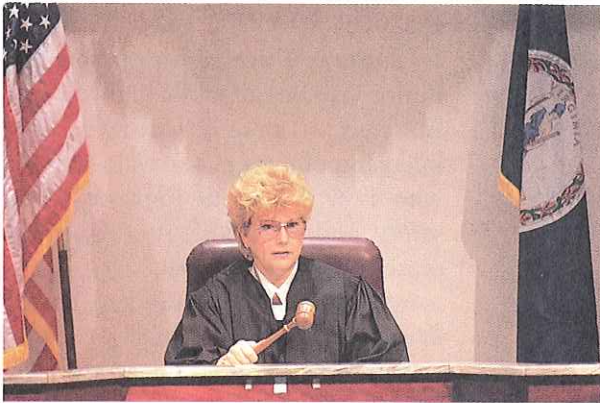


CHAPTER 5 OBJECTIVES

LESSON ONE



Each State Has Administrative Laws

1. Identify the procedures that are regulated by administrative laws.
2. Describe how to comply with administrative laws.

LESSON TWO



Right-of-Way Rules Are Essential

3. Define the meaning of the term *right of way*.
4. Identify when you should yield right of way.

LESSON THREE



Speed Limits Help in Reducing Risk

5. Define the meaning of the following kinds of speed limits: fixed, advisory, and day and night.
6. Explain under what conditions posted speed limits do not apply.

LESSON FOUR



If You Are Involved in a Collision

7. Describe the actions that you should take if you are involved in a collision.

Rules and laws are vital to a smooth-running society. Before you can join the society of drivers, you need to know about its laws and ordinances.

Traffic laws are important for a variety of reasons.

- ◆ They provide rules for the behavior of drivers.
- ◆ They help drivers predict what others on the road will do.
- ◆ They serve as a guide to police and courts.
- ◆ They promote the orderly flow of traffic and help prevent collisions.



Excessive speed can cost you points. Excessive speed also wastes fuel. Be responsible!

What Are Administrative Laws?

Each state has laws that enable state officials to control the operation of the state's highway transportation system. Among the laws are *administrative laws*, which establish the procedures for:

- ◆ issuing driver's licenses and learner's permits
- ◆ registering motor vehicles
- ◆ financial responsibilities of drivers and owners
- ◆ minimum safety equipment and care of an automobile

How Do You Comply with Administrative Laws?

To drive and own a car, you must obey your state's motor vehicle laws—beginning with obtaining a license to drive.

Getting a Driver's License

Granting a license to operate any motor vehicle on public highways is a function of state government. The licensing of drivers serves to identify who is a driver, to improve traffic safety, and to provide funding to operate various programs.

In order to be allowed to have a driver's license, you must pass a series of tests. Each state tests people's knowledge of signs, signals, and markings; traffic laws; and safe driving practices. The tests may be written or computerized.

All states test for minimum visual requirements and typically raise questions concerning hearing or special physical conditions. In most states, the last step is a driving test, sometimes called a road or in-vehicle test. You take the driving test to demonstrate that you have vehicle control skills. If you pass these tests and pay the necessary fees, you will receive a driver's license.

Because states have the power to issue licenses, states also have the power to take them away. States can suspend, or take away, licenses for a specified period of time—usually for 30 to 90 days, but less than 365 days. States can also revoke licenses. This means states can take licenses away for a year or more, after which the person whose license has been revoked can apply for another license. Revocation is sometimes permanent for habitual offenders, that is, drivers who repeatedly commit serious traffic violations.

Violations and the Point System

How does the state decide when to take away a person's driver's license? Most states use a *point system*. Various traffic violations "cost" a number of points, depending on their seriousness. When a driver is ticketed for violating a traffic law and is convicted, a report is sent to the state's department of motor vehicles. The points are then put on the driver's record.

If a driver whose license has been suspended continues to get points when the suspension is lifted, the license can be revoked. Some violations are so serious that offenders can lose their licenses immediately upon conviction. These violations include the following:

- ◆ driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- ◆ leaving the scene of an accident in which there has been an injury
- ◆ using a motor vehicle in the commission of a crime

Certificate of Title

States issue a certificate of title when you buy a car. This certificate is proof that you own the car. The state keeps a copy of this title. Anyone selling a car must supply a certificate of title to the buyer. The certificate of title lists the name of the owner and the make, style, vehicle identification number (VIN), and engine number of the car.

Vehicle Registration

Once you purchase a car, you must register it with the state. Once you do

so, you will receive a vehicle registration form and license plates. In states where liability insurance is required, you must provide the name of the company who insures your automobile. Registration must be renewed yearly. You should always have your registration in the car.

Insurance

Part of the responsibility of driving is the ability to prove financial responsibility. This means that you must show that you can pay for damages you may cause if you are in a crash that results in death, injury, or property damage to others. You will learn more about automobile insurance in Chapter 15.

