

NEVADA

Beginning Driver Training Guide



DMV

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles

October 2007

Inside Front Cover

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Print this document double-sided for maximum effectiveness of the content.



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Beginning Driver Experience Log - NRS 483.2521

Must be completed prior to arriving for the drive test appointment

 Applicant's Name

 Instruction Permit or Restricted License No.

1. Beginning drivers under 18 years of age must complete 50 hours (3,000 minutes) of supervised driving experience in a motor vehicle as a condition of receiving a full driver license. Ten hours (600 minutes) of this experience must be completed in darkness. *If applying for a motorcycle license only, all 50 hours must be completed during daylight hours on a motorcycle.*
2. There are three options for meeting the driver's education requirements:
 - *Take a driver's education course at any locally offered and DMV approved school;*
 - *Take driver's education on-line with a DMV approved school; or*
 - ***In rural areas where a driver course is not offered within a 30-mile radius of the beginning driver's residence, and it is not possible for you to access the internet for a driver's education class, you must complete 100 hours (6,000 minutes) of supervised experience, 10 hours (600 minutes) of which must be completed in darkness. If applying for a motorcycle license only, all 100 hours must be completed during daylight hours on a motorcycle.***
3. Beginning drivers and their parent or guardian are required to keep a log of the dates and times of the supervised experience using the reverse side of this form. Please document your driving experience at each occurrence using blue or black ink. No gel pens or pencil will be accepted. Use additional log sheets as necessary.
4. **All completed log sheets and a Certificate of Completion of a driver education course (if required) must be submitted prior to the driving skills test.**

Parent/Legal Guardian Certification of Behind-The-Wheel Driver Experience

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the _____, of the person named above,
Relationship
 and that he/she has completed the required number of hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience with a restricted license, instruction permit or restricted permit issued pursuant to NRS 483.267, 483.270 or 483.280.

 Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

 License/ID Number

 Date

 Signature of Notary Public or Field Services Representative

 Date

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Type of School	Name of School	Date of Completion
Professional Driving School	_____	_____
Public/Private School	_____	_____
Certificate Number, if applicable	_____	

Certification Not Required

Transfer valid license from: State _____ Class _____ Expiration Date _____

Live in rural area where course is not offered. County/ City _____

Signature of Field Service Representative _____ Date _____

Foreword

This logbook is intended to give parents the tools and guidance they need to teach their teenagers safe driving. Driver training in the classroom is important, but only behind-the-wheel instruction and hours of practice will make your son or daughter a good driver.

It is a simple fact that inexperienced drivers of any age are much more likely to be involved in crashes and receive traffic citations. Teenagers are also more likely to engage in risky behaviors behind the wheel.

This combination is deadly. In Nevada, drivers ages 16 to 20 account for slightly over 5 percent of all licensed drivers, but this same group represents about 10 percent of motor vehicle fatalities. Nationally, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for teenagers.

Nevada's underage driving laws are designed to minimize specific risks, such as driving late at night, that have proven to be major factors in teen driver crashes and fatalities. Our goal is to substantially reduce the number of fatalities on Nevada roadways.

Nevada Teen Driving Laws

Instruction Permit

- To obtain an instruction permit, the driver must be 15½ years old, present proper proof of identity and pass the vision and knowledge tests.
- A parent or guardian must accept financial responsibility and sign a statement to that effect.
- A licensed driver, 21 years of age or older with at least one year of driving experience, must be seated next to the new driver at all times while driving.

Driver's License

To obtain a driver's license, any new driver under age 18 must:

- Complete a 30-hour driver's education course (minimum enrollment age is 15).*
- Complete 50 hours of behind the wheel experience, including 10 hours in darkness.
- Keep a log of the dates and times of this experience on the official DMV Beginning Driver Experience Log (Form DLD-130).
- Be 16 years of age and have held an instruction permit for a minimum of six months.
- Have no at-fault accidents, moving violation convictions or any type of drug or alcohol conviction within six months.
- Submit the driver's education Certificate of Completion and Beginning Driver Experience Log.
- Pass the driving skills test.

*Teens in rural areas where a driver education course is not offered within 30 miles of their residence, and who cannot access a course online, may substitute an additional 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience for the course.

Driving Restrictions

The following restrictions apply after a driver under age 18 has received a full license:

- The driver may not transport passengers under age 18, except immediate family members, for the first six months.
- The driver may not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless they are traveling to or from a scheduled event such as work or a school event. This curfew applies to all drivers under 18 until they turn 18.
- The parent or guardian who accepted financial responsibility for the new driver may cancel the instruction permit or license at any time. The underage driver is required by law to surrender the license to the DMV.

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General Tips and Practices

For Parents/Mentors

- Set a good example whenever you drive. Obey all traffic laws and drive courteously. Buckle up!
- Be calm and patient, but alert at all times.
- Sit so your left hand can be placed on the steering wheel to help guide the new driver if necessary.
- Give directions well in advance. First direct where, then state the action to take (i.e. “At the second intersection, turn left”). Check the traffic conditions on all sides yourself.
- Avoid the use of terms with possible double meanings. In response to a question, say “that’s correct” instead of “right.”
- For each new maneuver, guide the new driver through two or three practice trials, then allow practice without specific assistance or direction. Encourage commentary driving.
- Move to a safe place and park for lengthy discussions or performance reviews.
- *Never* place yourself or other drivers in dangerous situations. Do not attempt to practice a skill unless you and your teen are comfortable that it can be completed safely.
- Enjoy the time you’re spending with your son or daughter. Remember, learning demands patience, understanding and mutual respect.

Commentary Driving

Commentary driving is the practice of verbally calling out each step needed to complete a maneuver. You and your teen should “read the traffic picture aloud.” Describe anything that may affect your path of travel. For example, when approaching a red light, say: “red light ahead, check mirrors, ease off accelerator, apply brake.” Take this manual along and use the lists of steps under each skill as a guide.

Your student can do this from the passenger seat before actual driving lessons begin. Also, have the student begin to judge traffic signals and stopping distances. The student should call out points where it would be safe to stop if the light were to turn yellow and at what point it would be safer to proceed through the intersection.

The parent should call out steps while demonstrating a skill and may wish to practice while pre-driving a route. Students should begin commentary as they become comfortable with a skill.

Commentary driving can be somewhat awkward at first, but it is the most valuable tool you have for checking your teen’s progress. Have some fun with it.



Choosing the Right Car

Choose a mid- or full-size car with an automatic transmission. Avoid small cars, if possible. These do not afford as much protection in a crash. Sports cars and muscle cars can encourage speeding.

Beginning drivers should not be overwhelmed by their vehicle. New drivers make many common mistakes while learning, many of which are outlined in this manual. Mistakes in areas such as steering and braking are only magnified in a vehicle that is too large, too powerful or has large blind spots.

How to Use This Book

This manual is *not* a substitute for the Nevada Driver's Handbook. It does not contain all of the information needed to qualify your teen for a license. Rather, this book is meant as a practical guide for training a beginning driver who already has an instruction permit.

Pages 10 through 35 contain lists of specific skills your teen should practice and master before he or she is ready to obtain a full driver license. Each skill contains a list of the specific steps necessary to accomplish the task safely. These steps can be used as specific verbal instructions to the new driver.



The skills are divided into four levels of practice sessions:

Level I - The Basics

Level II - Driving in Traffic

Level III - Freeway and Highway Driving

Level IV - Night and Adverse Conditions

Teens should master each level before proceeding to the next one. You may not have the opportunity to practice all of the skills listed. Many Nevada cities do not have roundabouts, for example, and you should not drive in extremely bad weather. In these cases, simply study the procedures until the student is comfortable with the material.

Plan A Lesson and Pre-Drive Your Route

Ideally, practice driving sessions should last about one hour. Go through the skills list and decide the skills you wish to work on. Plan a route that will help you accomplish the goals. It is very helpful to pre-drive the route with your teen in the passenger seat.

Many parents find that having their teen drive while running errands in their home neighborhood is a good practical approach to training as well. You should, however, combine short trips with some longer lessons so the beginning driver practices in a variety of road and traffic conditions.

Experience Log

The Beginning Driver Experience Log found in the front of this manual must be completed in ink and submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles at the time the teen driver applies for a full license.

Note the dates and times of the experience and keep a tally of the minutes. Additional sheets are located in the back of this manual and may also be downloaded at www.dmvnv.com.

Time spent behind the wheel with a professional driving instructor does count toward the required experience. Be sure to log the time as the course is completed.

Test Drives and the Drive Test

The new driver and their parent or mentor should take a series of longer test drives when they feel the training is nearly complete. Near the back of this manual are a checklist for test drives and advice to help families decide whether the teen driver is ready to take on all of the responsibility of becoming a driver.

You should contact the DMV for a drive test only when everyone involved is comfortable with the decision. See "Teen Driving Laws" in the Foreword for a list of what you will need to bring to the DMV.

Getting Ready to Drive

1. Check around the outside of the vehicle. Look for small children, pets and any other sort of obstruction. Check the condition of the vehicle (windows, lights, body damage, condition of the tires and fluid leaks).
2. Enter the vehicle, place the key in the ignition and lock the doors. Verify that the current certificate of registration and evidence of insurance card are in the vehicle if you are not sure of this.
3. Identify the location and purpose of *all* switches, gauges, and pedals. Know the location of the following controls even if you are not planning to use them at the moment:

- Horn
- Turn Signals
- 4-Way Flashers
- Headlights
- Windshield Wiper Switch
- Parking Brake and Release Lever
- Air Conditioner/Heater/Defroster



4. Adjust the seat and, if equipped, the steering column. Your body should be about 10 inches back from the steering wheel with or without an air bag. Your foot should be able to pivot smoothly from accelerator to brake while the heel is kept on the floor. The top of the steering wheel should be no higher than the top of the shoulders.
5. Adjust seat head restraints to a level even with the back of the head.
6. Adjust the inside mirror so that it frames the rear window.
7. Outside mirrors should be adjusted to reduce blind spots and provide maximum visibility. Seated in an upright position, you should lean your head to the left about five inches and adjust the left mirror so that the rear fender is just visible on the right edge of the mirror about a half inch up from the bottom. To adjust the right mirror, lean your head to the right about five inches, and adjust the mirror so that the rear fender is just visible on the left edge of the mirror about a half inch up from the bottom. When seated in an upright position, you will not see the sides of the vehicle in the mirrors.
8. Fasten and adjust safety belts. Make sure passenger is properly belted. Lap belts should be positioned firmly across your hips while the shoulder belt is firmly across your shoulder.

