic, do not turn the steering wheel to the left until you are ready to

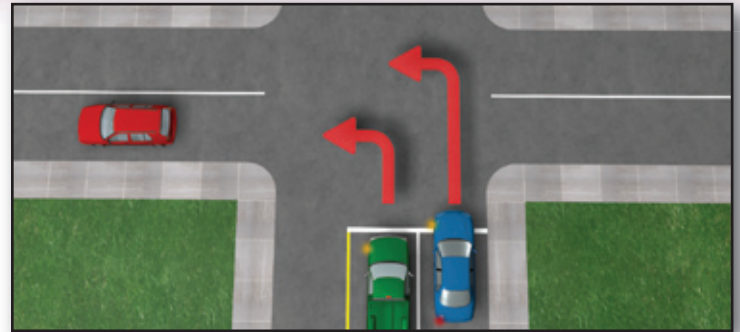
complete the turn. If you are struck from the rear while stopped with the wheels turned to the left, your car may be pushed into oncoming traffic and cause another collision.

Turning left on highways presents special problems due to the high speeds of other vehicles. When you make a left turn on a highway, remember to stay on your side of the center line until you are ready to begin the turn. Watch for cars that may be passing you, and signal to give other drivers ample warning.

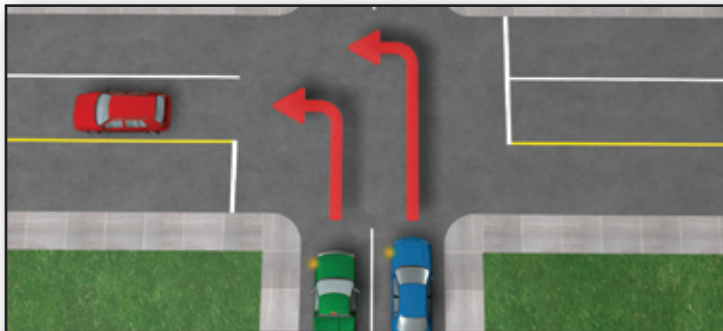
# Chapter 4: Vehicle Position While Turning Left



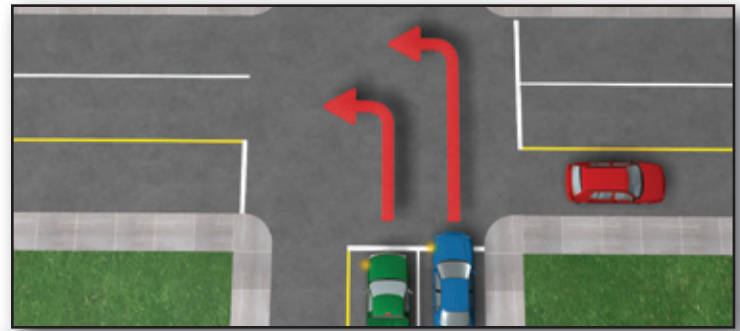
position while turning left



two-way road to a one-way road



one-way road to a two-way road



two-way road to a two-way road

### RIGHT TURNS ON A RED LIGHT

Unless forbidden by a sign at the intersection, drivers are permitted to make a right turn on a red light after coming to a complete stop. This procedure, when carried out with certain precautions, contributes to the smooth, orderly and safe movement of traffic in urban areas.

The following steps will apply:

- come to a complete stop at the intersection;
- check for other motor vehicles and pedestrians who have a prior right to use the intersection at that time and yield to them; and
- proceed with caution if the way is completely clear. It is both dangerous and illegal to make a right turn on a red light without first coming to a complete stop and yielding to other traffic and pedestrians using the intersection.

### MAKING U-TURNS

U-turns are hazardous.

U-turns are permitted:

- between intersections in a municipality if a local bylaw permits them; and
- on a highway if you can be seen by traffic approaching from either direction within 150 meters (500 feet).

U-turns are not permitted:

- in a municipality at an intersection which is controlled by traffic lights;
- at any place or intersection where a sign prohibits them; or
- on a curve, near the crest of a hill, at any point where such a turn would interfere with other traffic.

## Chapter 4: Passing Other Vehicles

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Learn these rules for safe passing and practice them at all times.

You must not pass:

- at an intersection, if it would be necessary to cross over the solid center line. If the car ahead is signaling for a right or left turn, you may cautiously pass on the side opposite the direction of the turn but you must not cross over a solid yellow line;
- at any crosswalk or any other place where a car has stopped to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or other vehicle;
- in a school zone;
- on the right side of a vehicle except on a street with two or more lanes in the same direction;
- when you have to drive on the left side of the roadway to pass and there is not sufficient clear road ahead to pass safely; or
- in a posted no passing zone.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF DRIVER BEING PASSED

If you are the driver being passed, you have responsibilities. These responsibilities are:

- whenever the driver behind sounds the horn and signals with lights that he or she wants to pass, move to the right and do not change into a left lane until the vehicle has passed; and
- never speed up when being passed;

To reduce the risk of a head-on collision follow these suggestions:

- when another vehicle is passing you, look ahead to make sure that there will be no danger of collision or being cut off by the passing vehicle;
- in heavy traffic, watch for drivers who insist on passing even at the risk of a collision; and
- check your rear-view mirror regularly.

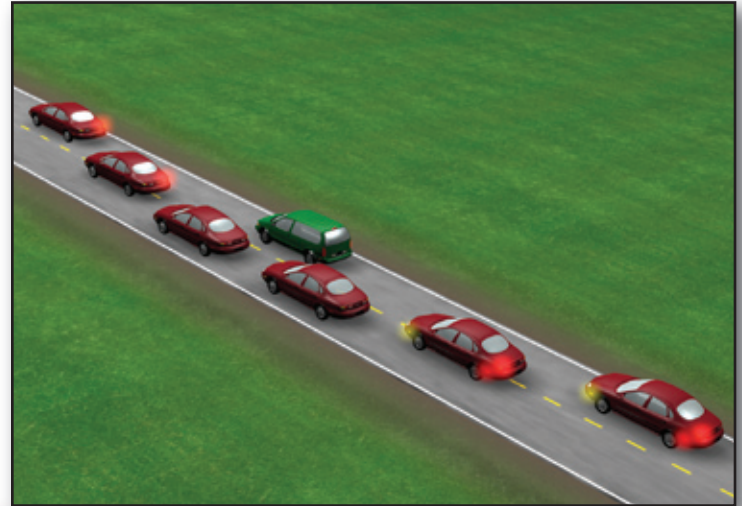
### SAFE PASSING PRACTICES

Head-on collisions, sideswiping and rear-end collisions are caused by improper and unsafe passing practices. Develop safe passing practices. These are some suggestions:

- Pay close attention to the distance between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Don't try to pass in heavy traffic.
- Don't take unnecessary risks in an attempt to be "the first in line."
- Keep a safe following distance before passing. Moving up closely behind a vehicle obscures your view of the road ahead and it becomes necessary to pull out sharply to pass.
- Never pull out to pass behind another vehicle that is also passing. The driver ahead may not realize that two cars are passing and may not adjust his or her speed. Wait until the first car has completely passed and your view is unobstructed.

- Check your speed. High speeds and frequent passing go hand-in-hand.

**NOTE:** Remember, when passing, the law requires that you signal your intention and sound your horn.





## Chapter 4: School Buses

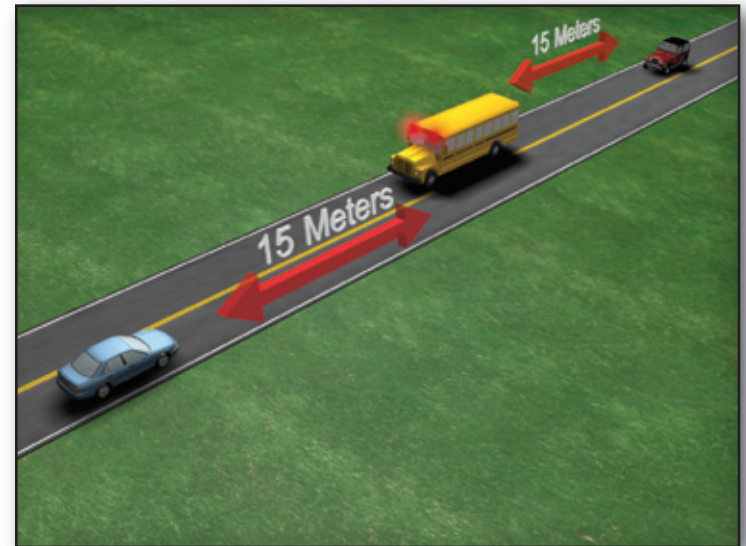
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School buses are specially marked and equipped with alternating amber and red flashing lights.

Alternating flashing **AMBER** lights are displayed before the school bus stops to pick up or let off students. You should be **ALERT** for students when these lights are flashing and be prepared to stop. If the flashing amber lights come on and you cannot make a safe stop then you must proceed, but if you can stop safely, then you must.

Alternating flashing **RED** lights are used when the school bus is stopped to pick up or let off students. When you are approaching a school bus with the **FLASHING RED LIGHTS** activated, you must stop your vehicle not less than 5 meters (15 feet) from the front or rear of the bus. Remain stopped until the flashing red lights stop flashing. **IT IS ILLEGAL TO PASS** a school bus when the alternating flashing RED lights are displayed.

**Note:** *Passing a school bus when the amber lights are flashing when a stop could have been made safely could result in a charge under the Highway Traffic Act.*



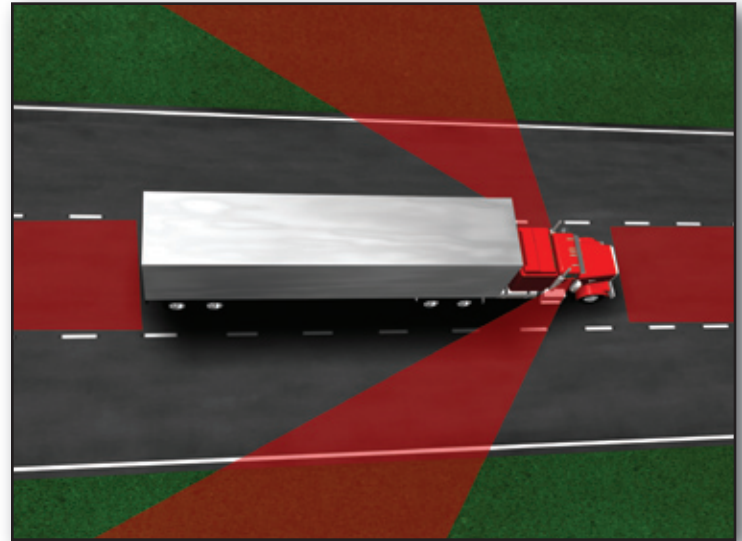
### WHAT ARE THE NO-ZONES?

No-Zones are danger areas around trucks and buses where crashes are more likely to occur. Some of these No-Zones are actual blind spots where your car “disappears” from the view of the truck or bus driver.

Truck and bus drivers can’t always see certain areas around their vehicles. The size of heavy vehicles increases the risk of collision in those areas. When you are driving your car through a heavy vehicle No-Zone, please drive with care.

### SIDE NO-ZONES

Trucks and buses have big blind spots on both sides. If you can’t see the driver’s face in the side-view mirror, he or she can’t see you. If that driver needs to change lanes for any reason, you could have a collision.



## Chapter 4: Heavy Vehicles - The No-Zones

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### REAR NO-ZONES

Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge No-Zones directly behind them. Truck or bus drivers can't see your car behind them, and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck or bus drivers brake suddenly, you may collide. Maintain a safe following distance at all times.

### FRONT NO-ZONES

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

### BACKING UP IN NO-ZONES

Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Truck drivers may not see you cutting in behind them.

### WIDE RIGHT TURNS

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

Remember:

- don't "hang out" on either side of trucks or buses;
- avoid tailgating;
- pass safely;
- never cross behind a truck that is backing up.

## Chapter 4: Meeting Oncoming Traffic & Parking Regulations

There are certain rules for drivers going in opposite directions and meeting each other.

- The basic rule is to keep your vehicle in your half of the roadway. Never permit your vehicle to wander into another traffic lane; drive in the center of your lane of traffic except when passing or turning.
- When meeting another vehicle on a narrow street or road, BOTH drivers must slow down or stop, and assist one another to pass safely. On streets that are made narrow by parked vehicles, watch for oncoming vehicles. If the parked vehicles are on your half of the road, move into a gap whenever possible.
- You should not drive in the city with your high beams on unless they are required for safety. On the highway, when meeting other traffic you must dim your lights when you are within 150 meters (500 feet) of the other car.