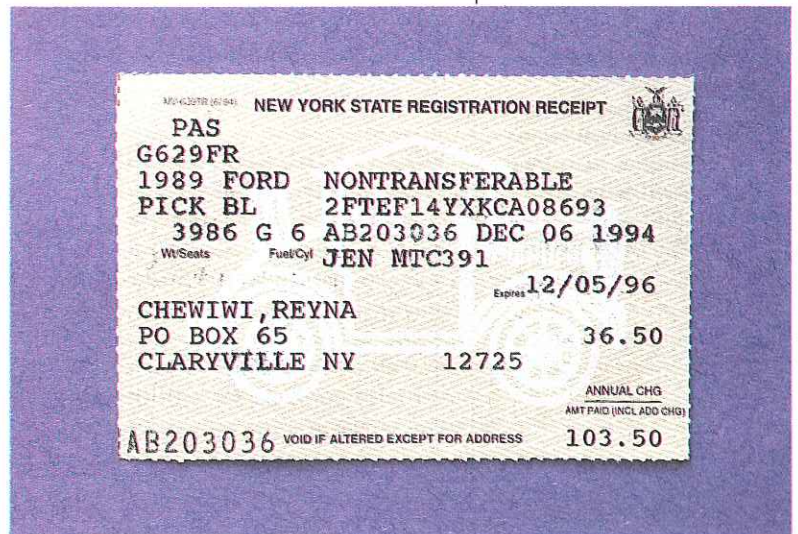
CHECKPOINT

1. What administrative laws does every state have?
2. What do administrative laws require you to do?



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Where is a good place to keep your car's registration?





A majority of drivers fail to stop at stop signs. It is important to keep this in mind when you try to anticipate the actions of other drivers.



When you are on a side street approaching a well-traveled road, stop at the intersection even if a stop sign is not present. Proceed when you are sure you have enough time and space to do so.

When you drive, sometimes one or more drivers or pedestrians will want to use the same roadway space at the same time that you do. How can you avoid a collision? You can determine who should go first and who should wait. To do so, you need to know the rules about right of way.

What Is Right of Way?

As a good driver, you will sometimes have to yield right of way, or let others go first. *Never assume that you automatically have the right of way.* Right of way is always given by someone. Right-of-way laws are very clear in identifying who shall yield to whom in almost every situation. However, human beings make mistakes. The rule that you must yield right of way in order to avoid a collision overrides all the others.

Right-of-way laws of all states are based on the Uniform Vehicle Code. Therefore, the laws about when drivers should yield the right of way are the same from state to state.

When Should You Yield the Right of Way?

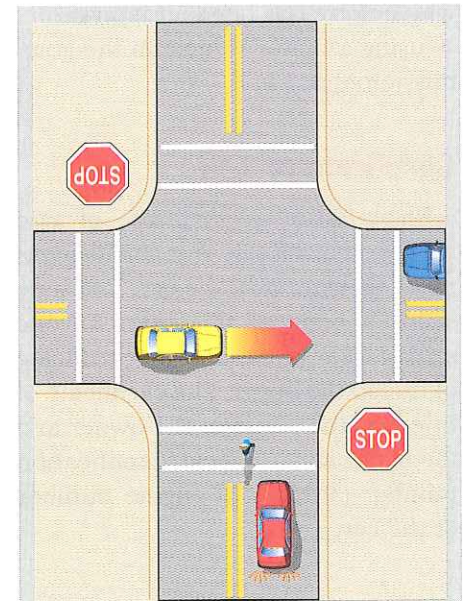
Here are three situations in which you must yield right of way.

- ◆ You must yield to any emergency vehicle, such as an ambulance, that has its sirens on and its lights flashing. Move to the far right of the road and stop if you are on a two-way, two-lane roadway or on a multiple-

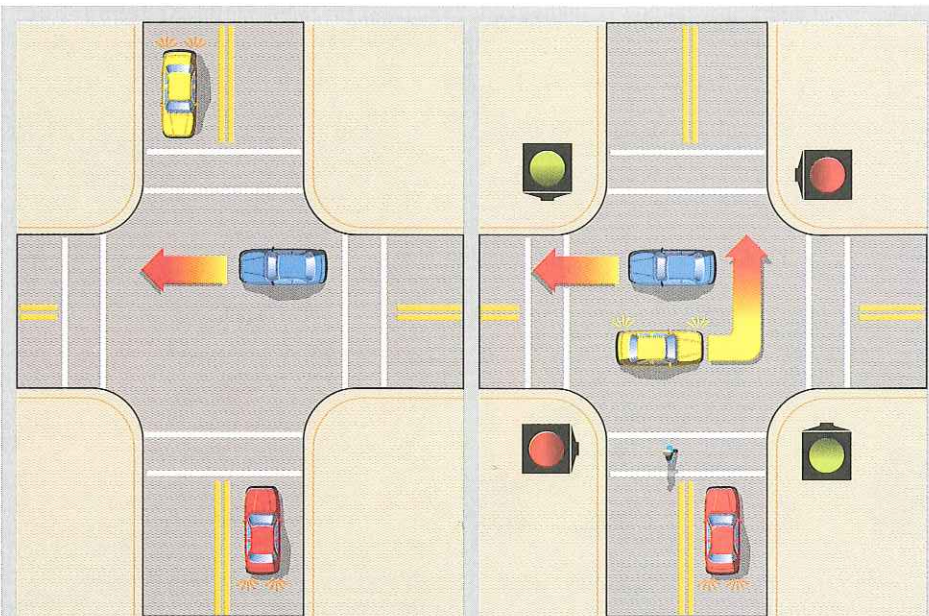
lane highway going in the same direction as the emergency vehicle. If you are going in the opposite direction on a multiple-lane road, you do not have to stop, but you should move to the right.