Starting the Engine

1. Place foot on brake pedal and ensure gear selector is in Park or Neutral.
2. Turn Ignition switch to on, check dash lights and instruments (ABS brakes, air bags, fuel level, etc.). Start the engine.
3. Turn on low-beam headlights, even in the daytime. Your vehicle is visible at twice the distance with your headlights on.

Steering Methods

Level 1

Most modern driving courses teach students to place their hands at about 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock on the wheel, rather than 10 and 2.

Do not teach the student to let the steering wheel slip through his or her fingers. The driver should reverse the hand and arm movements made during the turn when coming out of a turn. This "counter-steering" makes for smooth turns and will also help in skids and driving on snow and ice.



Overall, there are two generally accepted steering methods: Push-Pull and Hand-over-Hand.

Push-Pull

The following method is recommended because it slows down your turning movements, making for a smoother, safer turn. It also keeps both hands on the steering wheel through the entire maneuver.

Left Turn

Start with your hands at the proper placement of 8/4 o'clock. Pull down with your left hand to approximately 7 o'clock, and then push up with your right hand until it reaches approximately 1 o'clock. Repeat this pattern until you complete your turn. Counter-steer to straighten out the vehicle.

Right Turn

Start with your hands at the proper placement of 8/4 o'clock. Pull down with your right hand to approximately 5 o'clock then, push up with your left hand until it reaches approximately 11 o'clock. Repeat this pattern until you complete your turn. Counter-steer to straighten out the vehicle.

Hand-over-Hand

When turning the vehicle with this method, you will need to be careful to keep your speed down. This method allows for quicker wheel movement, but there will be times when you will only have one hand on the wheel. For this reason we recommend using the push-pull method. For a right turn (reverse for a left):

1. Begin the turn with your hands at the proper positions.
2. Lean forward and grasp the outside of the rim at the 1 o'clock position with your right hand (for a right turn) palm down.
3. Lean back and pull with your right hand to the 5 o'clock position.
4. Lean forward and grasp the outside of the rim with your left hand, palm down, at the 1 o'clock position.
5. Lean back and pull to the 5 o'clock position with the left hand.
6. Repeat the process until the front wheels of the vehicle are at the desired angle. Before you straighten out, return your hands to the original (8 and 4 o'clock) positions. Counter-steer to straighten out.



Do Not Cross Your Arms

It is OK to cross your wrists while turning. You should not cross your arms. Your clothing and jewelry may interfere with safe turning. You would suffer more serious injuries should the air bag deploy.

Backing, Moving Forward and Stopping

Backing

Common mistakes committed by new drivers when backing are moving too fast, providing too much steering input and turning the steering wheel in the wrong direction.

1. With foot on brake, move gear selector lever to “R” [reverse].
2. Grasp steering wheel at 12 o’clock with left hand.
3. Turn to the right and place right arm over the back of the seat.
4. Look over your shoulder through rear window.
5. Use idle speed or accelerate gently and smoothly, keeping speed slow.
6. Turn the wheel to the right to back to the right; turn to left to back to the left.
7. Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.



Moving Forward

1. With foot on brake, move gear selector lever to “D” [drive].
2. Check forward for safe path.
3. Check for traffic to the sides and behind.
4. Signal if pulling away from a curb.
5. If safe, pivot foot to accelerator and press gently.
6. Look at least one block ahead and steer toward a reference point.

Stopping

1. Check your mirrors. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of crash in Nevada.
2. If you are parking at a curb, check over the right shoulder and signal.
3. Release accelerator, pivot foot to brake pedal.
4. Press brake pedal with a steady pressure for a smooth stop.
5. If stopping at a sign or signal, stop behind the sign, limit line or crosswalk as appropriate.
6. If parking at a curb, move to within 18 inches of the curb.

Stop Signs

Be extra cautious at intersections with a stop sign and no pavement markings. Legally, there is a crosswalk at every intersection even if it is not marked. Beginning drivers can easily misjudge distances and stop in this crosswalk or the intersection itself.

2-Way Stops

1. Come to a complete stop before either the stop sign or the limit line, whichever comes first.
2. Look left and right for traffic.
3. If you can not see traffic, pull up carefully and come to a complete stop again.
4. Check again in all directions for traffic, pedestrians and bicycles before proceeding.

4-Way Stops

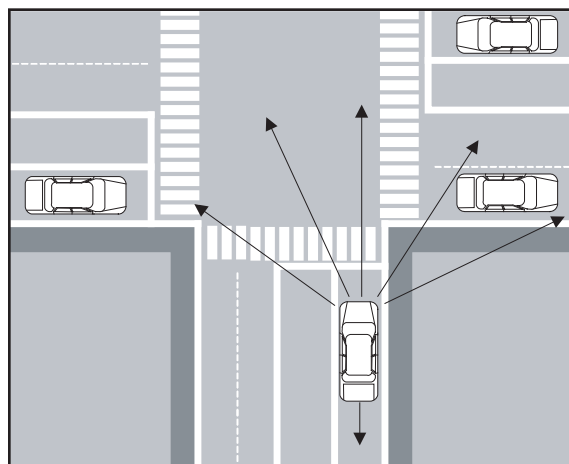
1. Come to a complete stop before either the stop sign or the limit line, whichever comes first.
2. Look left and right for traffic.
3. The vehicle which arrives at the intersection first goes first.
4. The vehicle to the right goes next.
5. When vehicles arrive simultaneously, the vehicle on the right goes first.
6. Be prepared to yield the right of way to any vehicle that goes out of turn.

Turns

Level 1

Your teen's first practice turns should be done in a large, open parking lot or other area without traffic. Practice right turns first. When you begin completing turns on streets with traffic, be sure to give the instruction to turn at least 200 feet in advance. To help judge distances in feet, note that light poles on city streets are typically about 100 feet apart.

1. Make sure you are in the correct lane well ahead of time. Check traffic in all directions.
2. Signal your turn at least 100 feet ahead on city streets and 300 feet on freeways and highways.
3. Watch for and obey traffic signals, signs and pavement markings that direct your movement.
4. Allow time and space to make your turn safely. Slow down.
5. Leave your wheels pointed straight ahead when stopped.
6. Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic. Double check for pedestrians on left turns.
7. Steer through the turn and accelerate to the speed of traffic. Be sure your turn signal is off. Travel a minimum of 150 feet before changing lanes.



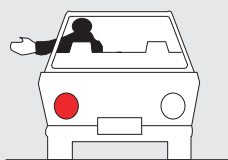
*Look in all directions before completing a turn.
Look over your right shoulder first
if merging into a bicycle or turn lane.*

When *turning right*, you must be in the extreme right-hand travel lane. If there is a curb, check your passenger side mirror and position your vehicle two feet from the curb (just to the left of the gutter strip). If a turn lane is provided, check your mirrors and blind spot before entering. You may enter the turn lane only if you are making a right turn, and may not travel through an intersection while driving in the right-turn lane. Turn into the right-hand lane of the roadway you are entering. If you then need to change lanes, signal and proceed carefully to the next lane only after you have traveled 150 feet.

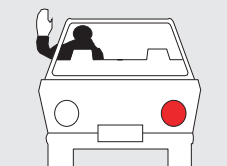
When *turning left*, check your mirrors and blind spot before entering a turn lane. Double check for pedestrians and bicycles. Keep your wheels pointed straight ahead if you must stop. Complete the turn into the traffic lane closest to you going in your intended direction. If you then need to change lanes, signal and proceed carefully to the next lane only after you have traveled 150 feet.

Practice Hand Signals

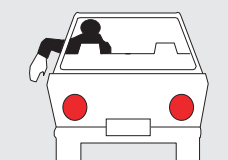
Nevada law requires the use of hand signals if the vehicle's lights are temporarily inoperative.



Left Turn



Right Turn



*Stop or
Slowing Abruptly*

Parking

Nevada law allows motorists to park up to 18 inches away from a curb. You should, however, learn to park much closer. Laws in other states vary. Vehicles parked far from the curb can present a safety hazard on narrow streets.

Parking at a Curb

1. You must park with the right-hand wheels parallel to and within 18 inches of the right-hand curb.
2. Your vehicle should be visible for 200 feet in each direction on highways, curved streets, etc.
3. Choose an available space and signal 100 feet in advance.
4. Slow and steer smoothly into the space as you come to a complete stop.
5. Shift to park, turn off the engine and set the parking (emergency) brake.
6. Before opening your door to get out, look carefully for bicycles and other vehicles.
7. Lock your vehicle and take the keys.