### PARKING REGULATIONS

It is illegal to stop or park a vehicle:

- in front of a private driveway, lane, or intersection;
- within 2.5 meters (8 feet) of a fire hydrant;
- on a crosswalk;
- within 6 meters (20 feet) of the approach to a crosswalk.;
- on the roadway side of another vehicle that is already stopped or parked; (double parking)
- so that it obstructs traffic or constitutes a hazard to others;



## Chapter 4: Parking and Stopping

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- within 15 meters (50 feet) of the nearest rail of a railway crossing;
- within 12 meters (40 feet) of a stop sign or traffic signal; and
- in a space designated for the disabled unless the vehicle has a valid emblem approved by Highway Safety Operations and The Council of the Disabled that clearly identifies the vehicle is owned, operated by or used for transportation of a disabled person. Violation of this law will result in a fine.



These parking rules also apply:

- where parallel parking is permitted, you must have the vehicle's wheels within 0.3 meters (12 inches) of the curb;

- you must set your hand or foot brake, stop the motor and remove the keys from the ignition; and
- when getting out of a vehicle on the left side, or the right side on a one-way street, always look before opening the door. A passing cyclist or another car may strike the door, or pin you against the vehicle.

On a highway never park or stop on a traveled lane unless your vehicle is so disabled that you cannot move it. If for any reason you cannot move your vehicle off the highway, always turn on your parking lights or hazard lights when visibility is poor. But most important, get the vehicle off the highway as soon as possible.

If you have to stop or park at night on the highway, pull over as far to the right as you can. Turn on your parking or hazard lights. Do not stand on the highway if you have to make repairs or change a flat tire. Carry a warning signal light which you can put on the

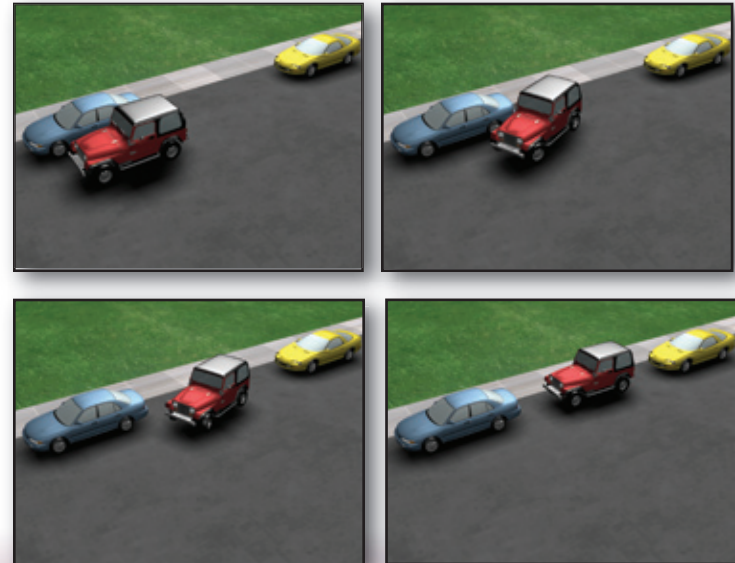
shoulder of the road behind your vehicle. Buses, heavy commercial vehicles and trucks must carry flares or warning lamps, which must be placed at least 60 meters (200 feet) in front of and to the rear of the vehicle.

### STEPS IN PARALLEL PARKING

- Stop even with the car ahead about 0.45 meters (1.5 feet) away from it.
- Back slowly, turning the wheel sharply to the right until the car is at a 45-degree angle with the curb, then straighten the wheels.
- Back slowly until the left headlight of the rear car is visible; then turn the wheels sharply to the left and again back slowly.
- Turn wheel sharply to the right and pull forward to the center of the parking space.

### ANGLE PARKING

Drive forward into the space, with equal space on each side between the lines.



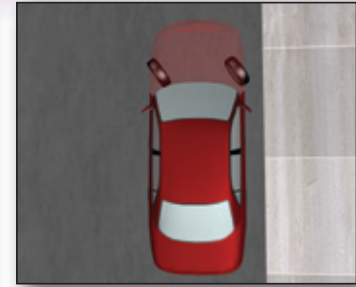
## Chapter 4: Parking and Stopping

Follow these steps when moving your car from a parked position:

- check for other traffic;
- signal your intention to pull away from the curb; and
- pull away when it is safe to do so and when you do not interfere with other traffic.



**uphill with curb**



**uphill with no curb**



**downhill with curb**



**downhill with no curb**



Although backing forms a minor portion of driving, it deserves particular attention because it is an especially hazardous movement. A driver's blind spot keeps him or her from being completely aware of everything in the path of his or her vehicle when backing up. The law requires that a driver must not back a vehicle unless the movement can be made safely and without interfering with traffic.

### **STEPS IN BACKING**

- Check all around the vehicle before you get in the vehicle.
- Look out the rear window.
- Sound the horn immediately before backing, to alert any pedestrians you may have missed.
- Back up slowly.
- Check both sides as you back up.
- When backing from a driveway, check for pedestrian and vehicle traffic before crossing the sidewalk and entering the roadway.

- Backing is permitted only when safe to do so.





## Chapter 4: Driving in a Village, Town or City

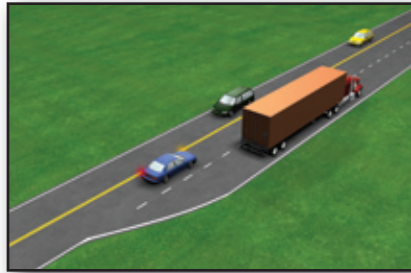
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Things to remember when driving in a village, town or city:

- Watch for pedestrians and other vehicles when approaching any intersection.
  - Obey the speed limits. At a higher speed you may be unable to stop when necessary.
  - Plan your route ahead so that you will be in the proper lane for any turns you may have to make. Signal well in advance.
  - If you are parked at a curb, do not pull away until you have signaled, checked for other traffic, and are sure you can do so in safety.
  - Be alert for signs and signals.
  - Slow down in residential areas and watch for children and bicyclists.
  - If you must drive at a slower speed than the flow of traffic, keep to the right lane.
  - Keep your speed down in lanes and alleys. Stop before you enter a street from a lane or alley.
- Do not block an intersection. If your lane beyond the intersection is blocked with traffic, stop before entering it and wait until the traffic ahead moves.
  - Do not “weave” in traffic. When you have to change lanes, signal and watch for traffic behind you.
  - Do not follow other vehicles too closely.

### ACCELERATION AND DECELERATION LANES

Some highways have speed-up or acceleration lanes. First enter the acceleration lane; then increase your speed, signal, and move over to the regular traffic lane when your speed and traffic permits. This will enable you to merge smoothly with the other traffic.



Some highways also have lanes provided for decelerating, or slowing down before turning off the highway. Always signal before entering the deceleration lane, and slow down after you have entered it.

### MERGING

Merging requires that you time your approach and smoothly blend in with the other traffic. This may require adjusting your speed so that when you reach the end of the acceleration lane, you have a gap in the traffic which will permit you to enter the flow of traffic safely. Your entry into that flow should be at or near the speed of the other traffic.



Do not slow down or come to a stop at the end of the acceleration lane. The acceleration lane is designed for you to bring your vehicle up to the speed of the highway traffic. The drivers behind you are expecting you to continue. Slowing down or stopping may cause your vehicle to be rear ended.

Here are some tips for safe merging:

- check the traffic flow that is on the highway;
- choose your entry position;
- as your vehicle enters the acceleration lane, signal;
- accelerate to the speed of the highway traffic;
- keep checking the gap and any following vehicles;
- pull into the gap; and
- turn off your signal light.

Drivers already on the highway should, when approaching an acceleration lane, should slow down and leave a gap for the merging vehicle or move over to the left-hand lane if there are two or more lanes travelling in the same direction, if it is safe to do so, leaving the right travel lane clear for the merging vehicles. Remember, be courteous and allow the merging driver to enter the highway.

### SOFT OR LOW SHOULDERS

If one or more wheels or your vehicle suddenly drops off the edge of the pavement onto a soft or low dirt shoulder, follow these four steps to keep control and return to the pavement safely:

- Steer firmly. Hold the wheel with both hands. Straddle the edge with one side of the vehicle on the pavement and the other side on the shoulder.
- Slow down gradually. Lift your foot from the accelerator, but don't brake.
- Ease to a slower speed.
- Return to the pavement at a 45-degree angle when the vehicle has slowed enough to give you complete control over it. Don't allow the side of the tires to rub against the pavement edge. Returning to the pavement at too high a speed may cause the vehicle to swerve into the lane of oncoming traffic.
- Straighten out the vehicle in the correct lane of traffic.

**Note:** *You may have to continue on the shoulder of the road until the shoulder and road are at an even level.*

### TO REDUCE THE RISK OF A COLLISION

- Stay alert and attentive.
- Stop driving when tired.
- Adjust speed to conditions;
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Follow proper procedures for passing, turning and changing lanes.
- Drive in the right lane of a four-lane highway when not passing.
- At dusk, turn on your headlights to help other drivers see you.



## Chapter 4: Night Driving

### LIGHTS

There are three times as many fatal collisions at night as there are during daylight hours. Night driving is more dangerous because the distance you can see ahead is greatly reduced. Have your lights aimed regularly. Remember, you cannot see well at night. Reduce your speed so as not to “over-drive” your headlights. If you are travelling at a speed which does not permit you to see an object in time to stop, you are over-driving your headlights.

### SPEED

On the highway, if road conditions are poor, or visibility is reduced, you should slow down to a speed that will allow you to stop within the distance you can see. In cities or towns with restricted speed zones, the speed limit does not change at night, but visibility does so you should slow down. When driving in residential areas, slow down and watch for pedestrians

or other road users who may be difficult to see at night.

### HIGH AND LOW HEADLIGHT BEAMS

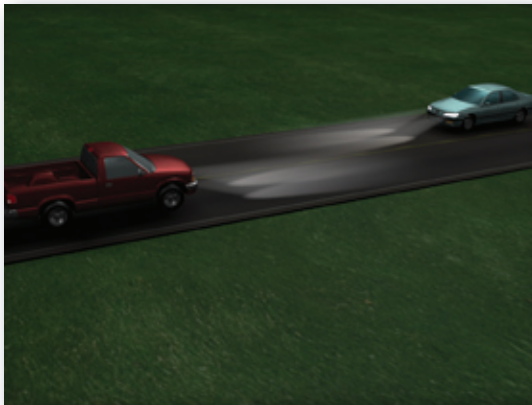
The law requires motor vehicle headlights to be turned on from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is poor. When you need to use lights, use your headlights; parking lights are for parking only. Use LOW beams in city driving, except in areas which are not lighted and where traffic permits.

When meeting an oncoming vehicle DIM your lights when within 150 meters (500 feet), of the other vehicle. Do not wait for the other driver to dim his/her lights first. When switching to low beams, remove your foot from the gas pedal to reduce speed in order to give your eyes a chance to adjust to the change in light. To avoid being blinded watch the right edge of the roadway; if you are blinded, always slow down when meeting another vehicle. When following a

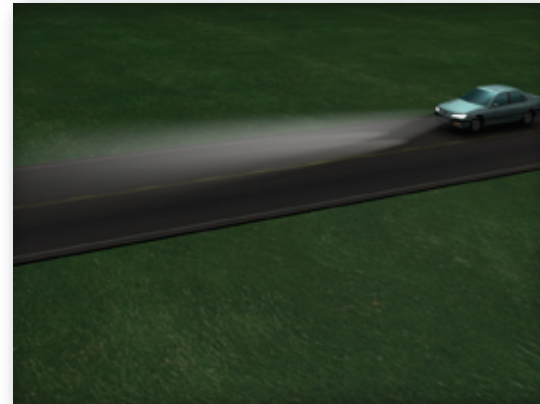
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vehicle, use your LOW beam when within 60 meters (200 feet) of it. If you do not, your bright lights will reflect from the rear-view mirror and blind the driver in front.

### HIGH AND LOW HEADLIGHT BEAMS (EXAMPLE)



low beams



high beams

## Chapter 4: Winter Driving

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To prepare for winter driving have these items carefully checked and repaired if necessary:

- **THE RADIATOR**  
Check for leaks and put in antifreeze.
- **THE TIRES**  
Check tires and replace any damaged or “bald” tires. Studded tires may be used between October 1st and May 31st. It is unlawful to use them at any other time. Such tires greatly improve traction and shorten stopping distance on slippery roads.
- **THE BRAKES**  
Have brakes adjusted or relined if necessary. Be sure your four brakes are braking equally. On icy roads poorly adjusted brakes can throw your car into a dangerous skid.

- **THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS AND HEATER DEFROSTER**

Be sure your wiper blades are in good condition at all times. Check your heater defroster unit to be sure it is in good working order.