- ◆ You must yield to blind persons carrying a white cane or using a guide dog, no matter where they cross.
- ◆ You must yield to any pedestrians at crosswalks.

On the following pages, you will find some of the right-of-way situations that come up most often. In each picture, the red car must yield. In all these situations, drivers must yield to pedestrians who are crossing at crosswalks.

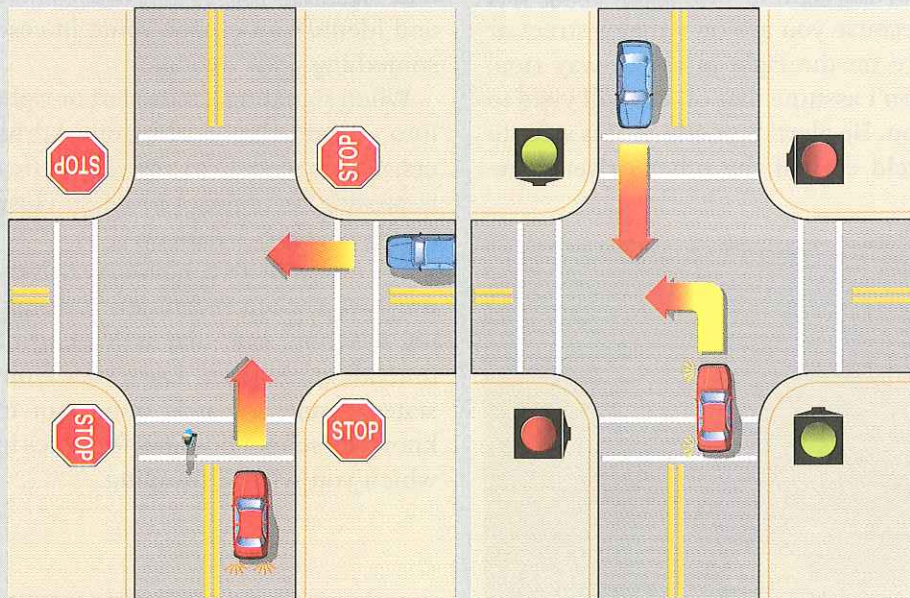


At STOP signs, yield to traffic on the through street.



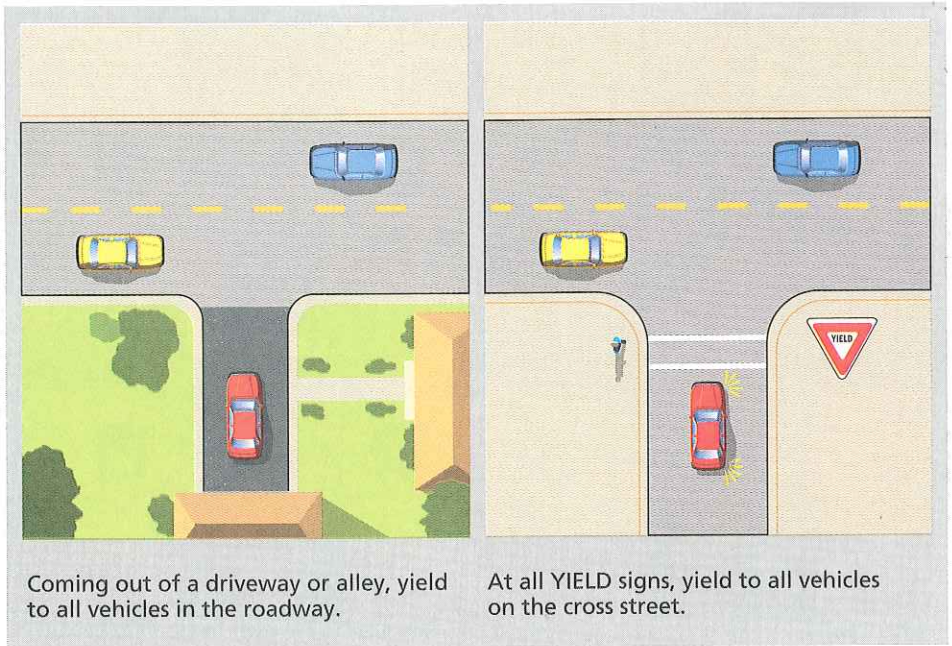
At intersections not controlled by traffic signs or signals, yield to vehicles already in the intersection. Drivers on the left must yield to those on their right.

At traffic lights, yield to vehicles still in the intersection when the light changes.



At four-way stops, yield to vehicles that arrive first. If you arrive at the same time, yield to a vehicle from the right.