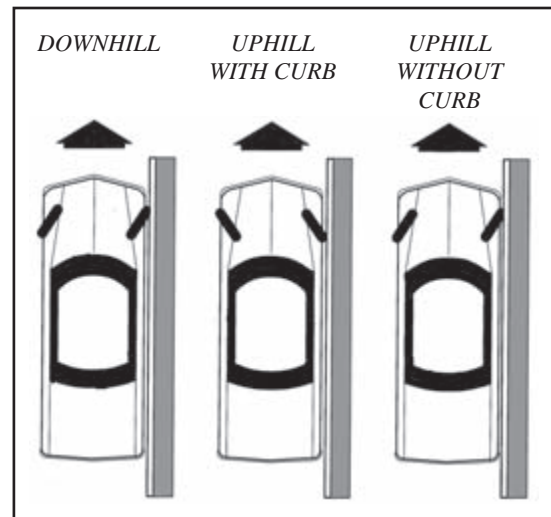
When a roadway has no curb or other barrier, and there are no parking signs or markings, you should park parallel to the road. You must park completely off the road if possible in a spot with a clear visibility of 200 feet.

Hills

1. Bring the vehicle to a stop parallel to and within 18 inches of the road edge.
2. Turn the steering wheel sharply in the direction indicated by the graphic while moving slowly forward.
3. Stop when the tire closest to the side of the road reaches the edge of the road or as it touches the curb.
4. Secure the vehicle.

To re-enter traffic:

1. Check behind your vehicle.
2. Straighten the wheels while moving slowly back.
3. Ensure adequate space ahead to complete the entry.
4. Signal and check for oncoming traffic before entering the travel lane.



Handicapped Parking

The minimum fine for parking illegally in a handicapped space has been raised to \$250.

Plates and placards must be used only by the person to whom they were issued. You may not use someone else's privilege. DMV issues authorization letters that must be stored in the vehicle if equipped with handicapped plates or carried by the person who has been issued placards.

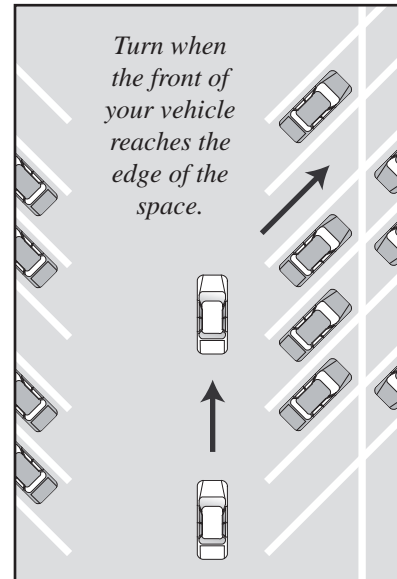
Angle

At first, practice parking in empty lots. Park next to other vehicles only as the new driver's skills improve.

1. Identify an open space in which the new driver should park.
2. Position the vehicle well away from this space.
3. Signal intentions.
4. Move forward slowly until the front of the vehicle reaches the near side of the parking space, and then turn left or right as appropriate, looking up the middle of the space.
5. Center vehicle in the parking space.
6. Move to the front of the parking space, stop, and secure vehicle.

To exit:

1. Start the engine, place foot on brake and shift to reverse.
2. Check for traffic in all directions, then look through the rear window.
3. Move straight back until you can see in the direction you want to turn.
4. Turn the steering wheel in the direction that the rear of vehicle should move.
5. When the car clears the parking space, stop, shift to drive, look in the direction you will be traveling and steer toward a reference point.

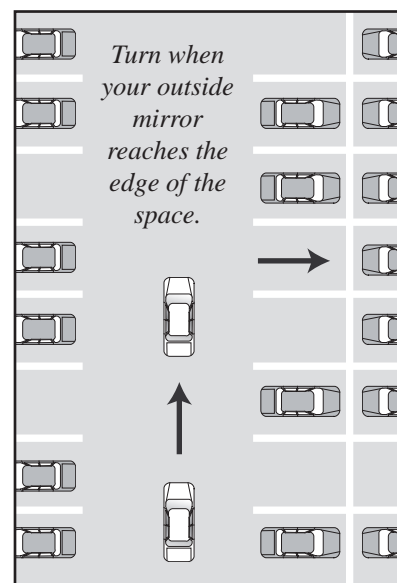


Perpendicular

1. Identify the space in which the new driver should park.
2. Position the vehicle well away from this space.
3. Signal intentions.
4. Move forward slowly until the outside mirror is even with the first line of the space, then turn left or right as appropriate looking up the middle of the space to center the vehicle.
5. Move to the front of the parking space, stop, and secure the vehicle.

To exit:

1. Place foot on brake, start the engine and shift to reverse.
2. Check for traffic in all directions, and then look through the rear window.
3. Back straight, slowly with your foot resting on the brake pedal until your windshield is even with the rear bumper of the vehicles parked to either side.
4. Turn the steering wheel in the direction that the rear of the vehicle should move.
5. When the car clears the parking area, stop, shift to drive, look in the direction you will be traveling and steer toward a reference point.

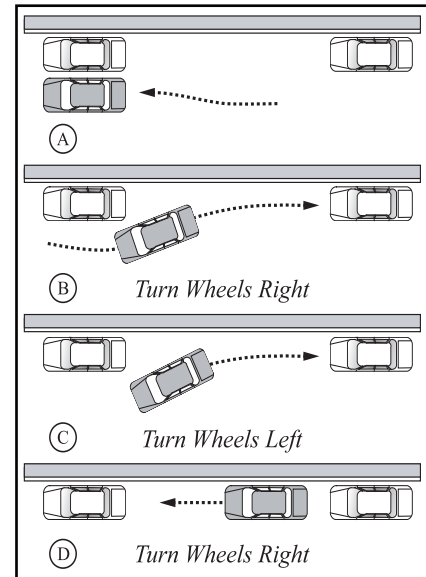


Parking

Parallel

Parallel parking requires a lot of practice and patience. When beginning, find areas where parking spaces are wide. Use smaller spaces as your teen's skills improve.

1. Slow down well in advance and signal (100 feet ahead).
2. Stop parallel to the vehicle you are going to park behind with the rear bumpers in line, and two feet between vehicles.
3. Shift to reverse, check traffic and look to the rear in the direction the vehicle will be moving.
4. Back very slowly, turning the steering wheel in the appropriate direction. Continue backing until your shoulder is in line with the rear bumper of the vehicle you are parking behind.
5. Back slowly while turning the steering wheel back to center steer. Continue backing until the corner of front bumper is in line with the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead of you.
6. Look to the rear and backing slowly, turn the steering wheel rapidly as appropriate. Stop before touching the bumper of the vehicle to the rear.
7. Shift to drive, adjust vehicle in the parking space, shift to park and secure the vehicle.



To exit:

1. Place foot on brake, shift to reverse and back as near as possible to the vehicle behind you.
2. Signal. Check for a safe gap in traffic (up to 8 or 9 seconds).
3. Shift to drive and move forward slowly, steering into traffic lane.
4. Check to make certain that your front bumper will clear the car ahead of you.
5. Straighten wheels and move forward until center door post is in line with back bumper of parked car.
6. Steer into appropriate lane of traffic. Travel at least 150 feet before a lane change.

Highways and Freeways

This skill should not be practiced in high-traffic areas. Do not stop on a freeway except in an emergency.

1. Leave enough space for other vehicles to pass safely.
2. Park with all four wheels well off the pavement, if possible.
3. Vehicle should be visible from 200 feet in either direction if possible.
4. Use your parking lights or 4-way flashers if visibility is poor, or if it is between sunset and sunrise.
5. When you have to use emergency parking areas, always use your 4-way flashers or parking lights.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Laws

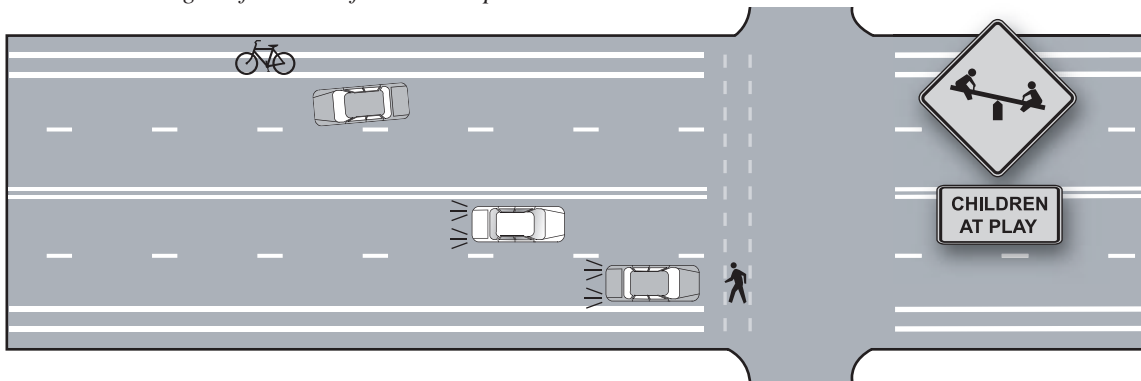
Level 1

Sharing the road safely is the responsibility of everyone involved. Nevada law outlines specific rights and responsibilities for motorists, bicycles and pedestrians. Here are the rules for drivers:

- You must always exercise due care to avoid any type of collision.
- Yield to bicycles and pedestrians at intersections as you would for other vehicles.
- Yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk on your side of the street or to any pedestrian who might be in danger. Crosswalks exist at *every* intersection.
- In school zones, traffic in both directions must yield and wait for all persons, including any crossing guard, to completely clear the crosswalk. See page 23 for more information on school zones.
- Yield at all times to a blind person using a white cane or service animal.
- You must stop or slow down before passing another vehicle stopped in a travel lane until you have determined whether that vehicle is stopped for a pedestrian.
- You may not drive or park in a bicycle lane or path unless you are turning or in an emergency.
- You may pass a cyclist only when it is safe. This is the driver's responsibility.