- **THE MUFFLER**

Have it checked for leaks. A leaking muffler or exhaust system can create a carbon monoxide hazard, particularly if you are stalled in traffic or in a blizzard. Never start your car in a closed garage.

### TIPS FOR SAFE WINTER DRIVING

- **SLOW DOWN**

Slow down whenever roads are icy or covered with snow. Keep well back of the vehicle ahead. It takes from three to twelve times more distance to stop on snow and ice than it does on dry pavement.

- **GET THE “FEEL” OF THE ROAD**

The road may be more slippery than you think. When traffic permits, apply your brakes to see how well they hold.

- **BE ALERT**

- A) Watch out for pedestrians. They are cold and in a hurry. Extend every courtesy to them.
- B) In early fall and late spring, shaded spots on the highway retain frost and ice much longer and may be slippery.
- C) Watch for snowdrifts and patches of icy surfaces. Hitting a snow drift or icy patch at high speed can throw your vehicle out of control.

- **BRAKING CAREFULLY**

To stop or slow down on icy roads gently apply your brakes. Probably no single action causes more skids and accidents than locking the brakes.

By pressing hard on the brakes you simply lock the wheels and turn your vehicle into a “toboggan.” (This does not apply if your car is equipped with an anti-lock brake system). Once you lock your wheels you lose traction and steering ability. With power brakes you have to be even more careful as not to lock your wheels on icy roads.

### ANTI-LOCK BRAKE SYSTEMS (ABS)

Anti-lock brake system is an advanced electronic braking system that will prevent skidding. When you need to stop, don’t pump the brakes. Just hold the brake pedal down. With ABS, you can steer and brake at the same time; however, any type of braking system requires the driver to use good judgement and extra caution to avoid collisions. If your vehicle is equipped with ABS, consult your owner’s manual for more information.



## Chapter 4: Winter Driving

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### **BLACK ICE**

Black ice is a very dangerous road condition. It occurs when the road is wet and the temperature drops to or below the freezing level. This can also occur at anytime during the winter months where water may freeze into ice. It is ice on the roadway that is very difficult to see or may not be seen at all. Please be aware that icy conditions may occur without warning or any visible appearance.

### **BRIDGE FREEZES BEFORE ROAD**

During the winter months, bridges will have ice on the road surface before ice forms on the highway. Please use caution when approaching bridges during winter.

### **WINTER KIT**

Here are some helpful things you might carry in your car in winter:

- a blanket and extra clothing;
- a heat source (candle, matches, deep can to hold the candle);
- nonperishable food, candy, nuts;
- shovel;
- hatchet or axe;
- inflated spare tire and jack;
- sand, salt;
- approved warning devices;
- tow rope;
- first aid kit;
- ice scraper, snow brush;
- methyl hydrate (gas line antifreeze);
- tire chains;
- a flashlight with spare batteries;
- jumper cables; and
- if you have a cellular phone, carry it with you.

If your vehicle battery fails, consult your vehicle owner's manual for proper instructions for boosting your vehicle battery.

If you find yourself stranded, stay with your vehicle. Run the engine just often enough to keep yourself warm. Keep the vehicle ventilated by opening a window slightly while the engine is running to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Save your energy and be patient. You are safer and more likely to be found if you stay with the vehicle.

### **STEERING**

Never make any sudden and sharp turns on slippery roads, a dangerous skid could result. Steering becomes very easy — almost like power steering. Try to anticipate your turns and start slowing down well before you reach the intersection or curve on the highway.

### **STARTING**

Another common cause of collisions is misjudgment by drivers of the time it will take them to cross a street from a complete stop. Often drivers who start from a stop sign or traffic light cannot get across the intersection in time. Never spin your wheels when starting. Spinning tires melt snow, turning it into ice. With standard transmission put your car into second gear when on icy roads. Then gently press the accelerator pedal until your car starts to roll. The first sign of spinning means too much gas, ease off a bit. With automatic transmission, apply gentle pressure on the accelerator, just enough to start your car rolling. You will also have to allow for the longer start by looking for greater gaps in traffic. Remember that just as it will take you longer to start, the other driver will require a longer distance to stop for you.

## Chapter 4: Winter Driving

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### OTHER CAUSES OF SKIDDING

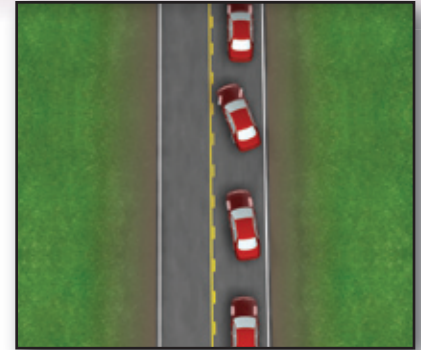
- Driving too fast on bumpy roads, or when crossing a road crown, railway tracks or icy ruts.
- Driving on the edge of the road. If one wheel drops off the pavement onto the shoulder, a skid may result.
- Changing to lower gear at too fast a speed. The sudden deceleration caused by the compression of your motor may throw you into a skid.

### HOW TO RECOVER FROM A SKID

In case your vehicle does go into a skid, learn how to recover from it:

- keep calm and keep control of yourself, but act promptly;
- if the skid was caused by slamming on the brakes, ease off the brakes and steer in the direction in which the rear end is skidding. Do not oversteer;
- if the skid was caused by accelerating too fast, ease

- up on the gas pedal and steer in the direction of the skid;
- when the skid is caused by driving too fast over a bumpy road surface or icy ruts, take your foot off the gas pedal, but do not apply brakes, and steer gently but firmly;
- if the skid was caused by gearing down at too fast a speed, shift back into high gear, steering in the direction of the skid at the same time;
- when the skid occurs at slow speeds due to improper braking or steering, moderate acceleration may aid in recovering from it. This should be resorted to only if all else fails; and



- if your tire blows out, make sure that you have a firm grip on the steering wheel. Do not drive with one hand.

### FRONT WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES (FWDV)

Experienced FWDV drivers may find that gentle acceleration will help the vehicle pull out of a rear wheel skid. If the front wheels skid, take your foot off the accelerator. The engine braking effect may slow the car to the point where front end traction is regained. If the skid continues, depress the clutch or select neutral. Freely rolling wheels are better able to regain traction.

### DRIVING IN THE RAIN

Roads are likely to be especially slippery JUST AFTER IT BEGINS TO RAIN. The first few drops loosen the grease and dirt accumulated on the surface of the road. The

loosened grease and dirt mix with the raindrops and the road is quickly covered with a slippery film that makes it extremely dangerous. The first few drops of rain are danger signals telling you to slow down and use extra caution.

### HYDROPLANING — “Water Skiing on the Highway”

Hydroplaning takes place on wet roads. As speed increases, your tires start to ride up on a film of water. In a standard passenger car, partial hydroplaning starts at about 60 km/h (35 mph), and increases with speed to about 90 km/h (55 mph), at which point the tires may be totally up on the water. In a severe rainstorm the tires lose all contact with the road at 90 km/h (55 mph). When this is the case, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate or turn. A gust of wind, a change of road conditions or a slight turn can create an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid. The

## Chapter 4: Highway, Weather and Visibility Conditions

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best thing to do is to take your foot off the accelerator and let the car slow down. If you skid while your car is only partially hydroplaning, you should be able to regain control by correcting for the particular type of skid. On the other hand, if you're totally hydroplaning, about all you can do is release the accelerator and ride out the skid.

To prevent hydroplaning, it is most helpful to have good tires with deep treads. The treads allow the water to escape from under the tires and tend to prevent complete hydroplaning at normal speeds; however, when the depth of the water exceeds the depth of the treads, complete hydroplaning can be expected at speeds from 80 - 90 km /h (50 to 55 mph).

### VISIBILITY

The law requires that the driver have a clear unobstructed line of vision. All windows must be

kept free of dirt, condensation, ice and snow. Clean your windows before every trip and stop to clean them whenever conditions require it. It is illegal to drive your vehicle when your vision is completely or partially obstructed. Ornaments or decorations on any part of the vehicle which obstructs the driver's vision or distract his or her attention are prohibited. No more than two adult passengers and the driver are permitted in the front seat. Any load within the vehicle, including passengers, must not obstruct the driver's vision to the front, sides or rear of the vehicle.

Clear and unobstructed vision is always essential for a driver, but in adverse weather conditions, good vision becomes even more important. In fog, rain or snow, always turn your headlights on low beams. High beams will only reflect off fog or snow and hamper your vision and that of approaching drivers. If your vehicle is equipped with fog lights, use them when driving in fog.

### DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Be familiar with the equipment in your car, such as the stereo system and cell phone. This is especially important if you have a new phone or car, or a rental vehicle. Practice before driving so you can perform basic functions without taking your eyes off the road. Program your favorite stations into the radio for easy access. Arrange tapes and CDs in an easy-to-reach spot.

- Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. If you choose to use your wireless phone, use a hands-free device and keep it in its holder.
- Make sure your children are comfortable and properly buckled up. To keep children from distracting the driver, provide them with safe items they may need for the road trip. Teach your children the importance of good behavior while in a vehicle.

Don't underestimate how distracting it can be to tend to them in the car.

- Pull over to eat or drink. By stopping, you can give yourself a break from the traffic and enjoy your refreshments. Children or adults may choke on food while in the vehicle, causing a severe distraction for the driver. Avoid eating while driving, but if you must, choose easy-to-handle items and make sure all drinks are secured in cup-holders.
- Check your route before leaving. If you are unfamiliar with where you're going, study a road map to avoid unnecessary stress and distractions. Do not attempt to read the road map while driving.
- Complete your grooming before leaving. Don't rely on the time in your vehicle to take care of your personal routine such as applying make-up, combing your hair or shaving. Don't try to retrieve

## Chapter 4: Driving Distractions

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items that fall to the floor while driving. Wait until your vehicle is parked.

- Do not engage in emotionally charged conversations either with the passengers or on your mobile phone. Such discussions can result in aggressive or erratic driving behavior.
- Never take notes while driving. Always find a safe place to stop before writing things down. Designate a front-seat passenger to serve as “co-pilot” rather than fumble with maps or unfamiliar navigation systems.
- Drive defensively. Be prepared for the unsafe actions of other motorists or for poor driving conditions. If you find yourself ‘lost in thought’ while driving, take a break.
- Tired driving. Don’t begin your trip unless you are well rested. Dozing off behind the wheel for just

2-3 seconds can be deadly. If you’re driving 90 km per hour, your car can travel the length of a football field in three seconds.

- Heavy traffic. Plan your drive times to avoid the “rush hours” of people leaving the city. Agitation can lead to aggressive driving behaviors like tailgating and speeding. Remember every other driver on the road is subject to the same stress, fatigue, anger and distractions that you are.
- Oncoming traffic. Be alert for unanticipated movements like a car drifting across the center line or cutting into your lane. Be prepared to drive calmly into the ditch if necessary to avoid a crash. Don’t panic and try to oversteer—this can lead to a rollover. Approach intersections with caution. Just because you have the right-of-way doesn’t mean the other drivers will stop.

- **Breaks.** Schedule frequent rest breaks for your passengers as well as yourself. If children are bored and restless, they can be distracting. Driver distraction is a leading cause of motor vehicle crashes.
- **Stopping.** Always stop at stop signs—whether or not you can see there are any vehicles coming. Fatal crashes can happen because someone didn't stop because they were certain the "coast was clear."

#### **TIPS FOR USING CELL PHONES IN A VEHICLE**

- Always buckle up, keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.
- Use a hands-free device to make it easier to keep both hands on the wheel.
- Stop the vehicle if you need to dial or have a passenger dial for you.
- Do not engage in stressful or emotional

conversations that may divert your attention from the road.

- Program frequently-called numbers into the speed dial feature of your phone for easy, one-touch dialing, or use auto answer or voice-activated dialing services (when available).
- Never take notes while driving. Pull off the road if you need to write something down.
- Let voice mail pick up your calls when it's inconvenient, or unsafe to answer the phone or driving conditions become hazardous.
- Call 9-1-1 to report any crimes, life-threatening emergencies, accidents or drunk drivers. In Canada alone, nearly three million calls per year are made to 9-1-1 or emergency numbers using a wireless phone





## Chapter 4: Impaired Driving

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### DRUGS

It is essential to understand the effects of any drug you are taking before operating a motor vehicle. Mood-altering (psychoactive) drugs are of particular concern because they can change the way you think, behave and physically respond. The following is a partial list of mood-altering drugs:

#### **Depressants:**

- Alcohol
- Sedatives (halcion)
- Minor tranquillizers (valium, ativan)
- Narcotic analgesics (heroin, morphine, codeine, talwin)

#### **Stimulants:**

- Amphetamines
- Cocaine

#### **Other:**

- Hallucinogens (LSD, MDA, mescaline)
- Cannabis (marijuana, hashish)

Some prescription mood-altering drugs include antidepressants such as Prozac and other medications for depression, manic depression, and psychosis. For information on the effects and potential side effects of a mood-altering drug ask your pharmacist or doctor.