When you are turning left at an intersection, yield to all oncoming vehicles until you have the time and space to make a turn.



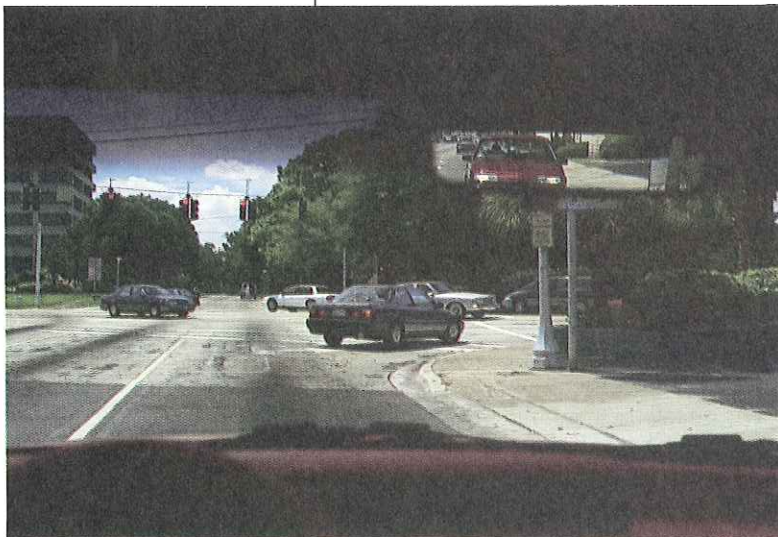
?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
To whom would you yield? Why?

One of the most common violations in fatal collisions involving more than one car is a driver's failure to yield right of way. Remember, just because you are on a major street or are on the right at a four-way stop, don't assume that others will yield to you. Be alert! Sometimes it is safer to yield even if the other driver is re-

quired by law to yield. To manage risk, you should remember that others will not always obey traffic signs and signals. Make yourself visible and identify an escape route in case something goes wrong.

When signaling a move left or right into a lane being used by other drivers, you must yield to any vehicle that is passing or appears to be so close that it presents a danger.

On a nondivided highway, drivers must stop when meeting or overtaking a school bus that is loading or unloading children. Laws vary from state to state, so it is important to know the school bus laws for states in which you will be traveling.



CHECKPOINT

3. What does *right of way* mean?
4. In which situations should you yield the right of way?

The most important requirements for safe driving are visibility, time, and space. Together they determine the speed at which you can travel safely. What is a safe speed? Posted maximum speed limits give guidelines to answer this question, but only under ideal conditions.

Speed limits are chosen carefully to protect you and other drivers. Traffic engineers study road conditions and evaluate the road surface, the average amount of traffic, and any hidden dangers. They also know how many collisions have happened at any given location. A speed limit is decided upon only after all these factors have been taken into consideration. Further studies may also be conducted to see if limits should be lowered as congestion increases.

What Kinds of Speed Limits Are There?

All states post speed limits on their roadways. These speed-limit signs reflect the *maximum* speed at which you can drive under the best of conditions. For example, you would not drive at the maximum allowable speed in the middle of a snowstorm, but you might do so on a clear day.

Posted speed limits do not tell you at what speed to drive. They only say you cannot safely go faster or, in special cases, slower than the speed shown. Most states have speed limits posted even off interstate highways. All states also have basic speed limits

that mean you cannot drive at speeds slower or faster than conditions safely permit. What does this mean to you as a driver?

Fixed Speed Limits

Fixed speed limits are the maximum and minimum speeds that a car may be driven on a particular roadway. Drivers may never travel at a speed faster than the maximum posted speed. Drivers whose speed is greater than the posted maximum speed can be arrested and, if convicted, made to pay a fine.

Drivers can also be arrested and ticketed for driving too slowly. A car traveling below the minimum posted speed limit can be dangerous to other drivers who must suddenly slow down when they approach this car. Slow drivers can also make other drivers nervous or angry and cause traffic tie-ups and congestion.



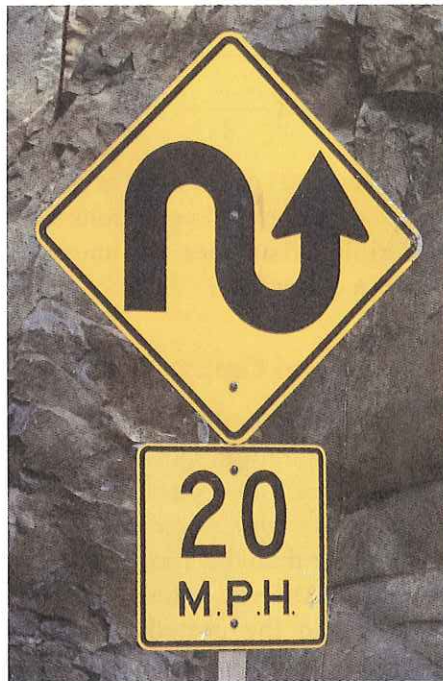
Tips for New Drivers

Being Pulled Over

What should you do if you are pulled over by the police?