*Motorists are responsible for passing bicycles safely.
Cyclists must obey all traffic laws and ride to the right unless
making a left turn or if conditions prevent it.*

*Small children act impulsively
and cannot judge speed or distance.
Be extra cautious!*



*Crosswalks exist at every intersection even if they are not marked.
Motorists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians must yield outside of crosswalks.
If a vehicle is stopped for no apparent reason, you must also stop until you determine it is safe to pass.*

Bicyclists have the same rights and the same responsibilities as other drivers in Nevada. Cyclists are required to ride as far to the right as practicable. They must obey all traffic signs and signals and use hand signals for turns and stops. Cyclists may not intentionally interfere with the movement of a vehicle. Reflective markings and a front lamp are required for riding at night.

Pedestrians must not walk into the path of a vehicle that is so close it cannot stop. They must obey traffic signals and Walk/Don't Walk signals. Pedestrians may not cross an intersection diagonally unless the intersection is specifically designed for this.

Keeping Your Distance

New drivers should practice counting seconds and develop their visual search skills from the passenger seat first. Mastering these skills before actually driving in traffic will help build overall confidence.

You may also wish to have the new driver begin judging traffic signals verbally. As you approach a signal, have the student call out points where it would be safe to stop if the light were to turn yellow and at what point it would be safer to proceed through the intersection.

Following Distance and Counting Seconds

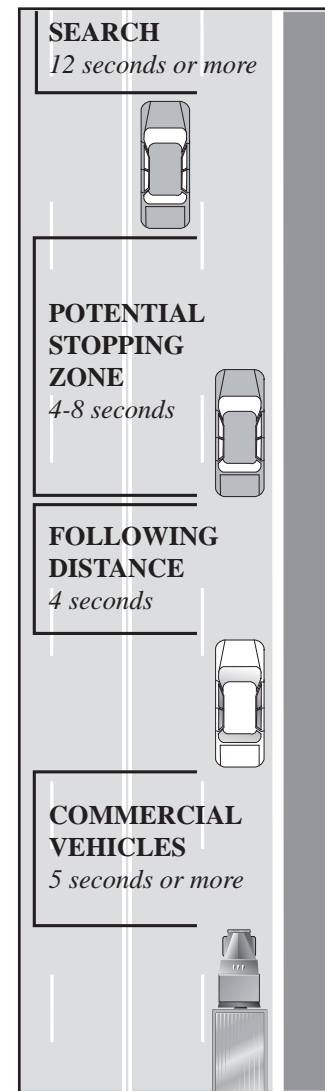
Many older drivers were taught the “Two-Second Rule” for following distance. Most driving instructors now recommend four seconds on all streets and five seconds at highway speeds.

1. Note when the vehicle ahead passes a point of reference that will not move (pole, bridge, etc.)
2. Begin counting “one thousand and one...one thousand and two...one thousand and three...one thousand and four.”
3. Your vehicle should not pass that same reference point before you count “one thousand and four.” If you do, you are following too close. Drop back.
4. Increase the following distance to 5 seconds above 40 mph.
5. Other traffic may enter this cushion. Be prepared to brake and drop back to a safe distance.
6. Adjust your following distance in bad weather and for other factors that affect your stopping distance.

Visual Search Skills

Many drivers, both new and experienced, have a tendency to look at the road immediately in front of the vehicle and at lane markings. In reality, safe driving requires that drivers be aware of objects and conditions 12 to 20 seconds ahead. When traveling 25 to 30 mph, 12 seconds equals about one city block. At highway speeds, drivers should look 20 to 30 seconds ahead.

1. Identify points 20 to 30 seconds ahead and make this longer search range a habit.
2. Make quick glances to the left and right to identify “escape paths,” areas 12 to 15 seconds ahead into which it is possible to steer if a problem should develop.
3. Identify zones where you may have to stop 4 to 8 seconds ahead. Check for shadows and movement around parked vehicles and shrubbery that could indicate the presence of children or animals.
4. Identify a following distance of 4 seconds.
5. Check traffic to the rear prior to slowing.



Keeping Your Distance

Level II

Understanding Stopping Distances

Stopping times and distances are longer than you may think. If you double your speed – say from 30 mph to 60 mph – your braking distance does not become twice as long, it becomes *four times as far*.

It is important to understand stopping distances in order to judge safe following distances. Total stopping distance consists of the following:

- *Perception Distance* – is the distance your vehicle travels from the time your eyes see a hazard until your brain recognizes it.
- *Reaction Distance* – is the distance traveled from the time your brain tells your foot to move from the accelerator until your foot is actually pressing the brake pedal.
- *Braking Distance* – is the distance it takes to stop once the brakes are applied.

Traffic safety studies consistently show the combined perception and reaction time is two seconds or more under the best of conditions. Driver fatigue or illness will increase reaction time.

Your braking distance increases dramatically at higher speeds. Braking distances also increase with weight. A full-size SUV requires more distance than a small economy car.

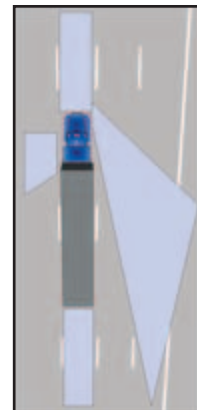
Wet roads, gravel or sand on the roadway, ice, and snow will increase braking distance. Under these conditions, allow yourself two to three times the normal following distance.

Commercial Vehicles

Commercial drivers often maintain much more than four seconds of following distance because they need this extra space to stop. Do not cut in front of trucks and buses.

An average passenger car weighs about 3,000 pounds. The weight of an *empty* semi-tractor and trailer combination is 36,000 pounds or more. Loaded trucks can weigh up to 80,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicles also have much larger blind spots. Stay out of the “No Zones” where drivers cannot see you.



No Zones

STOPPING DISTANCE AND TIME			
<i>For a typical passenger car with perfect 4-wheel brakes, dry pavement, level road, 2.5 second reaction time</i>			
25	92 Ft.	35 Ft.	127 Ft. (4.40 seconds)
35	128 Ft.	68 Ft.	196 Ft. (5.14 seconds)
45	165 Ft.	113 Ft.	278 Ft. (5.90 seconds)
55	202 Ft.	168 Ft.	370 Ft. (6.66 seconds)
65	238 Ft.	256 Ft.	494 Ft. (7.86 seconds)
MPH	Perception and Reaction Distance		Braking Distance

Driving in Traffic

Watch your teen carefully during the first few lessons in traffic. If the new driver feels threatened, he or she may need additional time in a more controlled environment.

Entering Traffic from the Curb Side

1. When parked on the side of the roadway, check traffic to the rear, side and front.
2. Signal intentions, check mirrors, look over the shoulder and identify a one-half-block gap in traffic.
3. Look as far ahead as possible along the projected path of travel.
4. Accelerate smoothly and steer into intended path of travel.
5. Cancel turn signal and search one and a half to two blocks ahead along the path of travel.
6. Accelerate to the speed of traffic but not faster than the posted limit nor more than 5 mph slower.

Entering Traffic from a Parking Lot or Intersection

1. While stopped with turn signal on, check traffic to the rear, sides and front.
2. Identify a gap in cross traffic of at least half a block. If turning right, the approaching traffic on the left should be 6 to 8 seconds away. If turning left, traffic on the left should be 6 to 8 seconds away and traffic on the opposite side approaching on your right should 7 to 9 seconds away.
3. Look as far ahead as possible along the projected path of travel.
4. Accelerate smoothly and steer into intended path of travel.
5. Cancel turn signal and search one and a half to two blocks ahead along the path of travel.
6. Accelerate to the speed of traffic but not faster than the posted limit nor more than 5 mph slower.

Driving through Intersections

On any street, when intending to cross or turn, driver behavior is critical at intersections. When approaching any intersection, whether uncontrolled or controlled by signs or signals, take the following safety precautions:

1. Search all corners of the intersection for traffic controls, pedestrians, etc.
2. Search the lanes ahead to ensure you will not have to stop in the intersection.
3. Check following traffic (the rear-end collision is by far the most common type of crash).
4. Prepare to brake 100 feet in advance. In most traffic conditions, you should pivot your foot off the accelerator and position it over the brake. This will have you prepared to stop in case of an emergency or should the light change from green to yellow.
5. Look left 100 feet from the intersection. Scan for pedestrians and bicyclists.
6. Look right approximately 50 feet from the intersection.
7. Look left when entering, then straight ahead, then right $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way through the intersection.
8. Accelerate through the intersection if safe.



Motorcycles are closer than they look and can slow without activating the brake light..



It is the motorist's responsibility to pass bicycles safely.

Turning at Intersections

Reinforce the turning lessons from Level I (page 13):

1. Check following traffic, signal and slow down at least 100 feet in advance.
2. Scan all directions for traffic, pedestrians and bicycles.
3. If stopping, stop behind the stop sign, limit line or crosswalk as appropriate. Leave wheels straight. Remember, a crosswalk exists at every intersection even if it is not marked.
4. Proceed when safe and travel at least 150 feet before any lane change.

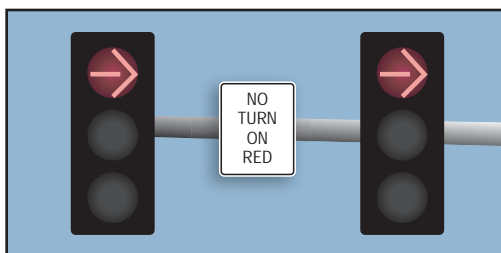
Multiple Turn Lanes at an Intersection

1. Identify which of the multiple lanes you will use as soon as they are visible.
2. Signal 100 feet before entering the turn lane.
3. Complete the lane change safely (maintain following distance, identify gap, check blind spots).
4. Check intersection for traffic control devices, oncoming and cross traffic, pedestrians, etc.
5. Stop if required. Ensure the turn signal remains on.
6. When the signal turns green, look left and right to ensure your path is clear of traffic and pedestrians.
7. Steer into the lane corresponding to the one from which the turn was made.