### ALCOHOL

Alcohol abuse is the most common type of drug problem in Canada and North America. Alcohol impairment continues to be a leading cause of traffic fatalities.

It is important that all drivers understand the danger of drinking and driving and the laws and penalties involved.

Driving after drinking is an irresponsible act. It disregards the safety of others. Many people do not understand the effects of alcohol on the mind and body.

There has been a lot of research on the effect of alcohol on people. All of these studies have demonstrated that even in small amounts, alcohol has a deteriorating effect on people. Despite the scientific evidence that alcohol impairs the ability of all drivers, drinking and driving is still a major safety problem.

### THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

#### **Reduced vision**

Experiments show that alcohol has the same effect on vision as a grey glass in front of the eyes, or driving with sun glasses at dusk or in darkness. These tests show a person who had the equivalent of four ounces of alcohol needs a stronger light to see objects clearly. Dimly-lit objects are not seen at all. Drivers who are blinded by glaring light take longer to recover their normal vision than drivers who have not been drinking.

#### **Slower reaction time**

After seeing an object, such as a child running into the path of a car, the average reaction time for taking the foot off the gas pedal and putting it on the brake is about three quarters of a second. Tests show that a driver who is alcohol impaired, but not drunk, has his or her reaction slowed down by 20%.

At a speed of 50 km/h (30 mph) a car travels approximately 14 meters per second (44 feet per second). In  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second the car will travel about 10.5 meters (33 feet). It will take a drinking driver nearly one second to apply the brakes and in that time the car will travel 3.5 meters (11 feet) farther -- perhaps enough to cause an accident. At a speed of 100 km/h (60 mph) it will take the impaired driver about 6 meters (22 feet) longer to apply the brakes.

## Chapter 4: Impaired Driving

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### Alcohol and collisions

Drinking and driving is one of the major causes of traffic collisions. Studies conclusively prove that drivers who drink and drive are involved in ten times as many collisions as drivers who are sober. Collisions involving a drinking driver are more likely to be serious. This is understandable, since a drinking driver tends to drive faster and has impaired vision, judgment, and reaction time.

The result is that he or she may strike a pedestrian, other vehicles, or lose control of the vehicle even at slower speeds.

A conviction for impaired driving on Prince Edward Island with a blood alcohol count (B.A.C.) in excess of .08 or refusal to take a blood/alcohol test on Prince Edward Island will result in the cancellation and a disqualification from holding or obtaining a license for

a period of:

- one (1) year for a first offence;
- three (3) years for a second offence; and
- five (5) years for a third or subsequent offence.

### THE EFFECT OF MIXING ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Mixing alcohol with other drugs can cause a serious reaction. This is especially dangerous when the use of a motor vehicle is involved.

For example:

Two drinks of an alcoholic beverage in combination with one normal dose of a common tranquillizer equal the impairment level produced by six drinks.

Remember that one bottle of beer is equal to 1<sup>1/4</sup> ounces of liquor or 4 ounces of wine.

Two drinks of an alcoholic beverage and one light

dose of marijuana can equal the impairment produced by five drinks.

If you are taking medication or a drug, know what the results of “mixing” will be before drinking. This advice is true whether the drug is by a doctor’s prescription, “off the shelf” or “off the street”.

You must not drive while impaired. Your life, and the lives of others, depend on you.

### WHAT CAN YOU “GAIN” BY DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED?

- Heavy fines.
- A criminal record.
- The loss of your license.
- Loss of employment (if driving is required).
- Reduced social life (no Driver’s Licence).
- Higher automobile insurance costs.
- Time in jail.

- Damage to property.
- Serious injuries.
- Death.

### PENALTIES FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING ADMINISTRATION DRIVING PROHIBITION (ADP)

A police officer has the authority to impose a 90-day suspension of a Driver’s License (ADP) at the time of an impaired driving charge. This administrative suspension becomes effective seven days after the date of the charge. The conviction for this offence later results in a cancellation of your driving privileges for one, three, or five years.

### UNDER THE AGE OF NINETEEN - “ZERO TOLERANCE”

In the case of a driver who is less than nineteen, or has held a valid Driver’s License for less than two years, and a roadside screening device registers a blood

## Chapter 4: Impaired Driving

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alcohol content (BAC) reading, a police officer has the authority to impose a 24-hour driving suspension in addition to the 90-day administrative driving prohibition.

### VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT

A person who is prohibited from driving because of an impaired driving conviction and is apprehended again for drinking and driving or refusal of a blood/alcohol test will immediately have the vehicle impounded. Impoundment will be for 30 days for a first offence and up to 60 days for a subsequent offence.

### HABITUAL OFFENDERS

Habitual offenders are drivers with two or more convictions of impaired driving. They must undergo an alcohol/drug assessment and possible treatment before reinstatement of their driving privileges.



# Chapter 5: Motorcycles/Mopeds



### MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS

Motorcycles and mopeds and their drivers are part of the Highway Traffic Act of Prince Edward Island. A motorcycle is a motor vehicle having a saddle/seat for the rider and is designed to travel with not more than three wheels. A moped or “motor-assisted bicycle” is like a motorcycle but smaller in size and with less power. A moped travels at speeds up to 50 km/h (30 mph). Motor scooters are included in the definition of motorcycles and are governed by the same regulations.

Laws concerning motorcycles and mopeds cover such areas as licensing, registration and driving procedures. You must be licensed in order to drive a motorcycle or moped on a public street or highway.

Motorcycle and moped operators must:

- wear adequate protective headgear;
- know and comply with the rules of the road when driving their vehicles;
- sit on the regular seat of the vehicle, not the handlebars or foot pegs, etc; and
- carry only as many passengers as the vehicle has been designed and built to carry.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT MOTORCYCLE

In choosing your bike, consider what type of driving you plan to do. A small motorcycle may lack the power required to maintain highway speeds and may be unstable at higher speeds.

On the other hand a motorcycle that is too big may be difficult to control. If your motorcycle is the right size, you should be able to:

- have one foot flat on the ground as you straddle your upright bike;
- push, park and put your bike on its stand without straining;

## Chapter 5: Motorcycles and Mopeds

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- comfortably reach and operate all controls without straining or stretching;
- lift the motorcycle by the handlebars when it is lying on its side (lock front wheel when lifting if possible); and
- know what type of driving you plan to do and make sure you choose a motorcycle that is designed for that purpose.

### MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

- **Brakes** —  
Capable of being operated on not fewer than two wheels.
- **The headlight** —  
at least one and not more than two headlights; must be turned on when the motorcycle is being driven.
- **Rear lamp and brake light** —  
one rear lamp and brake light. These may or may not be the same light. The license plate must be illuminated.
- **The muffler** —  
a muffler in good working order.
- **The handlebars** —  
must be securely fastened and not exceed 0.3 meters (12 inches) in height as measured vertically from its point of attachment at the frame.
- **The foot rests** —  
for use in the normal sitting position by an operator and passenger where the motorcycle is equipped for carrying a passenger.
- **Left side rear-view mirror** —  
must give the driver a view of the highway at least 60 meters (200 feet) to the rear and will not be less than 75 mm in size.
- **Horn** —  
capable of being heard at 60 meters (200 feet).
- **The seat** —  
carry only as many people on the motorcycle as it



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has been designed and built to carry.

- **Turn signal lights** — amber lights on the front and amber or red lights on the rear are required.
- **Goggles** — It is advisable that both drivers and passengers are protected by glasses, goggles or a transparent shield. This shield should be colourless for night driving and should not alter your perception.
- **The helmet** — required for all riders and passengers; must be approved by the DOT, Canada Standards Association, ANSI or SNELL.
- Annual motorcycle inspection is required.

### **BIKE CHECK**

- Tires - be sure that your tires are properly inflated. Use an air pressure gauge to check pressure in both tires every day before you ride. High or low tire

pressure may cause improper handling. Always check the tires for tread wear. Never ride on tires that show cracks, cuts or bulges which could cause a blow out. Badly worn tires are dangerous, especially in wet weather.

- Nuts, Bolts and Cotter Pins - your bike's vibrations may loosen nuts, bolts and pins. Check them regularly.
- Horn - test it. It may save your life.
- Cables - check for worn, frayed, kinked or broken strands. If you find them, replace them. Make sure all cables are well lubricated. Make sure the throttle cable returns to idle position when released. Check the clutch cable for proper adjustment.



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- Brakes - apply the front and rear brakes one at a time to make sure that each one is working properly.
- Lights - your headlight should come on when the motor is running. Check both its high and low beam. Also check your turn signals and brake lights before you ride.
- Chain, Drive Belt or Drive Shaft - adjust and lubricate the motorcycle's drive chain on a regular basis as outlined in your owner's manual. Check your owner's manual for proper adjustment of the drive belt. If your motorcycle has a drive shaft check its oil level(s) regularly.



- Mirrors - keep your mirrors clean. Each mirror should allow you to see about half of the lane behind you and as much as possible of the lane beside you. When properly adjusted a mirror may show part of your arm or shoulder. Make these adjustments before starting as it is difficult and dangerous to make them while moving. Remember that objects in your mirrors may be closer than they look. Take a quick look over your shoulder before every turn. Never rely entirely on your mirrors.
- Gas, Water and Oil Levels - check the levels of your gas, water and oil levels before starting. Check for leaks. A seized motor could cause your rear wheel to lock and cause a loss of control.

Your motorcycle is a unique vehicle. It requires both skill and balance from you if it is to be driven safely. Only practice can teach you everything that is needed but here are a few tips that may help you:

- 1) Seat - sit far enough forward so that your arms are slightly bent when you hold the handle grips. This will allow you to turn the handlebars without stretching.
- 2) Hands - hold the handle grips lightly but firmly and use the "wrist down" method which will help you from accidentally using too much throttle (see diagram).
- 3) Balance - to help you keep your balance during turns, hold your knees firmly against the gas tank and look in the direction that you want to go. Do not look down.
- 4) Feet - should be firmly on the footrests at all times when the motorcycle is moving. Keep your toes up. If they drop down they may get caught between the road and the footrest. You need your feet for effective braking and gear selection, so be sure to keep them near those controls at all times.
- 5) Starting Off - starting and stopping are two areas where you can easily lose control. It is best for beginners to practice starts and stops in a safe, traffic-free area until these skills have been mastered. You need smooth coordination between clutch and throttle. Too much throttle can cause you to lose control, too little will cause the engine to stall.

### WHAT A MOTORCYCLE DRIVER SHOULD KNOW

- Know your motorcycle well enough so that you can find and use switches and the controls without taking your eyes off the road. This is particularly true of the turn signals, horn, dimmer switch, choke, motor cut off switch and fuel control valve.
- Make sure your motorcycle is in good mechanical repair before every ride. Before you ride, check your motorcycle's controls. Be sure you know the gear pattern. Work the throttle, clutch and brakes a few times before you start. Ride with extra care until you

## Chapter 5: Motorcycles and Mopeds

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are used to the way your motorcycle handles. Slow down on corners and give yourself extra stopping distance.

- Remember that you have no seat belt or metal box around you for protection in a collision. Always drive with extreme care.
- Never ride after drinking alcohol or taking drugs which may affect your reactions and judgment.
- Do not drive when you are tired.
- Avoid becoming dehydrated.

### **WEAR PROPER CLOTHING**

Protect your skin and eyes from the sun, wind, bugs and debris. Leather is best but heavy nylon or denim jackets and long pants are acceptable. Do not let flaps, laces or anything else dangle from your clothing. Do not wear clothing that may flap or balloon in the wind as this may tire you or prove distracting. Wear gloves and other clothing which is designed for motorcycle use.

### **ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET**

Helmets approved for motorcycle use are required by law in PEI and must be worn by the driver and passenger. Helmets should fit correctly. This is snug enough so that they do not slip around your head with the chin strap done up. Make sure your helmet meets all safety standards before you buy it. Replace helmets that have been dropped, scraped or damaged in a collision. Use only soap and water to clean your helmet.

### **ALWAYS WEAR BOOTS**

Do not wear shoes that are loose fitting or that have rings or laces that may catch on controls. Leather or heavy nylon boots are best. They should be sturdy and high enough to protect your ankles. Their soles should be made of hard material and should have a pronounced tread pattern. Wear footwear that allows you to properly operate the foot controls.

### **PROTECT YOUR EYES**

Wind and rain can tire your eyes and blur your vision. Dust, bugs and debris can hurt your eyes and cause you to lose control of your motorcycle. Windshields help deflect wind, rain and flying objects but do not protect your eyes. Wear protection even behind a windshield.