- Stay calm.
- Remain in your car, keeping your hands visible.
- Produce requested documents quickly and efficiently.
- Be courteous. Do not argue with, insult, or touch the officer.
- Do not lie, cry, or make excuses.
- Never try to bribe the officer. Bribery is illegal!

Note the advisory speed limit sign. You should not exceed 20 mph on this curve. ▶



Advisory Speed Limits

All roads are not straight and flat. There are hills, curves, and other changes in the roadway. Drivers need to adjust their speed for these chang-

es. Advisory speed limits interrupt normal driving speed for a limited time. They provide guidelines for adjusting speed.

For example, a warning sign is usually posted before a sharp curve on two-lane highways and exit ramps. If the curve is very sharp, a square yellow advisory speed sign may be posted beneath the warning sign to advise you of the maximum safe speed for that curve. In addition, chevron-shaped markings may be used to emphasize the risk. Like all speed limits, advisory limits are based on ideal road conditions.

Day and Night Speed Limits

Some states have lower speed limits at night. Night driving is more dangerous because it is hard to see in the dark. Driving at a lower speed gives drivers more time to search for visual clues and to identify objects or conditions that could increase risk.



THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTION

If you drive in Mexico or Canada, you will see signs in Spanish or French. In both countries, another “language” is used on signs as well. It is the “language” of the metric system of measurement.

Distances on destination signs in Mexico and Canada are given in kilometers rather than in miles. Similarly, speed limit signs refer not to *miles per hour* but to *kilometers per hour*. The speed limit sign you see here means 100 kilometers per hour (km/h), or about 65 miles per hour. You can figure out whether you are traveling within the allowable speed limit by converting kilometers per hour to miles per hour. To make a rough estimate, take half of the posted speed limit and add a little more. Half of 100 is 50, and a little more is 60 or 65. For a closer estimate, take $\frac{5}{8}$ of the posted speed limit. Then check your speedometer to see whether you are traveling between 60 and 65 miles per hour.

When you drive in another country, make sure you know whether that country uses the metric system of measurement. If it does, remember to account for that fact. To help you out, the speedometers in many car models record speeds both in miles per hour and in kilometers per hour.

What Are Basic Speed Laws?

No matter what speed limit is posted, all states have a basic speed rule in their traffic laws that says: *Always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions.*

A safe speed at any time is determined by the type and condition of the road and by such factors as the traffic, weather, and light. Your ability to manage visibility, time, and space also determines what is a safe speed at any given time.

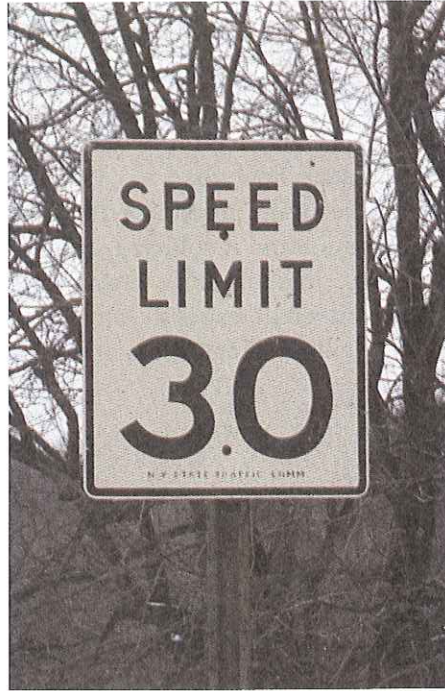
By law, drivers must go slower than the minimum posted speed if poor road or traffic conditions make that speed unsafe. In such cases, the arresting officer must show that the driver was going too fast for the weather, road, or traffic conditions at that time.

Driving faster than the posted speed limit is never safe or reasonable and is always illegal.

Take note of these facts about speed. The higher the speed:

- ◆ the less time the driver has to spot dangerous situations and take action
- ◆ the greater the time and distance it takes to stop a vehicle
- ◆ the greater the chance the car will skid or roll over on a turn
- ◆ the greater the force of impact will be in a collision
- ◆ the greater the personal injuries and property damage will be in a collision

Drivers can also be arrested for driving too slowly. In these cases, the officer must show that the speed was so slow that it caused danger to other drivers going at a reasonable speed.



◀ A speed of 30 mph may not be reasonable and proper in snowy weather.

CHECKPOINT

5. What are the different kinds of speed limits?
6. What are the basic speed laws?



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

It's raining, and you see this sign. At what speed would you drive? Why?



No matter how good a driver you are, there is no guarantee that you can always avoid a collision. Human suffering, loss of time, legal problems, and great expense can result from a collision regardless of who is at fault.

What Should You Do If You Are in a Collision?

After a collision some people may panic or react in strange ways. They may also be in a state of shock. If you are in a collision, you should try to remain calm. Remember that the

collision scene is no place to begin arguing with the other driver or with the police. Do not accuse anyone of causing the collision and do not admit fault yourself. Sign only forms given to you by the police. Do not sign any other statements at the scene. You have the legal right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

If you are involved in a collision, you should:

Stop immediately Drivers who do not stop when involved in a collision are breaking the law. Unless someone was seriously injured or killed, and if you can still drive your car, try to move it off the roadway and out of traffic. Turn off the ignition to prevent the risk of fire.