Right Turn on Red

If it is not clear or safe to complete a right turn on red, *you do not have to do it.*

1. Come to a complete stop behind the limit line or crosswalk. Leave wheels straight.
2. Know the speed limit of the street you are pulling on to. Remember traffic may flow at 5 to 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.
3. Scan all directions. You must be able to see clearly to your left and right for 2 blocks without pulling into the crosswalk.
4. Look to the right and in your right blind spot for pedestrians and bicyclists who may be entering the intersection.
5. Look to the left and judge the oncoming traffic:
 - Do I have enough time and space?
 - How fast is traffic moving towards me? (Check for motorcycles and vehicles changing lanes.)
 - Can I gradually accelerate?
 - Am I comfortable doing this?
 - Should I wait for a green light?
6. Complete the turn only if it is safe.



Multiple Right Turn Lanes

Right turns on red are prohibited in both lanes.

U-Turns

Practice u-turns in areas with little or no traffic at first. Do not attempt them in traffic until the student has mastered judging space and maneuvering the vehicle. U-turns using alleys or driveways should never be attempted on busy streets.

Basic U-Turns

In Nevada, U-turns are generally allowed on any road when they can be made safely. They are prohibited anytime a traffic sign or signal prohibits them, in business districts except at an intersection, on curves and near a grade where there is less than 500 feet of visibility in both directions.

1. Scan ahead for an intersection or appropriate area to make the turn. Make sure that a U-turn is not illegal in this location. Ensure the street is wide enough to accommodate the turn radius of your vehicle.
2. Signal, merge into the left lane or turn lane, if necessary, signal and slow down or stop.
3. Scan again to be sure that you have enough room to make the turn without hitting the curb or any parked cars. Look for pedestrians and vehicles that may be turning right at the intersection.
4. Check for oncoming traffic and traffic in all directions.
5. Release brake, use idle speed or press the accelerator lightly at the same time while turning the steering wheel as far as it will go in the direction you want to turn.
6. Lift your foot off the accelerator and coast through the turn. Press the accelerator lightly as needed.
7. Steer smoothly into the travel lane and accelerate.

U-Turn Using an Alley or Driveway on the Right

1. Signal a right turn 100 feet in advance, check traffic to the sides and rear of the vehicle.
2. If safe, stop just beyond the alley or driveway and shift to reverse.
3. Back slowly (looking through the rear window) until the rear bumper of the vehicle reaches the near edge of the driveway.
4. Turn steering all the way to the right as you continue backing slowly.
5. Straighten the wheels as the vehicle centers in the driveway.
6. Stop as the vehicle clears the edge of the road.
7. Signal a left turn, shift to drive, check traffic in both directions.
8. Complete the left turn smoothly when safe.

U-Turn Using an Alley or Driveway on the Left

1. Select a driveway where the view will not be blocked when backing into the street.
2. Signal intention to turn left and check the mirrors. Slow down, stop if necessary.
3. Turn into the driveway or alley as near as possible to the right side.
4. Stop as the rear of the vehicle clears the curb or edge of the driveway.
5. Signal a right turn, shift to reverse and check traffic in all directions.
6. When safe, back slowly while turning the steering wheel to the right.
7. As vehicle centers in nearest lane, straighten wheels, stop, shift to drive.
8. Move forward smoothly, adjust the vehicle position and cancel the right signal.

School Zones and Buses

Level II

School Zones

Drive safely around kids! Crashes and injuries in school zones are on the rise despite improvements in bus safety and school zone signage. School police are now allowed to issue citations on nearby streets.

1. You must stop for a school bus displaying flashing red signals. You do *not* have to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction on a divided highway (lanes are separated by a physical barrier).
2. When approaching a school zone, note whether you must slow down (lights are flashing or you are within the posted times).
3. Slow to the posted speed *before* you enter the school zone and maintain that speed until *after* the end.
4. You must yield to children in crosswalks and obey the directions of any crossing guard.
5. You must wait for all persons, including the guard, to completely clear the crosswalk before proceeding. Watch for children between parked cars and around buses.

Penalties

Speeding in a School Zone

State law sets a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine and/or six months in jail for misdemeanor traffic offenses. Actual penalties are set by the courts in each city and county. Most have imposed steep fines for speeding in a school zone.

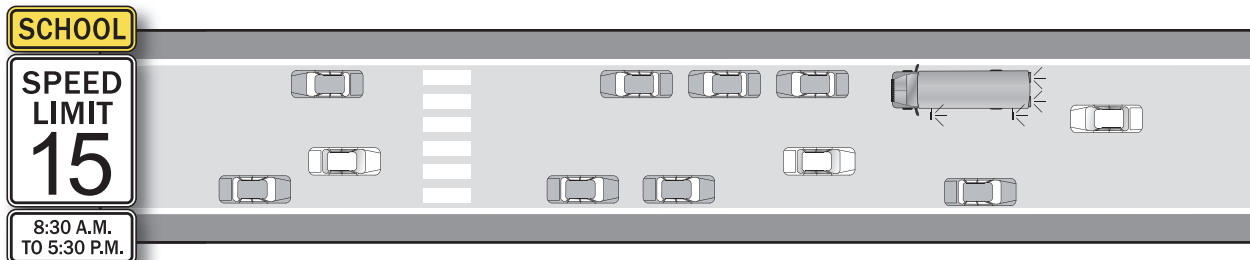
Passing a Stopped School Bus Displaying Red Lights – NRS 484.357

- **First offense** – Fine of \$250 to \$500.
- **Second offense within one year** – Fine of \$250 to \$500 and a six-month driver's license suspension.
- **Third offense within two years** – A maximum fine of \$1,000 and a one-year driver's license suspension.

Parking in a School Zone

Be courteous to your neighbors when you are dropping off or picking up your children! NRS 484.399 prohibits parking:

- On a crosswalk, within 20 feet of a crosswalk or within a bicycle lane.
- On a sidewalk, in an intersection or in front of any public or private driveway.
- Next to any vehicle that is already parked (double parking).
- Within 30 feet of a traffic control signal or within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad track.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, 20 feet of a fire station driveway on the same side of the roadway and 75 feet of a station driveway on the opposite side.
- Near construction zones, on bridges, in tunnels and anywhere prohibited by signs or curb markings.



Wait for all persons to clear the crosswalk completely.

Vehicles in both directions must stop for a bus on an undivided street.

Using Lanes

These skills should be practiced on multi-lane arterial streets with some traffic present. Speeds should range from 35 to 45 mph. It is important to reinforce visual search and following distance skills.

The new driver must learn how to anticipate the actions of other drivers and other roadway users such as bicyclists, pedestrians and animals. There are important habits you need to develop:

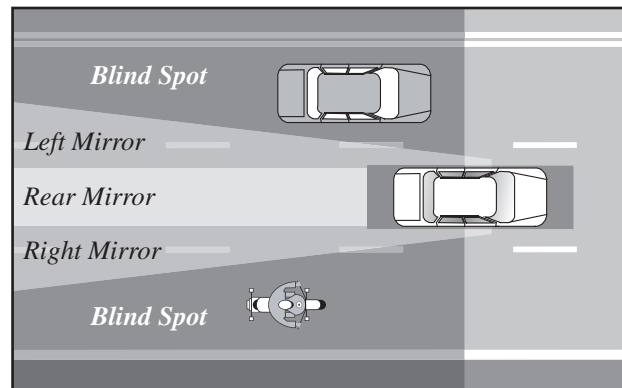
- **Scan Ahead:** This gives you the time and space for decision making and vehicle control. Reinforce the practice of searching ahead at least 12 seconds.
- **Scan the Ground:** Looking at sidewalks, parked cars and the vehicles in front of you will alert you to pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles about to change lanes.
- **Keep Scanning:** Don't allow your eyes to rest in one area. Keep them moving to see all of the changes in conditions as you drive up your intended path of travel.

What is the other driver or the pedestrian doing? Where is their attention directed? Identify possible conflicts well in advance and take action to compensate.

Changing Lanes

Beginning drivers tend to drift in the direction of a visual check when changing lanes. Have the new driver practice checking blind spots and judging safe distances before actually making a lane change. Maintain a 4-second following distance to better ensure a clear view ahead.

1. Check traffic ahead, behind, and to the sides.
2. Maintain a 4-second following distance.
3. Identify a 4- to 5-second gap in traffic.
4. Signal at least 100 feet in advance.
5. Check your rearview mirror, then your outside mirrors.
6. Check traffic in front of your vehicle again. Changing conditions in the original lane could result in a rear-end collision.
7. Check your blind spot by looking over your shoulder. On streets or freeways with three lanes or more, look for other vehicles that may be trying to merge into the same space you are.
8. Steer into the new lane while looking up the middle of the new lane. Maintain speed.
9. Cancel the turn signal.



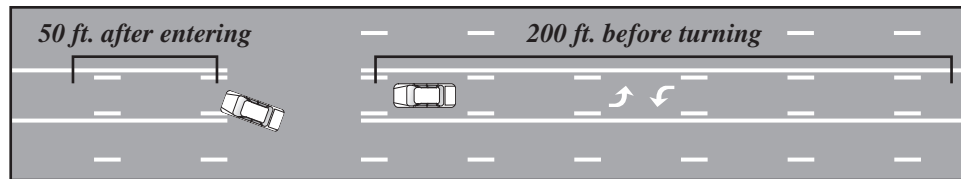
Passing on the Right

You may pass on the right only if the street or highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction and only if it is safe. Passing on the right is very dangerous if the other driver does not see you and decides to change lanes.

You may not use shoulders or bicycle lanes or drive off the pavement.

Center Left Turn Lane

The solid yellow center line in a shared left turn lane means you cannot use the center lane for passing. The broken yellow lines show that vehicles traveling in either direction may use the center lane to make left turns. You may not travel more than 200 feet before turning. When turning left from a side street, you may not travel more than 50 feet in the center turn lane before merging into traffic.