Your eye protection should:

- be free of scratches;
- allow clear vision on both sides;
- Allow room for eyeglasses, sunglasses or safety glasses;
- Be securely fastened; and
- Be made of shatterproof material.

### **WEAR GLOVES**

Gloves keep your hands warm and give you a better grip on the controls. Gloves specifically designed for use on motorcycles are best.

### **BE SEEN**

For a motorcyclist being seen may be the difference between life and death. Wear bright colours such as orange, red or yellow. Fluorescent colours are especially good. Reflective tape on your motorcycle, helmet and jacket is a good idea.

### **BEFORE STARTING OUT CHECK THE FOLLOWING:**

- the front wheel is not locked;
- the rear-view mirror is adjusted;
- the gas is turned on;
- the engine is warmed up and running smoothly; and
- the lights are on.

Take the motorcycle off the stand before you allow passengers to get on. Always check your footing before you take the bike off the stand.

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### MAKE SURE YOUR WAY IS CLEAR OF:

- children;
- pedestrians;
- other traffic; and
- any obstacle.

### BEFORE YOU PULL AWAY MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE

Use your rear-view mirror but don't rely on it exclusively. Look over both shoulders to check the spots you can't see in the mirror.

Make sure traffic sees you. Many car drivers have trouble seeing motorcycles and may pull out in front of you. Most car drivers involved in a collision with a motorcycle say they never saw it. Use your signals and yield to other traffic when entering the traffic flow.

### STARTING ON A HILL

It is more difficult to get a motorcycle moving on an upgrade than it is on flat ground. There is a greater danger of rolling backward into someone behind you

or stalling the motor. Here is the best way to start on a hill.

- 1) Use the front brake to hold the motorcycle while you start the engine and shift into first gear.
- 2) Change to the foot brake to hold the cycle while you operate the throttle with your right hand.
- 3) Open the throttle a little bit for more power.
- 4) Slowly release the clutch and rear brake as you apply more power with the throttle. If you release it too quickly, the front wheel may come off the ground or the engine may stall.
- 5) Release the foot brake when the engine begins to slow down as the clutch takes hold.

### SHIFTING GEARS

Smooth and timely gear-shifting takes practice but, once you learn it, it will reduce wear on your motorcycle and help you maintain control.

Your owner's manual will tell you the maximum speed for each gear. Remember, always be in the correct gear for the speed at which you are traveling, whether you're speeding up or slowing down.

There is more to shifting gears than simply getting the motorcycle to accelerate smoothly. Loss of control or collisions occurs if the gears are used incorrectly when downshifting, turning or on hills.

### **DOWNSHIFTING**

Downshifting can be more difficult to do smoothly than up shifting. Here is how to do it:

- 1) Close the throttle.
- 2) Squeeze the clutch lever and open the throttle slightly, with a firm positive motion and push down the gear-change pedal as far as it will go and release it.
- 3) Release the clutch lever fully but gradually as you apply more throttle to match the engine speed for

the desired speed of travel.

- 4) Make sure you shift down through all gears as you slow down or stop. This way you always have enough power to accelerate quickly if required.

Make certain you are going slowly enough when you shift into a lower gear. If you are going too fast, the motorcycle will lurch and the rear wheel may lock. This is even more likely to happen while you are going downhill or shifting into first gear. Under those conditions you may need to use the brakes in order to slow down enough to shift safely.

### **SHIFTING IN A TURN**

Do not shift gears in a turn except in an emergency. A sudden change in power to the rear wheel can cause it to lock or spin, creating a skid. It is best to shift gears before entering a turn.

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### URNS AND CORNERS

There are two ways to turn your motorcycle. When driving a motorcycle less than 20 km/h, you can steer by turning the front wheel in the direction you want to go. This requires good balance and coordination between the clutch and the throttle. Practice doing this in a safe, traffic-free area.

At speeds greater than 20 km/h you must lean with the motorcycle and master the skill called countersteering or push-steering. As you turn a corner at higher speeds your motorcycle is pushed outward by centrifugal force. To counter this outward push you must lean inward. The greater the speed the more you must lean. Many motorcyclists, especially inexperienced ones, misjudge their speeds and attempt to corner too fast. Slow down before you reach the corner. Look through the corner in the direction in which you are turning.

To produce your inward lean push forward on your handlebar on the side towards which you want to turn. In other words push forward on the handlebar with your right hand in order to turn right. Push forward with your left hand in order to turn left.

As the bike begins to lean you will automatically turn the handlebars in the direction of the lean. This technique is helpful in everyday situations and in avoiding debris, potholes and collisions.

Things to remember:

- use a light but a firm grip on the handlebars for all turns;
- lean in the direction of the turn;
- gradually roll on the throttle through the turn. Maintain a steady speed or accelerate gradually. Avoid slowing down while in the turn; and
- accelerate slightly and use push-steering to straighten the bike as you come out of the turn.



### **BRAKING AND STOPPING**

Most motorcycles have two brakes, which are operated independently. When stopping use both front and rear brakes, applying both at the same time. The front brake provides about 75% of your motorcycle's braking power and should be used in most circumstances; however, at low speeds use of the front brake may cause a fall.

Some motorcycles have been equipped with integrated braking systems that link front and rear brake operation together. Anti-lock brake systems are also available on some models. If your bike has either one of these systems check your owner's manual for instruction on the best way to use your brakes.

### **HERE ARE SOME BRAKING TIPS:**

- downshifting as you brake will allow you to use the engine compression as a brake, as well;
- use extra caution when braking in a turn, with the

front wheel turned or on slippery or rough roads. For maximum braking in a curve, straighten the bike to the upright position, straighten or square the handlebars before firmly applying both brakes;

- practice controlled stops in a safe, traffic-free area;
- learn to apply even braking and acquire a feeling for when your wheels are about to lock up;
- you can brake in a turn by applying both brakes but use caution. Take care not to lock either wheel especially on slippery road surfaces;
- remain in first gear while you are stopped so you can move out quickly if necessary. Keep at least one brake firmly applied while you are stopped in case the clutch becomes engaged by mistake;
- never ride with your brake partially applied. It turns on your brake light which confuses other drivers and causes unnecessary wear on your brakes;
- it is important that you stay aware of what is behind you by checking your mirrors often. Leave plenty of

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space, at least two seconds between you and the vehicle ahead. Not only will this help you avoid a collision with the vehicle in front, but it will also help you drive more smoothly and save you from sudden stops which could get you rear-ended;

- for emergency braking use both brakes to the maximum effort but do not lock the wheels. Overbraking one, or both wheels is one of the most common causes of skidding;
- apply the front brake fully. If it locks, release the brake immediately. At the same time press down on the rear brake. If it accidentally locks, keep it locked until you have stopped completely. If your motorcycle is upright and moving in a straight line you can still control it even if the rear wheel locks. If the skid is caused by over-acceleration ease up on the throttle. Steer in the direction you want the front of the bike to go; and
- avoid sudden braking on loose sand or gravel,

slippery roads, painted or metal surfaces, or on wet roads, especially during the first few minutes of rain.

### SKIDS

Most skids are the result of driver error such as:

- turning too sharply or at too great a speed;
- braking too hard, usually the rear wheel; or
- accelerating too fast.

These driver errors are made even worse by poor road conditions such as slippery surfaces or loose sand or gravel. Plan ahead so that you will not be forced to make rapid movements. If you are not familiar with the road, drive more slowly.

If you do get into a skid, don't panic. If handled properly, you may be able to get out of difficulty.

When a slight rear wheel skid is caused by over braking, it can be corrected by steering in the direction of the skid and slowly letting up on the brake.

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The proper method of correcting a skid is explained in the previous section under the heading Braking and Stopping.



### **PARKING**

Park where it is safe and legal. Signs, curb markings and common sense will tell you if you can park.

Your motorcycle may have a center stand, a side stand or both. These are usually operated from the driver's left side. You should make a habit of dismounting to your left.

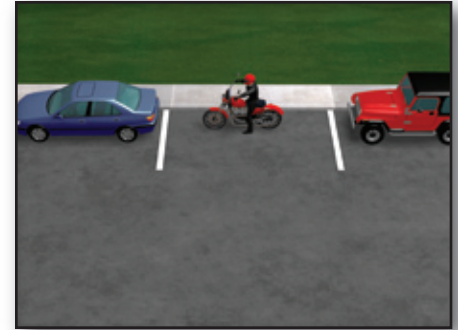
When leaving your motorcycle parked make sure the transmission is in first gear, the front wheel is locked and the ignition key is removed.

Try to avoid parking your motorcycle on a hill.

Many motorists do not expect, or see motorcycles sharing the same roadway with them. Although a collision may be their fault that won't help the cyclist who, almost always, will wind up on the short end of any crash.

### **WHERE TO DRIVE IN TRAFFIC**

One of the ways for you to be seen is to know and use the correct road position for every situation. While there is no single position that is best, the following is good positioning advice.



# Chapter 5: Motorcycles and Mopeds

## MAINTAIN A SPACE CUSHION

Avoid remaining beside other moving vehicles. They may suddenly change lanes by moving into your lane.

Keep your distance. The closer you follow another vehicle, the greater the risk to you. The best protection you can have is the distance between you and others.

Distance provides three advantages:

- time to react so that you don't hit anything or anyone;
- some place to go should the unexpected happen; and
- the ability to avoid panic stops which could cause you to be rear-ended.

Stay at least two seconds behind the vehicle ahead. At higher speeds, or when road conditions are not perfect, stay even further behind.

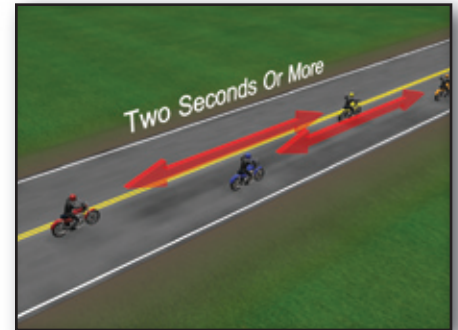
Increase your following distance if the vehicle behind you is following you too close. This will allow you to stop more gradually and may save you from being rear-ended.

Remember that speed limits are posted as the maximum speed limit. If conditions are not ideal, slow down.

## LANE POSITION

Experienced riders know that they must constantly adjust and readjust their lane positions depending upon changing traffic conditions. The left track of an automobile is often recommended as the best place to ride because:

- you can avoid the oil slick formed in the center of the lane by drippings from other vehicles;



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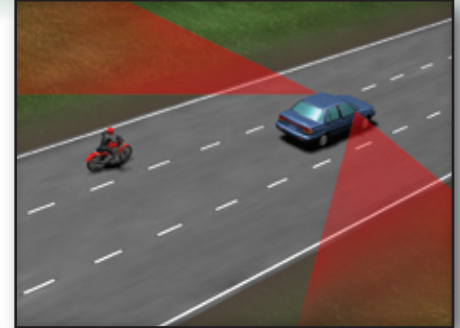
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- you can see oncoming vehicles more easily;
- oncoming drivers can see you more easily;
- you use the full lane you are entitled to, discouraging motorists from trying to share your lane; and
- you can see farther into, and be more easily seen from, road junctions on the right.

These are advantages most of the time, but there are many times when it is smarter to use the center or right portion of the lane in order to expand your space cushion.

When following another vehicle, stay out of the other driver's blind spot. Ride where you can be seen clearly in the other vehicle's rear view mirror. Stay well back so that you will be better seen. This will also give you more time to react to unexpected actions of others and to road hazards such as potholes and debris. Be prepared to sound your horn if necessary to let other drivers know you are there.

Always assume the other drivers around you do not know you are there. Try to foresee what other drivers may do and plan ahead what you will do to avoid them.



Drive in a lane position that clearly establishes your space. Do not hug the center line or the curb as it may tempt other drivers to drive into the lane beside you.

Do not try to share a lane with other drivers, not even to get around a line of stopped traffic. You will not be expected and you could be seriously hurt.

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Be extremely careful when driving beside other traffic. You may not be seen and the other driver might make a sudden shift into your lane. Be sure you are where the other driver has the best chance to see you. Stay out of the other driver's blind spot.

### INTERSECTIONS

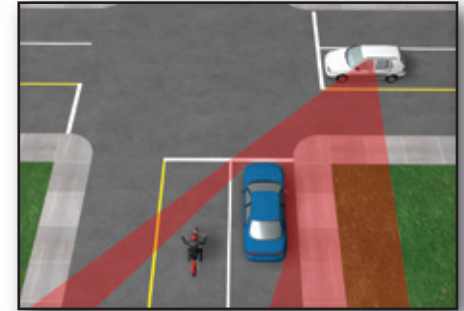
Most collisions involving motorcycles happen at intersections. The two main causes of collisions at intersections are from:

- 1) oncoming vehicles making a left turn in front of a motorcycle; and
- 2) vehicles entering from a side street.