Warn others if possible If you can't move your car out of traffic, you must do everything you can to notify other drivers that there is a problem ahead. Turn on your hazard flashers. If you have flares or reflecting triangles, set them up at least 100 feet ahead of and behind the collision scene. If you don't have them, ask someone, possibly another driver who offers to help, to stand at the side of the road out of traffic and wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth to warn oncoming traffic.

Give aid to the injured Check for injured persons. Try to make them comfortable, but do not move them unless you know what you are doing. Moving an injured person can result in more serious injury. Do

Collisions are frightening, but knowing what to do if you are involved in one can help you to stay calm.



what you can to provide first aid. (You will learn more about first aid in Chapter 14.)

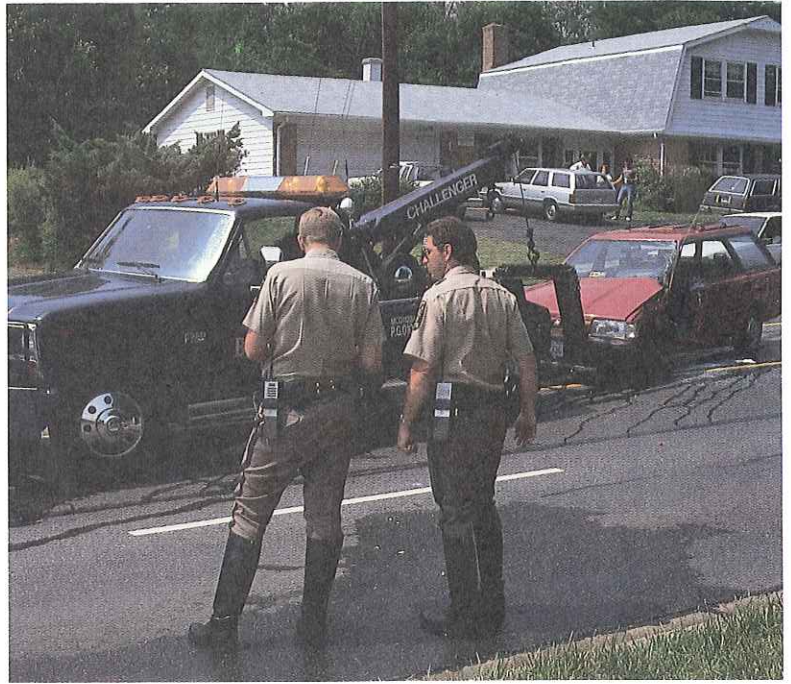
Try to get medical help If you or someone who has stopped to help has a car phone or a CB, use it to call an ambulance. Or try to flag down another driver to go for aid or call the appropriate emergency services.

Call the police By law, a collision resulting in injury, death, or property damage above a given dollar value must be reported to the police. A few states require that all collisions be reported no matter what the damages are.

Exchange information Drivers involved in collisions should exchange information with the other driver and any passengers. You should exchange drivers' and passengers' names and addresses, driver's license information, names of insurance companies, and vehicle registration information. If you are involved in a collision with a parked car, you should try to locate the owner. If you cannot, leave a note under the windshield wiper blades containing the same information that you would exchange at any other collision scene. For your records, write down the license number of the car that is struck.

Get names and addresses of witnesses You have already exchanged information with the other driver and passengers. If there are witnesses at the scene, write down their names and addresses too. You might need them to verify your account of the collision.

Stay at the scene If you are uninjured, remain at the scene of the collision until your help is no longer needed. If people have been seriously



injured or killed, remain at the scene until the police allow you to leave.

Make accident reports Drivers involved in any collision that results in injury should make a written report to the police and to the department of motor vehicles. States have different laws about reporting property damage under certain amounts. Know what your state law requires. Check your state driver's manual or motor vehicle department to get this information. If you do not file a report, your driver's license could be suspended regardless of whether or not the collision was your fault. Of course, you should also inform your insurance company.

See a doctor Even if you have been treated at the scene of the collision, be sure to see your own doctor. Some injuries do not appear right away. Be safe and get yourself checked out thoroughly.

▲ *Make a written accident report to the police, even if you have talked with them at the collision scene.*



Death rates are higher for occupants of small pickup trucks and small utility vehicles than for any other type of passenger vehicles, including the smallest cars.

Advice From the Experts

Daryl W. Jones, Manager, Driver Training Programs, AAA Driver Safety Services



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You have had a collision. The other driver says that there's no need to get the police involved. What would you tell the driver?



Daryl W. Jones

Driving is risky business. Over 40,000 people are killed and 3,000,000 injured in the 11,000,000 reported collisions on U.S. highways each year. The five leading causes of collisions are speeding, inattention to the driving task, failure to obey stop signs and signals, failure to yield the right of way, and driving under the influence.