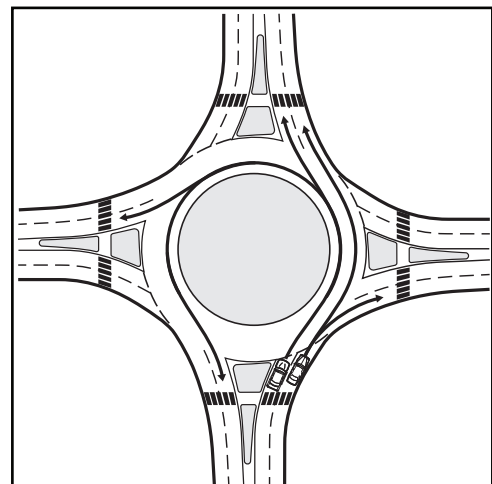


1. Check the shared left turn lane for vehicles ahead.
2. Signal left turn 100 feet before the merge, check mirrors and look over your left shoulder to check the left blind spot.
3. Steer smoothly into left turn lane no more than 200 feet before the turn, slow down.
4. Stop, if necessary. Leave wheels straight.
5. When safe and legal, choose an appropriate gap in the oncoming traffic and complete the left turn.

Roundabouts

Roundabouts and traffic circles are circular intersections used to decrease speeds on a street. Entry is controlled by yield signs. Traffic runs in a counterclockwise direction only. Motorists should not stop inside. There are no set rules for turn signals when you enter a roundabout, since traffic is one way. You should always signal right when exiting.

1. As you approach, choose which lane to use just as you would for any other intersection.
 - To turn right, choose the right-hand lane.
 - To go straight, choose either lane.
 - If you are going to any other exit, choose the left lane.
2. Slow down and prepare to stop as you would for any intersection with a yield sign.
3. Scan in all directions, yield to traffic already inside the roundabout and to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing at the corners.
4. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic. Traffic runs counterclockwise only. Never attempt a u-turn at a roundabout entrance.
5. Signal right before you exit the roundabout. Check your right blind spot if you are exiting from the inside lane of a two-lane roundabout.
6. Never change lanes. If you miss your exit, continue around until you return to your exit.



Freeways

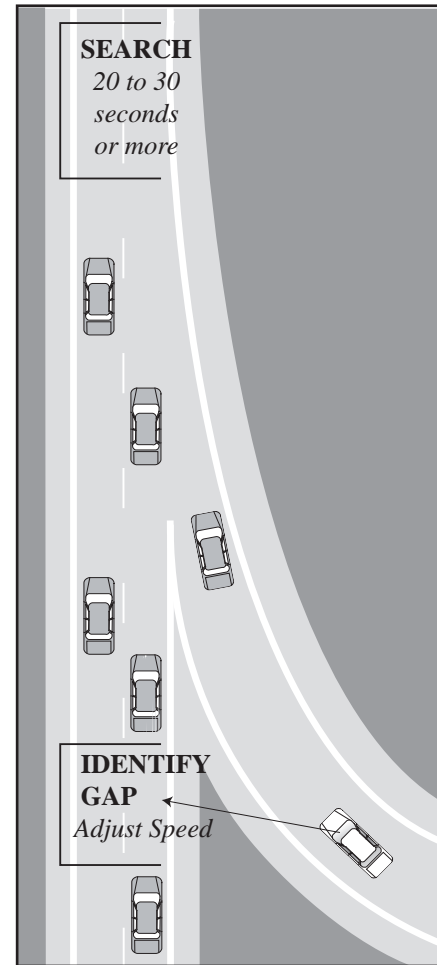
It is important that you master entering and exiting the freeway before moving on to lane changes and passing. You may wish to drive in the right lane only for the first few sessions, particularly if the traffic flow is going too fast. Common errors made by beginning drivers include:

- Speed too slow
- Poor judgement of space and gaps in traffic
- Crossing solid lines and merging too early
- Excessive or jerky steering
- Drifting toward a visual check

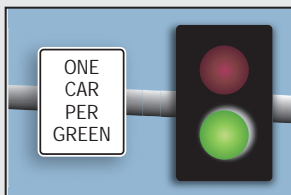
Entering a Freeway

Take your time if the freeway has an extra exit lane between the on-ramp and the next exit. There is no rush to get into or out of these lanes. Watch carefully for vehicles merging to exit.

1. Scan ahead as far as possible when approaching a freeway. Look for signs that indicate the location of the on-ramp for the direction you wish to travel.
2. Longer on-ramps or curved ramps may have a posted speed limit you must obey until you reach the acceleration lane.
3. Scan ahead on the ramp and scan the traffic on the freeway for a 4-5 second gap as you accelerate.
4. As you move down the ramp into the acceleration lane (marked by a white line on the driver side of the vehicle), signal 300 feet in advance and accelerate to the freeway speed limit.
5. Accelerate slightly faster or slower to place your vehicle in a position to merge smoothly into traffic. Do not stop or slow down before merging unless absolutely necessary.
6. As you near the end of the acceleration lane, check your mirror and blind spot and time your entry into traffic flow.
7. You must yield to traffic already on the freeway if there is a conflict.
8. Cancel the turn signal when the merge is completed.



Freeway ramp meters



Freeway entry meters are now beginning to be used on Nevada freeways to help reduce congestion and crashes.

If the meter is in use, stop at the limit line as you would for any red signal. Stay alert. Ramp meters cycle faster than normal signals.

Metered on-ramps may also have High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes marked by a diamond symbol. You may use the bypass lane if you are in a carpool of two or more people.

Driving on a Freeway

1. Stay alert! Scan in all directions continuously and look ahead at least 20 to 30 seconds. Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow. Stay with the flow of traffic up to the posted speed limit.
2. Maintain a following distance of 5 seconds or longer.
3. Signal 300 feet or more in advance of a lane change or exit to let other drivers know your plans, and watch for their signals.
4. Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to check your blind spot before changing lanes. Allow other vehicles to maintain a safe following distance, particularly heavy commercial vehicles.
5. Leave the extreme left lane for faster traffic. Lane hopping is always dangerous, annoys other drivers, increases the risk of accidents and seldom saves time.
6. When approaching traffic that is entering the freeway, adjust your speed to allow enough space for the other vehicles to merge. Merge to the left yourself if necessary and it is safe to do so.

Commercial Vehicles

Remember: Tractor-trailers have much bigger blind spots and take 2-3 times longer to stop than a car. Here are some extra precautions when driving around large trucks:

- **Behind** – If you can't see the outside mirrors (200 feet behind), the driver can't see you.
- **Sides** – If you can't see the driver in the mirror, he can't see you.
- **Front** – After passing, do not change lanes in front of the tractor-trailer unless you can see both of the truck's headlights in your rear view mirror.



Lane Usage

Beginning drivers should master lane changes on slower streets before driving on a freeway. See “Using Lanes” in Level II (page 24). Nevada does not have any law that specifies which lanes to use on a freeway, but many other states do. Here are some guidelines:

- **Right lane** – Slower-moving traffic, and traffic that wants to exit on the right.
- **Center lane** – Traffic that is traveling on the freeway for several miles. This lane allows the driver to go to either side in an emergency.
- **Left lane** – Faster-moving traffic and passing.

Exiting a Freeway

1. Scan ahead as far as possible for signs indicating the proper lane for the exit to your destination. Major interchanges may have multiple off-ramps that can be confusing.
2. Signal at least 300 feet in advance before changing lanes or exiting.
3. Check the right rear area over your shoulder quickly and merge into the exit lane.
4. Maintain freeway speed until you reach the deceleration lane (marked by the solid white line).
5. Reduce to the speed limit posted for the exit ramp. These speed limits are set for each individual ramp to allow you to use that specific ramp safely.
6. Cancel the turn signal.
7. Adjust speed and position, signal and merge if necessary for stopping and entering the other roadway.

Highways and Passing

Initial practice on open highway driving, especially on passing, should take place on four-lane highways. Complete passing maneuvers as though you were on a two-lane road. Make sure you can complete the pass before any oncoming cars approach on the opposite side of the four-lane roadway.

Driving on an Open Highway

Driving on open highways is similar to freeway driving, but the driver must also search for conditions not normally present on a controlled-access freeway.

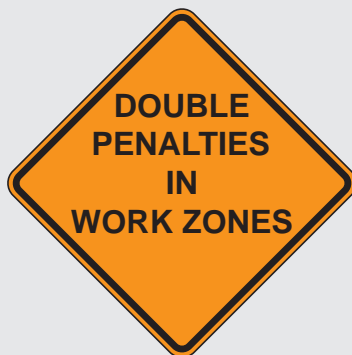
1. Stay alert! Scan in all directions continuously and look ahead at least 20 to 30 seconds.
2. Scan the sides of the road, in particular, for intersections, pedestrians, bicyclists and animals.
3. Maintain a following distance of five seconds or longer. This is particularly important on two-lane highways, grades and curves.
4. Signal 300 feet or more in advance of a lane change, pass or exit.

Negotiating Curves

1. Obey speed limits posted for curves. These are set to enable you to safely negotiate each curve.
2. Look ahead through the curve as far as possible.
3. Ease off accelerator and reduce speed *before* the curve.
4. Do not brake *during* the curve.
5. Maintain the vehicle path in the center of the lane as much as possible during the curve.
6. Accelerate slightly through the curve if necessary.



*Slow down before the curve.
Do not brake during the curve.*



Double Penalties in Work Zones

NRS 484.3667

Judges and courts have the discretion to double the normal fines and/or jail time for many traffic offenses if committed in a work zone. Workers do not need to be present. The zone must be marked with a sign declaring double penalties and signs establishing the zone's beginning and end.