To avoid collisions:

- give yourself lots of room;
- always slow down before entering an intersection; even if other traffic is required to yield to you;
- be prepared to stop;
- always check your rear-view mirror so you know

- how closely vehicles are following you;
- be prepared to move to either side of your lane, whichever side will give you the most room;
- do not assume you have been seen until you get some recognition from the driver; and
- don't try to pass by squeezing past cars in your lane.



If you stall in the intersection and cannot start your motorcycle, walk the motorcycle clear of all traffic and out of the intersection. Put on your four-way flashers if the motorcycle has them.

### CHANGING LANES

There is always some risk involved when changing lanes and it's up to you to do it safely. Avoid unnecessary lane changes. The few seconds you might save by constantly switching lanes is not worth the risk. Plan ahead as you drive so that you are not trapped into making sudden lane changes.

When changing from one lane to another:

- make sure a lane change is permitted;
- check traffic ahead and use your mirrors to check traffic behind you;
- always look back quickly over your shoulder to the lane into which you will be moving because mirrors have blind spots;
- give proper signals; and
- look again and, if it is safe, make the lane change.

### PASSING

Cooperate if someone is passing you. It is illegal and dangerous to speed up when you are being passed. Slow down, if necessary, to make sure the passing vehicle has room to move in safely.

Be careful when a large vehicle is coming toward you. It can block a strong crosswind or create a pull of its own which may cause you to lose control.

Passing another vehicle looks easy but there is always risk involved. Don't pass unless it is necessary. If it is necessary to pass be sure you are passing in a legal passing zone and make sure it is safe to pass.

Do not pass:

- near the crest of a hill;
- within an intersection;
- at a railway crossing;
- on a curve or any place where your view ahead is obstructed;

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- on the shoulder of the road;
- when the traffic in front of you is slowing down for an unknown reason; or
- a vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian.

When passing:

- check your rear-view mirror;
- take a quick look over your shoulder into the lane into which you will be moving;
- signal;
- look ahead for oncoming traffic;
- check over your shoulder one more time; and
- go ahead if it is safe.

After passing a vehicle:

- make sure it is visible in your rear-view mirror;
- check over your shoulder;
- signal;
- allow a sufficient space cushion; and
- move back into your travel lane when it is safe to do so.

**NOTE:** *It is illegal to go over the speed limit when passing another vehicle.*

### DRIVING WITH PASSENGERS

You should not carry a passenger until you become experienced in the operation of a motorcycle. The extra weight changes the way a motorcycle handles, the way it turns, speeds up and slows down. You are legally responsible for your passenger's safety.

### TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING

- The person behind you should sit as far forward as possible without crowding you.
- Make sure your passenger understands that they must sit still, especially when you are manoeuvring



**Don't pass on the shoulder**



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your motorcycle.

- Have a proper seat and foot pegs that allow the passenger to sit behind you without moving you from your normal position.
- A passenger should have the same type of protective equipment, eye protection and clothing as the driver.
- Be sure your passenger knows what is expected of them before you start out.
- Tell your passenger never to get on or off the motorcycle without asking you first.
- Allow first-time passengers to get used to riding by first taking them out at slow speeds in light traffic situations.

**NOTE:** *Both passenger and drivers are required by law to wear approved helmets.*

### TO ADJUST FOR ADDED WEIGHT OF A PASSENGER, YOU SHOULD:

- operate at a slower speed, particularly on corners, curves, or bumps;
- begin to slow down earlier than usual when you approach a stop;
- allow a greater following distance; and
- look for the large gaps whenever you cross, enter or merge with traffic.

**NOTE:** *Before you make any new move, be sure to warn your passenger so that there are no surprises.*

### GROUP RIDING

Group riding is acceptable but you and the group have no special rights on the road.

### TIPS FOR GROUP RIDING

- Select an experienced leader and put inexperienced riders behind the leader.

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- Be considerate by limiting the size of your group to four or five motorcycles. If you have more drivers than that, break into two or more smaller groups.
- Never ride side by side. If you do it in the same lane it is illegal and, if you do it in separate lanes, it may impede traffic and limit your ability to manoeuvre in an emergency.
- Use the two-second following rule. Keep a safe distance between motorcycles.
- Plan ahead. Make sure everyone knows the route.
- Let the last motorcycle set the pace. No one should have to race to keep up. Use your mirrors to keep an eye on the motorcycle behind you.

### **HAZARD AWARENESS**

Anticipation is the best way to avoid a dangerous situation. If you can recognize and prepare for a dangerous situation before it becomes unavoidable you can plan your escape in time. Stay fully aware of what is going on around you and adjust accordingly.

When you see a potential danger, slow down and plan a course of action that allows for the unexpected.

Examples:

- if children are playing near the street, plan what you will do if one runs out;
- if cars are approaching from either side at an intersection and one is not yielding, be prepared to react;
- know how to proceed when you hear a train whistle sound as you approach a railroad crossing; and
- understand what it means to you and your motorcycle when the road ahead of you changes from pavement to loose gravel.

These are only a few cases that could put you or someone else in a dangerous situation. In your plan of action, you must not only consider the danger you have seen but any additional danger that may be created while trying to avoid the first problem. For example you must know how close the car is behind

you before you brake suddenly. You must know what is developing in all directions around you.

### **NIGHT RIDING**

You have a greater risk of being in a collision when driving at night. Even with the best lights, you cannot see or be seen as clearly at night.

To drive safely, you should:

- cut your speed at night to below daytime speed;
- allow more distance when following another vehicle to give yourself more time to react. Keep a following distance of three or four seconds;
- signal earlier and brake sooner;
- not pass unless it's necessary;
- make sure you can stop in time for any sudden obstruction within the range of your headlights. Don't overdrive your headlights;
- stay alert. Everything is harder to see at night. If you are sleepy, stop;

- keep your goggles, face shield and your windshield clean. If they're badly scratched, replace them. At night use only clear untinted lenses;
- make sure you're visible. Clean your headlights and reflectors if they're dirty. Wear bright colours. Add reflective tape where it will do the most good. A reflective vest is ideal; and
- be alert for animals that can jump out of ditches to cross the road. Scan the roadside far ahead and look for movements or the reflection of an animal's eyes.

### **RIDING IN POOR WEATHER**

Take the same precautions you would as when you are riding at night. When you are faced with poor weather at night, use extra care when braking or accelerating. Think twice before you ride in any poor weather.

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### RIDING ON DANGEROUS SURFACES

Surfaces such as wet pavement, gravel roads, mud, snow, ice, painted lane markings and steel surfaces (utility hole covers) should be avoided if at all possible.

If you cannot avoid these surfaces:

- slow down;
- keep your arm and wrists loose and your feet on the pegs;
- use your brakes smoothly and gently;
- avoid sudden moves. You should turn, brake, accelerate and change gears as little and as gradually as possible;
- release the clutch smoothly when shifting gears;
- remember, loose material on a paved road is as dangerous as a slippery road;
- slow down and ride with care. Gravel and sand surfaces may be less dangerous if you slow to a moderate speed;
- maintain a relaxed but a firm grip on the handlebars; and

- keep your arms and wrists loose and keep your feet on the pegs if the front wheel weaves a little, let it. Avoid fast stops if possible.

When crossing a rough surface, try to meet the obstacle's head-on if possible. Some road surfaces such as bridge decks are made of metal gratings. Your bike will vibrate and wander slightly as it crosses the grating. Don't fight it. It is usually not dangerous if you slow down in advance and maintain a constant speed.

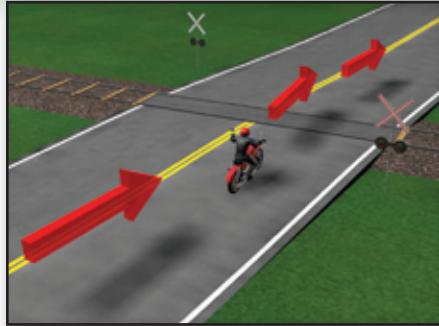
**Caution:** Oil from cars and trucks usually builds up in the center of the lane. To avoid this danger drive in the track made by the left tires of other vehicles and use extreme care and good judgement.

When crossing railroad tracks that are at an angle to the highway, it is advisable to slow down before the tracks and to cross them by proceeding straight ahead.

### AVOIDING OBSTACLES

A quick stop may not be enough to keep you from hitting something in your path. If a piece of debris or a pothole appears suddenly, sometimes the only way to avoid a collision is with a quick turn.

The trick to making a quick turn is to get the motorcycle to lean quickly in the direction you wish to turn. To get the motorcycle to lean quickly, counter steer. This means steering one way to send the motorcycle in the opposite direction. If you wish to turn right, push on the right-hand grip. This will



cause the front wheel to move slightly left. The result is a lean to the right. As the motorcycle begins to lean, you now can turn the handlebars in the direction it is leaning to keep from falling over.

### RIDING OVER OBSTACLES

Sometimes you have no choice but to ride over an object that is seen too late to steer around. In this type of situation, the basic rules to follow are:

- maintain a relaxed but a firm grip on the handlebars;
- keep a straight course;
- stand slightly on the foot pegs;
- shift your weight back.
- accelerate slightly as the front wheel reaches the object;
- slow down and move forward as you go over the object; and
- resume your normal seating position and speed.

# Chapter 5: Motorcycles and Mopeds

## SUDDEN STOPS

If you have to stop quickly:

- keep the motorcycle upright and in a straight line with the handlebars straight;
- apply each brake as hard as you can without locking either wheel. If the wheel locks up and skids, it may slide to one side making the bike hard to control; and
- if you are forced to brake when the front wheel is turned, do it gradually. Give more emphasis on the back brake.

You need practice to know how hard you can brake without locking the wheels and skidding:

In an emergency situation, use both brakes to the maximum. Even though this may lock up your wheels, you might have no other choice.

Remember, if you take your feet off the pegs for balance, only your front brake remains on.

## OTHER PROBLEMS

### BLOWOUTS

If you have a blowout, you will need to react quickly to keep your balance. You cannot always hear a tire blow but you should be able to detect a flat tire from the way the motorcycle reacts. A front wheel blowout is more dangerous since it affects your steering. If the front tire goes flat, the steering will feel heavy. If the rear tire goes flat, the back of the bike will tend to sway from side to side.

### STUCK THROTTLE

A stuck throttle requires quick thinking. If the throttle is wide open, use the engine stop switch and clutch together, followed by the brakes. If it is stuck at a normal operating speed, look for a safe place to stop, signal your intention, move to the safe place before using your engine stop switch and clutch together, and then apply your brakes.

### WOBBLE

When traveling at fairly high speeds, the front wheel can suddenly start to wobble or shake from side to side. Here is what to do:

- don't brake;
- grip the handlebars firmly but don't try to stop the wobble; and
- gradually close the throttle and pull off the traveled portion of the road as soon as you can.

Trying to accelerate out of a wobble will only make the problem worse.

Causes of wobbles are:

- unequal tire pressure;
- bent or misaligned wheels;
- loose spokes;
- improperly mounted windshields;
- poor load distribution; or
- riding too fast for the design of the bike.

### FLYING OBJECTS

A motorcycle rider may be struck by such things as insects, or stones thrown by other vehicles. Whatever happens, concentrate on controlling your motorcycle and staying on the road. As soon as it is safe, pull off the travelled portion of the road and fix the problem. Never try to fix the problem while you are in traffic. You will need both hands and all of your concentration to handle either problem. It is best to do only one thing at a time.

### **Summary of Riding Tips**

- Learn to operate a motorcycle properly. Get professional driver training.
- Get your experience under the best conditions and in light traffic.
- A large number of motorcycle collisions happen to drivers with just a few months of operating experience. A motorcyclist is subject to the same rules of the road that apply to other motorists.

## Chapter 5: Motorcycles and Mopeds

- Remember the headlight on your bike must be on at all times when riding.
- Understand that over braking one or both wheels is one of the most common causes of skidding. If the front wheel locks, release the front brake immediately. If you lock the rear wheel, keep it locked. If the skid is because of over-acceleration, ease up on the throttle. Steer slightly in the direction you want the front to go.
- Watch for loose sand, gravel or spilled fluids on paved streets. This could be dangerous, causing loss of control. Slow down and grip the handlebars securely.
- Maintain your position in your lane. Do not cut in and out of traffic. Maintain a proper following distance by using the two-second rule.
- Always take a quick look over your shoulder before changing lanes.
- Use your eyes and your mirrors. Know where other drivers are and what they are doing.
- Always signal your intentions well in advance.
- Keep your knees against the gas tank while in motion.
- Do not overload your motorcycle. Check your owner's manual for guidelines.
- Protect yourself from the weather. Dress properly and use an approved helmet for the driver and the passenger.
- Buy a windshield, goggles or a face-shield to provide protection. They are worth the cost.
- Don't ride too long in a day. Take frequent rest stops. Stretching exercises before you ride and during rest stops will help keep you fresh.
- Be visible and drive defensively. Drive as if other drivers cannot see you.
- Be alert for a sudden change in wind strength when riding during a strong side wind.
- Avoid riding if possible when the road conditions



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are icy, wet or slippery.