To reduce risk, drivers must manage visibility, time, and space effectively. They must also be aware of their vehicle's traction capabilities. Good traction is essential to effectively stop, start, and turn.

Legal consequences of a collision can be very serious. If a collision is the result of your having broken a traffic law, you may, depending on

the severity of the crash:

- ◆ be fined and have to pay court costs.
- ◆ have your license suspended or revoked.
- ◆ be sent to jail.

If it is found that you were intoxicated or under the influence of other drugs at the time of the collision, the penalties are even more severe.

If you pass a collision scene and help appears needed, you should stop well off the roadway and offer whatever assistance that you can. However, if the situation appears under control, keep going. Stopping at the scene of a collision when it is unnecessary for you to do so can cause additional hazards for others who are using the roadway.

CHECKPOINT

7. What are your responsibilities if you are in a collision?



CHAPTER 5 REVIEW

KEY POINTS

LESSON ONE

1. Every state has administrative laws that set standards for issuing driver's licenses and learner's permits, certificates of title, motor vehicle registration, and financial responsibility requirements.

2. To comply with the administrative laws, drivers must obtain a driver's license, maintain an acceptable driving record, obtain a certificate of title when buying a car, register the vehicle, and prove financial responsibility by obtaining automobile insurance.

LESSON TWO

3. *Right of way* means that one driver is required to yield when making a move in traffic.

4. You must yield the right of way to emergency vehicles, blind persons, and pedestrians in crosswalks. At intersections not controlled by signals or signs, yield to vehicles already in the intersection. At stop or yield signs, yield to traffic on the cross street. At four-way stops, yield to vehicles that arrive first; if you arrive at the same time, yield to the vehicle at the right. Coming out of a driveway or alley, yield to all vehicles in the roadway. At traffic lights, vehicles still in the intersection when the light changes must be given the right of way. When moving into a lane used by

other drivers, yield to passing vehicles. Stop when a school bus stops.

LESSON THREE

5. Fixed speed limits are the maximum and minimum speeds that a car may be driven on a particular roadway. Advisory speed limits provide guidelines when an adjustment in speed is needed, such as when approaching a sharp curve in the road. Day and night speed limits take into account the increased difficulty of night driving. A lower speed limit is posted for night driving.

6. The basic speed law states, *Always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions*. For example, if the weather is bad or the road condition is poor or traffic is heavy, a driver can be arrested for speeding even if that driver is within the posted maximum speed.

LESSON FOUR

7. Drivers involved in a collision must stop immediately and turn off the ignition, warn others if possible, give aid to the injured, try to get medical help, call the police, exchange relevant information, get names and addresses of witnesses, stay at the scene, make accident reports, and see a doctor to check out any possible injuries.

PROJECTS

1. Find out the location of your area's department of motor vehicles. Visit it or write a letter asking for a copy of your state's driver's manual. Do the same with two neighboring states. Report on laws that are the same as the laws in your state and those that are different.

2. Ask at least four drivers if they can name five facts about speed. Prepare a report on your findings. You may want to compare your report with those of others in your class and put together a combined report on drivers' attitudes and knowledge about speeding and speed laws.

CHAPTER 5 REVIEW





BUILDING MAP SKILLS

Using Coordinates

You want to find Port Allen, Louisiana, on the map. How can you do that quickly?

First find Port Allen on the map index. It is listed alphabetically. Beside the name you will see H-12. These are *coordinates*.