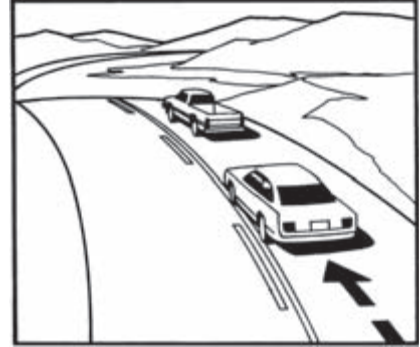
Double penalties may apply even in unmarked zones if a road worker is injured or if property damage is \$1,000 or more.

Highways and Passing

Level IV

Passing

1. Obey lane markings and posted No Passing zones. On a two-lane road, you may not pass within 100 feet of an intersection or a railroad crossing.
2. Check for oncoming vehicles, vehicles slowing ahead of you and the sides of the road for vehicles at intersections, pedestrians, bicyclists and animals.
3. Check mirrors and blind spots. Signal at least 300 feet before you initiate the pass.
4. Remain at least two seconds behind the vehicle to be passed.
5. Steer smoothly into the passing lane.
6. Maintain or adjust speed, search the highway ahead and check mirrors again.
7. Do not allow your vehicle to drift toward the vehicle being passed.
8. Pass until the *complete front* of the passed vehicle is visible in your rear view mirror.
9. Signal intention to return to lane, steer smoothly into lane and adjust speed as appropriate.



Do not pass on hills and curves.

Being Passed

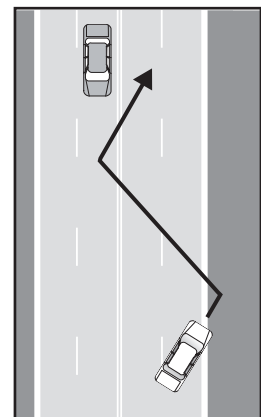
1. Keep right. Once you are aware that a vehicle wants to pass, move to the right side of the lane.
2. Maintain a constant speed. Slow down only if the passing vehicle is in danger of a collision. It is illegal to increase your speed when being passed.

Running off the pavement

Crashes that begin with the vehicle running off the road are a leading cause of death on rural highways. Drivers tend to jerk the wheel or “overcorrect” to get back onto the road. The vehicle will careen across the roadway and the driver will overcorrect again. At this point, the vehicle is out of control and may roll over.

Remember the Off/Off rule. Keep your foot off the accelerator and off the brakes.

1. Don’t panic! Ease off on the accelerator. Don’t use the brakes unless you’re headed for an obstacle.
2. Gently steer the vehicle parallel to the road. Continue to slow down. In extreme cases, it may be safer to keep going straight until you can stop.
3. Check for traffic approaching in the lane you will re-enter and signal.
4. Gently ease the wheels onto the pavement.
5. Straighten into the first lane and speed up to the flow of traffic.



Overcorrection can cause a loss of control.

Night Driving

You are at greater risk when you drive at night. Drivers can't see hazards as quickly as in daylight, so they have less time to respond. Drivers caught by surprise are less able to avoid a crash. Some of the problems involved with night driving are:

- **Vision:** Most people can't see as well at night or in dim light. Also, the eyes need time to adjust to dim light.
- **Glare:** Bright light can blind drivers for 5-7 seconds or even longer for older drivers. Even two seconds of glare blindness can be dangerous. A vehicle going 55 mph will travel more than half the distance of a football field during that time.
- **Fatigue:** Fatigue and lack of alertness are bigger problems at night. The body's need for sleep is beyond a person's control. Most people are less alert at night. Drivers may not see hazards as soon or react as quickly, so the chance for a crash is much greater.



Glare blindness can cause crashes.



Do not "overdrive" your headlights.

Night Driving Laws

- Beginning drivers under 18 must complete 10 hours of night driving prior to receiving a full license.
- All drivers under 18 may not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless they are traveling to or from a scheduled event such as work or a school event.
- Headlights must be used:
 - From a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise.
 - Anytime persons or vehicles cannot be clearly seen at a distance of 1,000 feet (bad weather).
 - If required by a traffic-control device.
- Low beams must be used:
 - 500 feet before any oncoming vehicle.
 - 300 feet before any vehicle you are following.
- Fog lights and other auxiliary lights must be aimed so the high-intensity portion of the beam does not strike the windshield, windows, mirrors or occupants of other vehicles.
- No more than four lamps of 300 candle power or greater may be lighted on the front of a vehicle.

Night Driving

Level IV

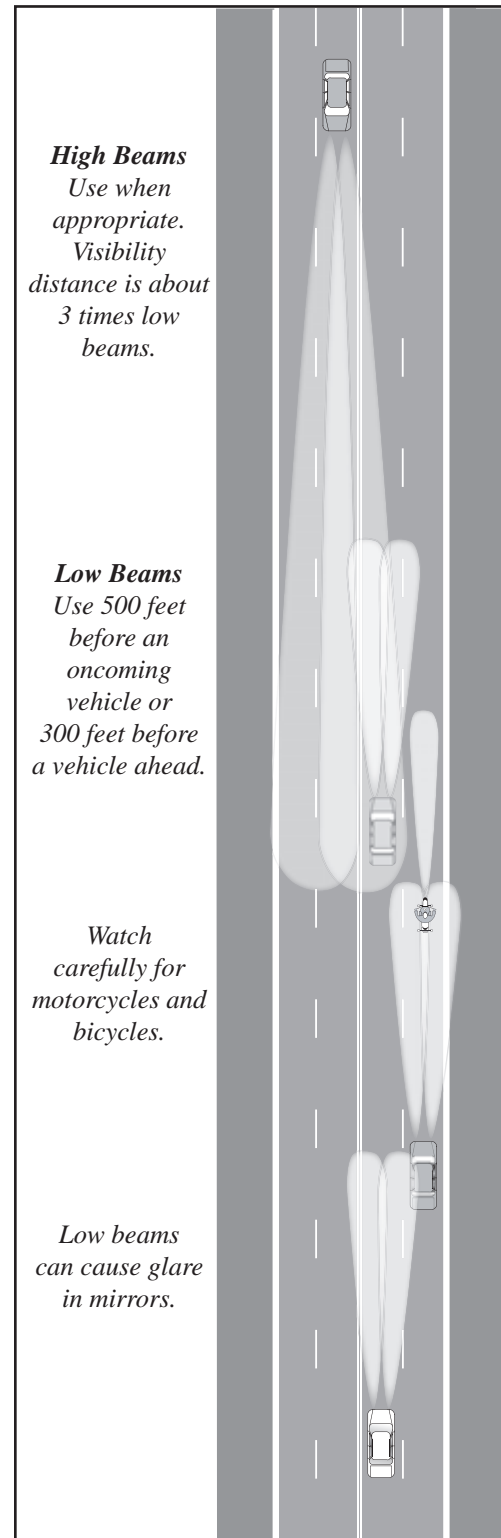
It is best to delay night driving until your student has mastered all driving skills in daylight. When you do begin night driving, practice in a good variety of traffic conditions.

New drivers and especially those under the age of 25 have a high probability of crashes during hours of darkness. Normal training programs do not provide practice at night. It is therefore critical that new drivers learn night driving under supervision.

1. Keep the windshield, headlights and other lamps clean. Never wear sunglasses.
2. Use the night setting on your rearview mirror.
3. Keep the instrument panel as dim as possible and the dome light off.
4. Do not look directly into the high-beam headlights of oncoming vehicles. If the driver fails to dim the lights, look towards the right side of the road.
5. Look up the middle of your lane and use the road edge or center line as a guide. The beginning driver must learn not to drift toward the road or lane edge when the headlights of oncoming traffic make it difficult to see.
6. Increase cushion space around the vehicle. Continuously identify stopping zones and escape paths.
7. Search in particular for motorcycles, bicyclists and pedestrians. The single headlight and taillight on a motorcycle can be hard to pick out. Bicyclists and pedestrians are harder to see at night.
8. Be mindful of the vehicle in front of you. Your headlights can cause glare in their mirrors.

Unlit Highways

1. Use high beams in open country at night.
2. Be prepared to switch to low beams quickly on corners and hills.
3. Do not “overdrive” your headlights. Keep your speed low enough to be able to stop within the distance illuminated by your headlights (30-35 mph with low beams).



Adverse Conditions

Driving in adverse conditions and practicing emergency procedures in traffic can put yourself and other drivers at unnecessary risk. Do not drive in extremely bad weather. Stay in areas with little or no traffic. Practice emergency procedures in parking lots or other clear areas.

ABS Brakes

Take note of whether your vehicle has an anti-lock brake system (ABS). An ABS light on the dashboard will illuminate briefly when you start the car and then go out if the system is working correctly.

Beginning drivers should learn the correct braking methods for both ABS and non-ABS vehicles. Many drivers have learned that the correct way to stop in an emergency situation where traction is lost is by pumping the brakes. This is correct for conventional brakes.

With ABS brakes, however, you should *always* apply steady pressure. The ABS system pumps the brakes at a far faster rate than a driver ever could. Be aware that this makes the car seem to shudder. Many drivers who experience ABS braking for the first time mistakenly believe the brakes are malfunctioning.

Hydroplaning

Your vehicle can hydroplane whenever water or slush collects on the road. It's like water skiing: the tires lose their contact with the road and have little or no traction. You may not be able to steer or brake. Hydroplaning can occur at speeds as low as 30 mph if there is a lot of water. Hydroplaning is more likely if tire pressure is low or the tread is worn.