- Look and plan ahead. Don't be caught by surprise.
- Use a tire pressure gauge daily. Keep the tires at the pressure recommended by the manufacturer of your bike. Check when the tires are cold.

# Chapter 6: Bicycles



Bicycle use continues to increase as more people use a bicycle for transportation, recreation, physical fitness and energy conservation. Cyclists must obey the rules of the road the same way as vehicles and are also entitled to an equal share of the road.

### **INFORMATION FOR MOTORISTS:**

When you are sharing the road with cyclists please remember:

- many children riding bicycles on the street are very young and lack the necessary training and skills for safe cycling;
- be alert for small children on oversized bicycles. This will increase the likelihood of erratic moves;
- when passing a cyclist, go around them like you would any other vehicle;
- when you are preparing to make a right turn, watch for cyclists who may pull up alongside your vehicle. Check your blind spots;
- when making a right turn do not pull up beside a cyclist and then turn directly in front of them and cut them off;
- when pulling away from the curb always check for cyclists who may be trying to pass you;
- when parked at the curb, always check for cyclists when you open your vehicle door. It is the drivers responsibility not to open the vehicle door into oncoming traffic;
- do not drive too close behind cyclists as they do not have brake lights to warn you when they are stopping;
- cyclists are entitled to make left turns in the same manner as motorists. Since they are exposed on left turns, they will need extra consideration especially on multi-lane roads;
- cyclists are entitled to ride at least one metre from the curb and may ride even further out when they have to steer away from drainage grates, pot holes, debris, loose gravel or sand, wet or slippery

surfaces, rutted or grooved pavement and even dogs. Be aware of the roadway conditions that may affect a cyclist; and

- do not blow your horn when you are passing a cyclist. It may frighten them and cause them to steer into your path. If you feel that you must use your horn, tap it quickly and lightly while you are still some distance away from the cyclist.

### **RULES OF THE ROAD FOR BICYCLISTS**

#### **DO:**

- keep both your hands on the handlebars except when making a hand signal;
- keep both your feet on the pedals;
- ride in a single file except when overtaking and passing another cycle;
- make sure your bike is equipped with at least one headlamp (but not more than two), one red tail lamp and at least one red reflector mounted on the rear of the cycle when cycling at night;

- make sure your bike has effective brakes. You should be able to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement;
- always ride on the right side of the roadway as close as possible to the right curb or the edge of the road;
- use a bicycle path adjacent to a street or highway if there is one;
- ride on the regular seat of the bicycle; and
- carry parcels in bicycle carriers so they do not interfere with your control of the bicycle.

#### **DO NOT:**

- ride on a sidewalk;
- ride on a highway where signs prohibit bicycles;
- ride the wrong way on a one-way street. There are no traffic signs in place for wrong way drivers;
- carry more people at one time than the cycle was designed for; or
- hold onto or attach the cycle to any other moving vehicle.

Bicyclists have just as much right to use streets and highways as drivers of motor vehicles do. They also have responsibilities when riding their bicycles. Bicycle riders, regardless of age, must know and observe traffic regulations. In most cases these regulations are the same as those required of motor vehicle drivers.

### **SPECIAL RULES FOR CYCLISTS**

Always use proper lights and reflectors when riding at night and wear light-coloured, or reflective clothing.

Your bike must have:

- a lamp on front that is visible from a distance of 150 meters (500 feet);
- a red reflector on the rear that is visible from 90 meters (300 feet) to the rear;
- a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 30 meters (100 feet). Just as there are safe driving practices for

motor vehicle drivers, these are safe cycling practices for bicyclists;

- always stop and check for traffic when you are coming out of a lane or driveway;
- be alert for cars coming from driveways, lanes or parking spaces;
- as you approach intersections, watch for cars turning right; they may squeeze you against the curb; and
- yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

### **E-BIKES**

E-bikes are limited speed motorcycles under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act. These bikes are considered a moped under the rules of the Provincial Highway Traffic Act. A valid driver's license is required to operate an E-bike in Prince Edward Island.



### WHAT IS A BIKE HELMET?

A helmet protects your brain when you fall. It has a plastic shell on the outside and foam inside. It has a strap to keep it on when you fly through the air. It only covers your head, and the rest of your body is still exposed, so you still have to be careful.

### HOW DOES A HELMET WORK?

The foam crushes when you hit the road. That cushions the blow, and usually saves your brain. The shell makes it skid on the street so your neck does not get jerked. The shell also keeps the foam in one piece. It can split when you hit the car and not be there when you hit the street.

If the strap is not right, your helmet can slip to the side or to the back. Then your bare head hits the road. Ouch. Pavement is very very hard.

### WHY WEAR ONE?

Being careful and not crashing is the best way. That's better than crashing in a helmet! The helmet only covers your head, so you need to learn the rules of the road, but even the best riders crash. If you hurt your brain it can change you. You may not be able to read this page, or play video games, or talk, or run, or even feed yourself.

### HOW DO I PICK ONE?

A magazine called Consumer Reports can tell you which helmets are best, but they don't test them every year.

First, make sure the helmet has a sticker inside with the letters CPSC somewhere on it. That means it works. Then find one that fits you. That will keep it on your head while you fly through the air. Work on the straps to get the fit just right.

You don't have to pay a lot for a good helmet. But be sure you like it and will wear it.

### CAN I WEAR IT TO SKATE?

Yes if you have in-line skates. For skateboards, you need another helmet. Skateboards crash a lot.

### WHAT IF I CRASH?

You will have to buy a new helmet. It is only good for one crash.

### FITTING A BICYCLE HELMET

#### **POSITION**

Put the helmet on your head so it sits evenly between the ears and rests low on your forehead it should only be about one 2 finger widths above your eyebrow.



### **PADS**

Put foam pads inside the helmet so it feels comfortable but really snug. Usually, the helmet includes more than one size of foam pads that can be affixed inside the helmet for a better fit.

### **STRAPS**

Tighten the chin strap as snugly as possible. Adjust the junction of front and back straps just under the ears and secure back strap without putting pressure on the front strap.

If all of this sounds confusing, follow the simple 5 Step Helmet Fit Test below.

**A GOOD HELMET FIT** is as important as wearing one... but it takes time. Allow as much as a half hour to get a proper helmet fit. If fitting your child, don't try to "rush" it as they are trying to go outside to ride. Do it while they're relaxed and you have plenty of time. Then secure the adjustments so the helmet is ready for the next ride.

### **FIVE STEP HELMET FIT TEST**

#### **STEP 1**

With one hand, gently lift the front of the helmet up and back.

#### **Problem**

Helmet moves back to uncover the forehead

#### **Solution**

Tighten front strap to junction. Also, adjust padding thickness and/or position, especially in back. Make sure chin strap is snug. If this doesn't work, the helmet may be too big.

#### **STEP 2**

With one hand, gently lift the back of the helmet up and forward

**Problem** - Helmet moves back to cover the eyes

**Solution** - Tighten back strap. Make sure chin strap is snug. Also, adjust padding thickness and/or position, especially in front.



### STEP 3

Put a hand on each side of the helmet and rock from side to side. Shake your head “no” as hard as possible.

#### **Problem**

Helmet slips from side to side.

#### **Solution**

Check padding on sides and make sure straps are evenly adjusted.

### STEP 4

Open your mouth (lower jaw) as wide as possible, without moving your head. The top of your helmet should pull down.

#### **Problem**

Helmet does not pull down when opening your mouth.

#### **Solution**

Tighten chin strap. Make sure junction is under each ear.

### STEP 5

Check to see if the front edge of helmet covers your forehead. The front edge of the helmet should not be more than 1 to 2 finger widths from your eyebrows.

#### **Problem**

Helmet does not cover the forehead.

#### **Solution**

Position helmet no more than 1 to 2 finger widths above eyebrows. Tighten any loose straps. Make adjustments so the helmet stays over the forehead.

Have someone else test your helmet fit by doing the 5-Step Test outlined above. Hold your head still during the test. The helmet should pass each of the 5 steps.

Chapter 7:

# Highway Safety Programs



Safety is the main aim of the Highway Safety Operations office. We are responsible for driver licensing, vehicle registration and inspection. Highway Safety administers programs for drivers who have difficulty maintaining safe driving practices. These programs are Driver Rehabilitation Courses, Driver Improvement Courses and the Novice Driver Course.

### **DRIVER REHABILITATION COURSE**

Alcohol is a major factor in automobile collisions and fatalities. The Highway Traffic Act requires people who are convicted of a first impaired driving charge under the Criminal Code of Canada to take a Driver Rehabilitation Course.

Highway Safety runs a Driver Rehabilitation Course (DRC) to educate people convicted of:

- impaired driving;
- refusing the alert; or

- failing the Breathalyzer test, e.g., having more than 0.08 blood alcohol content.

Each person having a conviction must attend and successfully complete a Driver Rehabilitation Course before he or she can become eligible for the reinstatement of their Driver's Licence.

A Driver Rehabilitation Course involves resource people, including addiction counsellors, police, legal, insurance and other professionals.

The course includes:

- a series of films;
- discussions;
- lectures;
- demonstration projects; and
- written assignments about the problems involved in drinking and driving.

The course is held in Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague.

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### DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

This course is for drivers who wish to improve their knowledge, skills and safe driving attitudes. They may also wish to reduce the number of demerit points accumulated on their driving record and avoid a possible suspension. Drivers with up to eleven demerit points may, upon successful completion of the course and exam are awarded three merit points. The course includes six one-hour sessions. Each session deals with different methods of preventing collisions. It offers drivers a way of improving their driving skills and avoiding accidents.

The Canada Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course (D.D.C.) is made available in Prince Edward Island through the St. John Ambulance (P.E.I. Safety Council.)

### DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Drivers suspended under the Demerit Point System must attend and complete the Driver Improvement Course within a six-month period following the reinstatement of a Driver's License. Participation in the course is not required of drivers whose licenses are suspended for other reasons.

The aims of the course are to improve drivers' attitudes and to encourage improved driving skills. Emphasis is placed on a driver's attitude toward obeying the law and accepting responsibility.

The Driver Improvement Course consists of four, two-hour classroom sessions which include lectures, films and discussion. Drivers enrolled must pass a test at the end of the course.

To find out more about these courses call the Highway Safety Operations office at 368-5210.

### DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM SCHEDULE FOR EXPERIENCED DRIVERS

The Demerit Point System gives a graduated number of demerit points for traffic convictions based on the seriousness of the traffic violation.

An experienced driver is a driver who has held a valid Driver's License for more than 2 years and is not a newly licensed driver under the Graduated Driver's License System.

The violations are as follows:

- loss of 4, 5 or 6 points – a warning letter;
- loss of 9, 10 or 11 points – an interview;
- loss of 12 or more points – a 3-month suspension.

The violator loses his or her Driver's License when 12 demerit points are accumulated on his or her record within a two-year period.

(see chart on next page)



# Chapter 7: Highway Safety Programs

## Demerit Point System

| Points | Description of Offence   |
|--------|--|
| 12     | Criminal negligence involving the use of motor vehicle   |
| 12     | Motor manslaughter   |
| 12     | Failing to stop at a scene of an accident  |
| 12     | Dangerous Driving  |
| 12     | Obtaining license by misrepresentation   |
| 6      | Driving while registration or license under suspension or while disqualified   |
| 6      | Speeding - 30 or more kilometers per hour over the legal speed limit   |
| 5      | Racing   |
| 5      | Driving imprudently or without due care and attention or if disabled   |
| 5      | Failing to stop for a school bus receiving or discharging school children  |
| 3      | Any infraction of a bylaw involving the use of vehicle in motion   |
| 3      | Failing to report an accident  |
| 3      | Speeding - under 30 kilometers per hour over the legal speed limit   |
| 3      | Improper passing   |
| 3      | Any offence under the Highway Traffic Act involving the use of a vehicle in motion, improperly parked or being operated with unsafe or insufficient equipment. |

**NOTE: This is a sample of some of the demerit points assigned.**

### **THE DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM**

The Demerit Point System provides for a graduated number of demerit points for traffic convictions. The system identifies drivers whose records show them consistently a disregard of the Rules of the Road, thereby endangering their own and other's safety. When a driver accumulates a specified number of demerit points, his/her Driver's License will be suspended for at least three months.