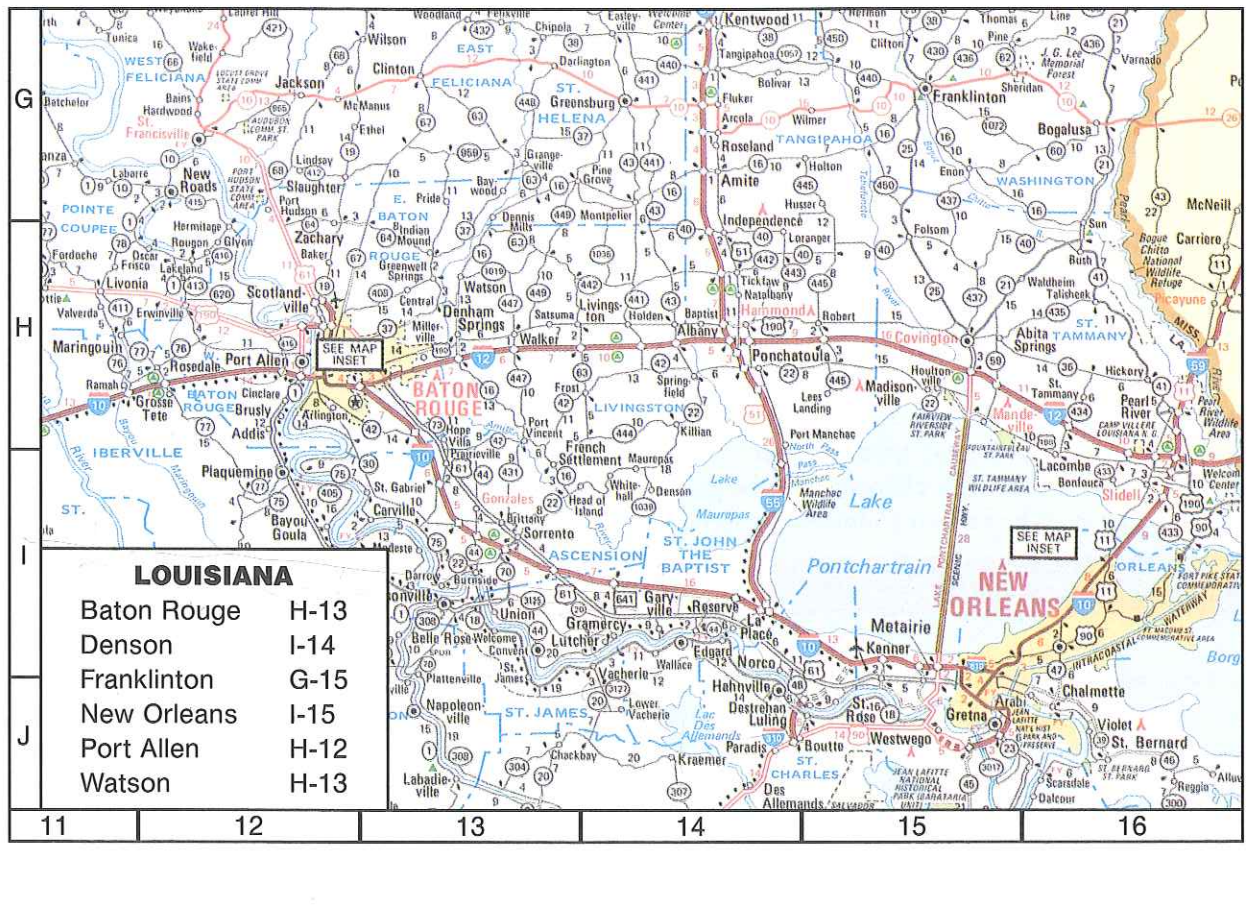
Look at the map. There are letters along the left side and numbers along the bottom. Find the H and put your left finger on it. Now find the 12. Move your left finger straight across the map until it is above the 12. Port Allen is in that area.

Notice the  beside Port Allen. This means it is a county seat. A  stands for a town, a  stands for a city, and  stands for the state capital. If you scan the map quickly, you can see

that the names of cities and towns are written in different-size type. The larger the type, the greater the population.

Try It Yourself

1. Find Denson on the map. Is its population greater or less than the population of Port Allen?
2. Find Franklinton and Watson. Which is a county seat?
3. Find Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Which is the capital of Louisiana? Which has the smaller population?



CHAPTER 5 REVIEW

CHAPTER TEST

Write the letter of the answer that best completes each sentence.

- If you are in a collision and the other driver is injured, you should
 - go home and call an ambulance.
 - stay at the scene until police arrive.
 - run away as fast as you can.
- Posted speed limits
 - tell you at what speed you must drive.
 - are only on interstate highways.
 - indicate you cannot safely go faster or slower than certain speeds.
- The higher the speed, the more likely it is that a vehicle will
 - develop engine problems.
 - roll over on a turn.
 - get excellent gas mileage.
- Administrative laws set standards for
 - rules of the road.
 - minimum speed allowed.
 - motor vehicle registration.
- On a two-lane street, an ambulance is coming from behind with its siren blaring. You should
 - pull over to the left and stop.
 - pull over to the right and stop.
 - increase your speed.
- At an intersection, a person with a guide dog steps off the curb. You
 - tap your horn and continue forward.
 - stop to yield right of way.
 - drive around the person.
- Your driver's license can be revoked if you
 - are convicted of DUI or DWI.
 - get into a collision.
 - drive below the minimum speed limit.
- Two drivers who have been in a collision should
 - avoid any contact with each other or witnesses.
 - split the cost of any damages.
 - exchange names, addresses, and other information.
- Right-of-way rules determine
 - minimum speed limits in each state.
 - procedures for turning right.
 - who should yield right of way.
- You must pass a series of tests in order to
 - increase your number of driving points.
 - obtain a driver's license.
 - obtain a certificate of title.

Write the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

- advisory speed limits Uniform Vehicle Code
basic speed rule accident report
vehicle registration information point system
- The _____ states that you should always drive at a speed that is reasonable and proper for existing conditions.
 - If you are involved in a collision, you should make a(n) _____.
 - Most states use a _____ to keep track of traffic violations by individual drivers.
 - All states have right-of-way laws that are based on the _____.
 - _____ provide guidelines for adjusting speed to roadway conditions.

DRIVER'S LOG

In this chapter, you have learned about the rules and laws that govern the roadways and the motorists who use them. Write about the five rules

you think you will have the most trouble remembering. Explain what you will do to jog your memory.



CHAPTER ♦ 6

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAR

It is important for you to know and understand your car's systems and the checks you should make before you start driving. Understanding the function and purpose of each system and what the lights and gauges can tell you will help you to manage risk.