1. Do not use the brakes to slow down.
2. Release the accelerator and/or push in the clutch.

Wet brakes

Water in the brakes can cause the brakes to be weak, to apply unevenly, or to grab. This can cause a lack of braking power, wheel lockups, pulling to one side or the other. Never drive through deep puddles or flowing water. If your brakes become wet or you must drive through a shallow puddle, you should:

1. Slow down. Place the transmission in a lower gear if necessary.
2. Gently put on the brakes. This presses linings against brake drums or discs and keeps mud, silt, sand, and water from getting in.
3. Increase engine RPM and cross the water while keeping light pressure on the brakes.
4. When out of the water, maintain light pressure on the brakes for a short distance to heat them up and dry them out.
5. Make a test stop when safe to do so: Check behind to make sure no one is following, then apply the brakes to be sure they work properly. If not, dry out further as described above.

Floods

Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles. Never drive through a flooded roadway or around barricades. Roads underneath may be damaged and impassable. If you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and take another route.

Slippery Surfaces

It takes longer to stop and it is harder to turn without skidding when the road is slippery. You must drive slower to be able to stop in the same distance as on a dry road. Sometimes it's hard to know if the road is slippery. Here are some signs:

- **Shaded areas** will remain icy and slippery long after open areas have melted.
- **Bridges** will freeze before the road will. Be especially careful when the temperature is close to 32 degrees F.
- **Black ice** is a thin layer that you can see underneath. It makes the road look wet.
- **Melting ice** – Slight melting will make ice wet. Wet ice is much more slippery than ice that is not wet.
- **Water and Oil** – Rain water mixing with oil on the road makes the road very slippery. If the rain continues, it may wash the oil away.



An easy way to check for ice is to open the window and feel the front of the mirror, mirror support, or antenna. If there is ice on these, the road surface is probably starting to ice up.

1. Allow yourself extra driving time. Plan your route to avoid roadways that are flooded, snow packed, icy or steep. Call 511 or visit safetravelusa.com/nv for Nevada road information.
2. Ensure all vehicle windows are completely clear of snow and ice.
3. Turn the low-beam headlights on. Do not use the cruise control.
4. Avoid quick starts, stops and fast turns. Accelerate, brake and steer smoothly and gradually.
5. Get the feel of the roadway. Start slow and gently test your brakes to see how well you can stop. Road conditions can change from block to block.
6. Slow down! Visibility is reduced in storms. Nevada's Basic Rule requires drivers to maintain a speed that is "reasonable and proper" for the conditions. Don't pass slower vehicles unless necessary.
7. Be aware that as the temperature rises to the point where ice begins to melt, the road becomes even more slippery. Slow down more!
8. Increase your following distance. Don't drive alongside other vehicles. Slow down when approaching intersections and curves.
9. Begin braking much sooner when approaching a stop or slow traffic.
10. Pump brakes if necessary on non-ABS vehicles.
11. Shift into a lower gear before going down a steep hill. Better yet, plan your route to avoid steep hills.

Nevada's Basic Rule for Speed

NRS 484.361

It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate a vehicle of any kind or character at:

- A rate of speed greater than is reasonable or proper, having due regard for the traffic, surface and width of the highway, the weather and other highway conditions.
- Such a rate of speed as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.
- A rate of speed greater than that posted by a public authority for the particular portion of highway being traversed.
- In any event, a rate of speed greater than 75 miles per hour.

Adverse Conditions

Skids

Most serious skids result from driving too fast for road conditions. Adjust your speed to the conditions. A skid happens whenever the tires lose their grip on the road. Grip is lost in one of four ways:

- **Speed** – Driving too fast.
- **Over-braking** – Braking too hard and locking up the wheels.
- **Over-steering** – Turning the wheels more sharply than the vehicle can turn.
- **Over-acceleration** – Supplying too much power to the drive wheels, making them spin.

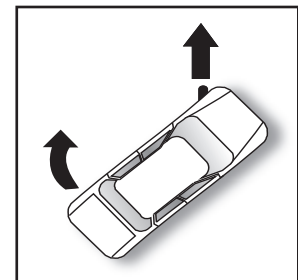
The beginning driver should learn the different types of skids as the techniques used to recover from each are different.

Drive Wheel Skids – By far the most common skid is one in which the rear wheels lose traction through excessive braking or acceleration. Skids caused by acceleration usually happen on ice or snow.

1. Taking your foot off the accelerator will stop a drive wheel skid.

Rear-wheel braking skids occur when the rear drive wheels lock. Because locked wheels have less traction than rolling wheels, the vehicle will slide sideways in a spin out.

1. Stop braking: This will let the rear wheels roll again and keep them from sliding any farther.
2. Steer: When a vehicle begins to slide sideways, look and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go down the road.
3. Counter-steer: As a vehicle turns back on course, it has a tendency to keep right on turning. Unless you turn the steering wheel the other way, you may find yourself skidding in the opposite direction.



Turn in the direction of a rear-wheel skid.

Front wheel skids – Most front wheel skids are caused by driving too fast for conditions. Another cause includes lack of tread on the front tires. In a front wheel skid, the front end tends to go in a straight line regardless of how much you turn the steering wheel. On a very slippery surface, you may not be able to steer around a curve or turn.

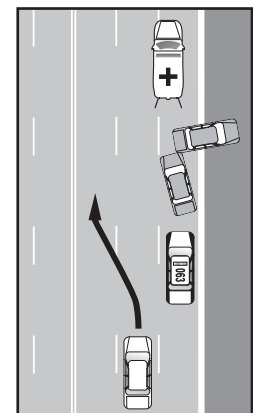
1. The only way to stop a front-wheel skid is to slow down as quickly as possible.

Emergency Vehicles

Yield – You must pull to the right immediately, clear any intersection and stop for an emergency vehicle using its lights or sirens.

Passing a Stopped Emergency Vehicle – When approaching a stopped emergency vehicle, you must:

1. Decrease your speed to less than the posted limit and obey the basic rule for “reasonable and proper” speed.
2. If possible, move to a lane that is not adjacent to the emergency vehicle.
3. Proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.
4. Obey the directions of any law enforcement officer.



When passing stopped emergency vehicles, slow to less than the posted limit and move into a non-adjacent lane.

Adverse Conditions

Level IV

Law Enforcement Stops

All drivers should know the proper procedures for a law enforcement stop.

1. Stop your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic as possible.
2. Stay in your vehicle, and if you are stopped at night, turn on the interior light.
3. Keep your hands in plain view at all times, preferably on the steering wheel.
4. Wait for the officer to request your license, registration and evidence of insurance.
5. Obey all lawful orders and don't argue the citation with the officer. If you think the citation was wrongly issued, the proper procedure is to attend the scheduled court hearing.

Officers are trained to ask for identification first and provide an explanation of why you were stopped second. Provide the documents requested, then give the officer a chance to explain why you were stopped. Remember, in most cases, the officer is in uniform and is displaying a badge and name tag. You have the advantage of knowing with whom you are dealing; the officer does not.



The vast majority of traffic "accidents" are both predictable and preventable.

Know the law and follow the proper procedures when driving.

It will keep you and your family safe!

Your Duty to Stop

Nevada law requires you to stop and follow the proper procedures for any crash, no matter how minor.

Leaving the scene of an accident involving death or bodily injury is a serious felony offense.

The minimum penalty is two years in prison and a fine of \$2,000.

Crashes

NRS 484.219 – 484.236

If you are involved in a vehicle crash, Nevada law requires you to:

1. Stop without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.
2. In crashes with no injuries, move the vehicles out of traffic as soon as it is safe and practicable.
3. Remain at the scene.
4. Render assistance to any injured party.
5. Give others involved your name, address, driver's license number, registration and insurance information. You must show your driver's license if requested.
6. You must try to notify the owner if you have damaged an unattended vehicle or property. If you cannot locate the owner, you must leave a note with your contact information.
7. You must report the accident to law enforcement if no officer is present.
8. You must file an SR-1 Accident Report Form with the DMV within 10 days if:
 - The accident was not investigated by law enforcement.
 - The accident caused any injury or \$750 or more in property damage.

The Full License - Are You Ready?

Test Drives

Once the beginning driver has completed at least 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience, take one or more longer test drives to evaluate the overall performance. Use the following checklist to help determine whether you and your teen feel comfortable in each of the listed areas.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Driving Checks, Seat Belts | <input type="checkbox"/> School Zones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Forward, Backing Up | <input type="checkbox"/> Center Left Turn Lane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stopping, Right-of-Way Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> Roundabouts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turns – Right, Left, U-Turns | <input type="checkbox"/> Freeways – Entering, Driving, Exiting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking – Four Types | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Highways – Curves, Passing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Following Distances | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Search Skills, Mirror Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad Weather, ABS Braking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entering and Exiting Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Skids, Running off the Pavement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intersections – Driving Through, Turning | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changing Lanes | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement Stops, Crashes |

Have a Straight Talk

Skills in handling a vehicle are essential, but there is a larger question: Just because the law allows your teenager to drive, should your teenager be driving? Is he or she really ready? Safety behind the wheel is much more important than rushing to get licensed.

You and your teen should have an open, honest discussion of whether the new driver is ready to take on the full responsibility of operating a vehicle. Some points to consider:



- **Risky Behaviors** – Alcohol and Drugs, Speeding and Aggressive Driving, Seat Belt Use
- **Risky Environments** – Teenage Passengers, Other Distractions, Night Driving
- **Consequences** – Injury and Fatal Crashes, Property Damage Crashes, Citations and Arrests
- **Finances** – Insurance and Registration, Maintenance and Repairs, Buying a Car

You may wish to draw up and sign a Parent/Teen Contract to establish a clear set of rules and outline the consequences of breaking them. Sample contracts are readily available online and from many insurance companies and other organizations.

You should contact the DMV to schedule a drive test only when you, your teen and your entire family are comfortable with the decision to go ahead.

Inside Back Cover

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Nevada Beginning Driver Training Guide

Acknowledgments

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DMV Administrative Offices

Your feedback on this manual is important and appreciated. Please contact us.



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