### **GRADUATED DRIVER'S PROGRAM**

#### **NEWLY LICENSED DRIVERS**

"Newly licensed drivers undergo a probationary period of two years, and passenger restrictions. During the first year of probation a newly licensed driver is warned at three, four or five demerit points, and suspended for one month at the six point level. During the second year of probation, a warning will

occur at five, six, seven or eight demerit points and a suspension for one month when nine demerit points are accumulated. Corrective action is taken by safety specialists during or shortly after the suspension."

#### **GRADUATED LICENSING APPROACH**

Recent changes to the Prince Edward Island Highway Traffic Act regarding a Graduated Drivers' Licensing System for the new drivers went into effect on December 20, 2000. Following are these important changes:

#### **Waiting Period**

All drivers who received their Instruction Permit must wait 180 days before taking their road test.

#### **Drivers Providing Instruction**

Drivers providing instruction to a beginner driver with an Instruction Permit must have held a valid Driver's License for at least four years.

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### PASSENGER RESTRICTION

Effective December 20, 2000 all newly licensed drivers (one who has held a license less than 2 years) will be subject to the following passenger restrictions:

- during year 1, a newly licensed driver, regardless of age, will be restricted to 3 passengers. Any additional passengers must be the newly licensed driver's immediate family. All passengers in the vehicle must be the newly licensed driver's immediate family. All passengers in the vehicle shall be restricted to the number of seat belts;
- during year 2, a newly licensed driver, regardless of age, will require all passengers in the vehicle to be restricted to the number of seat belts.

### SUSPENSIONS UNDER THE DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM

Upon the accumulation of 9 to 11 demerit points within 24 months, a driver must show cause why

his/her license should not be suspended. When such cause is not shown, the Driver's License can be suspended for up to three months. Upon the accumulation of 12 or more demerit points, the Driver's License will be suspended for three months.

Following suspension, a driver will be placed on probation for a period of one year. Conviction for an offence involving the use of a motor vehicle in motion or improper parking while on probation results in another three months suspension.

### "0" BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT (BAC) FOR NEW DRIVERS

All new drivers under 19 years of age or new drivers who have held their Driver's License for less than 2 years (regardless of age) must have a "0" blood alcohol content (BAC) when driving. An offence will result in a 24-hour roadside suspension and a 90-day administrative prohibition.



### OFFENCES RESPECTING VOLUNTARY IDENTIFICATIONS/ DRIVERS' LICENSES

#### **Voluntary Identifications**

*Any person who:*

- (a) presents a false document for the purpose of obtaining a photographic identification;
- (b) permits any other person to use a photographic identification issued to the first person;
- (c) uses a photographic identification for the purpose of making a false representation, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500;
- (d) defaces or alters a photographic identification; or
- (e) has in one's possession a photographic identification that has been defaced or altered.

#### **Driver's License Offences**

*Any person who:*

- (a) defaces or alters a Driver's License or displays or causes or permits to be displayed or has in one's possession a Driver's License that is fictitious or has been defaced, altered, canceled or suspended;
- (b) lends to or permits the use of by another person any Driver's License issued to the person so lending or permitting the use thereof;
- (c) displays or represents as one's own, any Driver's License not issued to him/her;
- (d) fails or refuses to surrender to the Registrar or to a peace officer or inspector upon notice or demand a Driver's License that has been suspended or canceled; or
- (e) gives a false or fictitious name or gives a false address in any application for a Driver's License or duplicate thereof or makes a false statement or conceals a material fact in the application or in any statement made or in giving information to the Registrar for any purpose in connection with the

## Chapter 7: Highway Safety Programs

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Highway Traffic Act is guilty of an offence and on summary conviction will have 12 demerit points entered on their driving record and their Driver's License suspended for a period of 3 months.

### CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES

Criminal negligence, motor manslaughter, failing to stop at the scene of an accident, and dangerous driving are Criminal Code offences. Conviction for any of these offences results in a 12 months suspension under the Demerit Point System Regulations.

Impaired driving, failure or refusal to provide a blood sample, refusing the breathalyser demand or any approved roadside screening device, and failing the breathalyzer (a reading of more than .08) are Criminal Code offences. Conviction for any of these offences results in the following cancellations under the Highway Traffic Act:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| First Offence       | 1-year cancellation |
| Second Offence      | 3-year cancellation |
| Subsequent Offences | 5-year cancellation |

### 24-HOUR ROADSIDE SUSPENSION

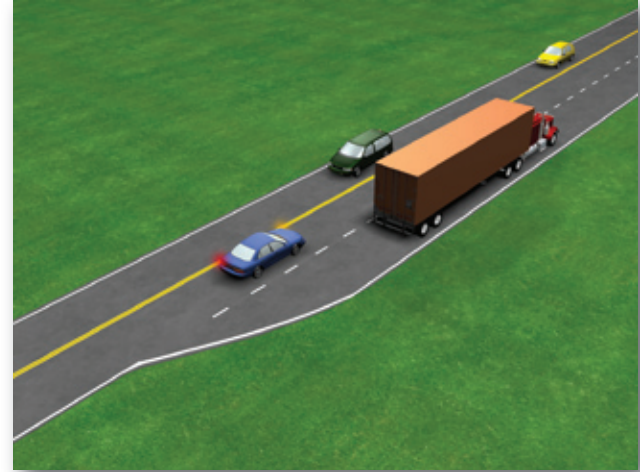
Any person who is the driver of a motor vehicle where, upon demand of a peace officer provides a sample of his/her breath which, on an analysis by an approved screening device, registers "WARN" or "FAIL" is guilty of an offence and a peace officer shall request the driver to surrender his/her license and his/her driving privileges will be suspended for a period of 24 hours from the time the request is made.

### DRIVING WHILE DISQUALIFIED

A conviction for driving while disqualified will result in a six months cancellation to be applied consecutively to the period of the existing suspension, cancellation or disqualification.

### VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT

A person who is prohibited from driving as a result of an impaired driving conviction and is apprehended again for drinking and driving or refusal of a blood/ alcohol test will immediately have the vehicle impounded. Impoundment will be for 30 days for a first offence and up to 60 days for a subsequent offence.



# Chapter 8: Collisions



## Chapter 8: If You Are Involved in a Collision

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Sometimes in spite of all your efforts to avoid a collision, you may find yourself involved in one. All drivers involved in a collision have certain duties and responsibilities. The law provides stiff penalties for failure to satisfy these requirements.

After any motor vehicle collision involving death, injury, or property damage where the damage to ALL property apparently exceeds \$1,000 you must report the collision to the police immediately.

### **FIVE POINTS IN REPORTING COLLISIONS**

- 1) The exact location.
- 2) The time of the collision.
- 3) The nature of damage to cars or other property.
- 4) The nature and extent of injuries to all people involved in the collision.
- 5) The names and addresses of the drivers and owners and their Driver's Licenses and vehicle registration

numbers, and insurance details. It is also advisable to obtain the names and addresses of any people who witnessed the collision.

### **IF YOU SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF A COLLISION**

If you are the first to arrive at a serious collision, your first instinct may be to run to the car involved and start pulling people out. Unfortunately, the efforts of the rescuers often aggravate the injuries caused by the collision.

Here is what you should do:

Park your car off the road, far enough away from the collision scene to protect the vehicles from further collisions with other cars. If possible send someone to call 911.

## Chapter 8: If You Are Involved in a Collision

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When you get to the cars involved, turn off the ignitions to prevent fire.

If the occupants of the vehicle are hurt, leave them in the car until trained help arrives. Do not twist or turn them. They may have suffered a fracture of the spine or neck, and moving them may do further damage. If someone is pinned in the car, but otherwise free from injury, crawl in the car and try to release the injured person. If a driver is trapped by the steering wheel, the pressure can be eased by releasing the seat catch and pulling the seat back.

In case of fire, try to put it out with a fire extinguisher, dirt or a blanket. Most fires start when the electrical wiring is short-circuited. If you know how, try to disconnect the battery, but be careful not to touch metal parts with the “hot wire”, which could cause a spark.

If you have been trained in First Aid, you may give the injured people some assistance. If not, follow these tips:

- cover the injured people with blankets or coats to keep them warm;
- loosen collars, ties, and belts to help the injured people to breathe;
- calm and reassure the injured people and tell them help is on the way; and
- keep spectators away from the injured people.

### **REPORTING AN EMERGENCY USING YOUR CELL PHONE**

First of all, as soon as you contact the 911 call-taker, give them your name and cell phone number including the area code so that if the connection is broken, they can call you back. The call-taker will ask you specific questions about the emergency service you require and the location and nature of the emergency. Remain calm and answer the questions to the best of your ability.



The location is essential. If the emergency is in an area that you are not familiar with, try to describe the area as accurately as possible.

Concentrate on nearby civic numbers, if there are any, or the street name. You may have to walk or drive to the nearest intersection to look at the road sign, or the community name. You may have to ask someone in the area for any or all of this information.



Leave your cell phone turned on. If you lose contact with the call-taker as you move along a street or through an area, try to reestablish contact with the call-taker as soon as possible when you enter an area of good transmission and reception. If need be, and if at all possible, tell the call-taker that you will meet the emergency vehicle at the nearest intersection and guide them to the emergency.

### **FIRST AID**

Please be aware of First Aid procedures in case of a collision. Drivers may encounter situations where First Aid will be a valuable asset. We have included a few First Aid tips.

For more information on First Aid contact:  
Red Cross at 902-628-6262 or [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)  
or St. John's Ambulance at 1-800-565-5056 or  
[www.stjohnsambulance.pe.ca](http://www.stjohnsambulance.pe.ca)

## Chapter 9: Mature Driver





### **THE OLDER BUT WISER DRIVER**

After years spent behind the wheel, many senior drivers have developed the skills, behaviours and attitudes that keep them, and their fellow drivers, safe on our roads. Studies show that older drivers are more likely to obey the rules of the road, drive within posted speed limits and really take to heart the prohibition against drinking and driving.

Unfortunately, aging can take its toll on sight, hearing, judgment of speed and distance, memory, attention, and reflexes. These changes can creep up so gradually that older drivers don't notice any impact on their driving ability, until, one day, they are in a crash.

The good news is that we can compensate for the effects of aging. All drivers, and especially older drivers, can minimize their risks on the road by maintaining physical well-being through proper diet and exercise, planning their trips carefully, driving defensively, and

choosing a vehicle that meets their needs.

Overall well-being contributes to driving performance, so it is important that drivers talk with their doctors about any problems that may interfere with their driving. Regular check-ups and eye exams can reveal specific conditions that affect driving. Some medications can have an affect on driving performance, so be sure to discuss this with your physician. It is important for every driver, regardless of age, to understand how medications and drug interactions can affect them. Even over-the-counter drugs can cause drowsiness, slow reaction time, diminished concentration, blurred vision and impaired mobility.

Ideally, drivers should assess their own driving performance and try to identify situations that challenge them on the road. Here are some questions that can help you assess your status as a driver.

## Chapter 9: Mature Driver

In the past few months, have you:

- experienced difficulty in negotiating sharp turns and intersections;
- hesitated over right-of-way decisions or situations you once took for granted;
- been surprised by the sudden presence of other vehicles or pedestrians;
- received negative feedback (such as honking) from other drivers;
- had difficulty seeing at night;
- become lost on familiar routes;
- felt nervous or exhausted after driving; or
- been cited for traffic violations or found at fault in crashes?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, it may be time to take a driver refresher course or to consider restricting when and where you drive. You may want to limit your trips to daylight driving and avoid driving in rush hour traffic or in adverse weather conditions.

Choose routes that are well-marked, well-lit and that have easy-to-reach parking places.

When selecting a vehicle, consider one with height-adjustable seats; tilt/telescoping steering wheel; height-adjustable seat belt anchors; legible instruments; roof pillars that minimize blind spots; big, glareproof mirrors; and push-button controls and levers.

Drivers should enjoy the freedom of mobility that their cars offer for as long as it is safe for them to do so.

A driver's age is not an adequate predictor of individual driving ability. Performance is what counts on the road. With careful attention to our health and our driving skills, we will all become older but wiser drivers.

Chapter 10:

# Documents and Requirements



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## DOCUMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUCTION PERMIT

- Parents' consent form (found in the "Co-Pilot" brochure) signed by both parents or legal guardians.
- Birth certificate
- Successful completion of a vision test.
- Driver Education students must return a completed Master Sheet approved by the Driving School.

# Chapter 10: Documents and Requirements

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## DOCUMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ROAD TEST

- Valid registration and insurance.
- Accompanied by a licensed driver who has held a valid Driver's License for at least four years.
- Vehicle meeting safety requirements.
- Valid Instruction Permit.
- Completion of a Novice Driver Course.

