

# WASHINGTON SPEED REQUIREMENTS

## Speed limits

- Speed limits are set for safety. They are the fastest speed allowed in good driving conditions.
- Traffic engineers determine and set speed limits based on the type of road, amount of traffic, hidden dangers, and collisions at the location.
- Speed limits don't tell you how fast to drive. They tell you that you cannot go faster than the posted speed limit. The maximum speed is set for ideal conditions like on a clear day.
- Some states also have minimum speed limits.

**Basic speed law says you must drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent at all times regardless of the posted speed or maximum limit.**

- If you drive at a speed that is unsafe for existing conditions in any area, even if you are driving slower than the posted speed, you can be cited for violating the basic rule.

What factors must be taken in consideration when obeying this law? **Weather, hazards, visibility**

**Maximum Speed Limits:** *Unless otherwise posted.*

**SCHOOL ZONE:** 20 mph    **TOWN/ CITY:** 25 mph    **COUNTY ROAD:** 50 mph    **STATE HIGHWAYS:** 60 mph

**When should you start increasing your speed for speed limit increase?** When you get to the sign.

**Advisory Speed Limits:** These speed limits are set for special conditions such as a sharp curve ahead and are often posted below a warning sign that makes you aware of the condition. Ignoring these signs puts you at risk for being involved in a preventable collision.



## RIGHT OF WAY

**Right of Way:** Privilege of having the use of that part of the roadway first.

**Yield:** Let others go before you.

- A right of way law does not give anyone the right of way; it only says who must yield. You must do everything you can to prevent collision regardless of the circumstances.
- There will be times when you will have to slow or stop your vehicle to let others continue safely, even if they should have yielded to you.

## Intersections

**Who goes first at a 4-way intersection?** Whoever gets there first.

**What are uncontrolled intersections? Who yields to who?** Intersections with no signs or signals. Those already in the intersection and those coming from the left.

**Yield to oncoming vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians when turning left.**

**Sharing the Road:** Responsibility is shared by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

- **Pedestrians have the right of way at intersections whether the crosswalk is marked or not.**
- **What about blind pedestrians?** They have absolute right of way

## Bicycles

Bicyclists have the *choice* to ride on the roadway, on the shoulder of a road, in a bicycle lane, or on a sidewalk.

- **When riding on the road:** Bicyclists have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities of a motor vehicle driver.
- **When riding on the side of the road or sidewalk:** Have all rights and duties of a pedestrian.

When passing a bicyclist allow at least 3 feet of space when overtaking or passing a bicycle. When following bicyclists, give them plenty of room and be prepared to stop quickly.

When riding at night, a bicycle must have a red reflector visible for 600 feet to the rear and a white light visible in the front for 500 feet.

## Emergency vehicle

- Pull over to the right side of the road.
- If you are in an intersection, drive through it before you pull over.
- If the light is red, stay where you are.
- When following emergency vehicles – Police vehicles, ambulances, and fire trucks need more room to operate. Do not follow closer than 500 feet to a fire truck.

## Transit vehicle

**When must you yield to a transit vehicle?** When they are signaling to return to the roadway.

## School Bus

You must stop for a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing.

You are not required to stop if the school bus is traveling in the opposite direction AND

- Has 3 or marked traffic lanes
- Is separated by a median or is separated by a physical barrier.

## DRIVING SAFELY AMONG BICYCLISTS – Video Question

*Circle the correct answer.*

**1. True or False**

Bicyclists have no legal right to ride on the roadway, occupy a lane, or pull out of a bicycle lane to make a turn or avoid an obstruction.

**2. In turning at a corner or pulling into a driveway, a driver should?**

- A. Yield to oncoming bicyclists rather than rushing to beat the bicyclist.
- B. Watch to bicyclists who are in the crosswalk or on an adjacent sidewalk.
- C. Check blind spot and side mirror to make sure a bicyclist is not beside the car.
- D. **All of the above.**

**3. What minimum distance should a driver maintain between her car and the bicyclist when they pass on a roadway or in a bike lane?**

- A. At least 1 foot from the widest point of both the car and bicyclist.
- B. At least 2 feet from the widest point of both the car and bicyclist.
- C. **At least 3 feet from the widest point of both the car and bicyclist.**
- D. At least 4 feet from the widest point of both the car and bicyclist.

**4. When a driver approaches a bicyclist from the rear, the driver should:**

- A. Shout or throw an object to get the bicyclist to ride on the sidewalk.
- B. Race the engine or honk to warn the bicyclist.
- C. **Wait until traffic clears so that the car can pull out and pass with at least 3 feet of space.**
- D. None of these

**5. True or False**

Motor vehicles may not park in bicycle lanes or use bicycle lanes as a turn lane at intersections.

**6. Even if a bicycle lane is present, bicyclists are legally permitted to use a lane of traffic in which of the following circumstances.**

- A. When passing another bicyclist or riding two abreast.
- B. When there are obstructions, glass or other hazards in the bicycle lane.
- C. When making a left turn or using a left turn lane.
- D. **All of the above**

**7. True or False**

When proceeding from a stop sign, a motorist must yield to a bicycle that has the right of way under right of way rules.

**8. A driver should be alert to:**

- A. A bicyclist riding into the street from a driveway or side street.
- B. Opening a car door in the path of an oncoming bicyclist.
- C. A bicyclist riding against the traffic flow.
- D. **All of the above.**

**9. True or False**

In Washington, bicycles may ride two abreast (side by side) on a roadway.

**10. True or False**

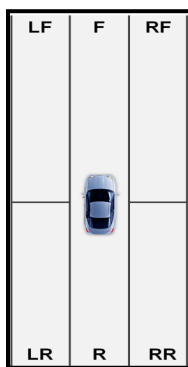
Motorists who are turning off a roadway have the right of way over bicyclists proceeding straight on the roadway.

## HAZARD RECOGNITION

### What is a hazard?

Most crashes involve line-of-sight and/or path-of-travel problems that the driver doesn't FIND or sees so late there's not enough time or space to SOLVE the problem!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Line-of-Sight Problems: Environment &amp; Other Vehicles</b></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Bushes, trees, fences, parked/ slow moving vehicles</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Path-of-Travel Problems: Environment &amp; Other Traffic</b></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Signs, signals, pedestrians, parked vehicles, bicycles</p>
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**Zone Locations**

Line-of-sight and path-of-travel problems/hazards can be found in any zone location.

- ✓ Those problems limit your lane position and speed control options.
- ✓ When there are no problems you have lots of options.

**Lane Position**

**Speed Control Option**

Accelerate  
Same speed  
Decelerate  
Cover brake  
Apply brake

## DRIVING COMMUNICATION

<p><b>Timely Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Are courteous and cooperative</li> <li>✓ Give you and others the time needed to see and respond to situations</li> <li>✓ Reduce anxiety &amp; stress</li> <li>✓ Reduce risk to yourself and others</li> </ul>	<p><b>Untimely or Non Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Competitive, Aggressive, Uncooperative</li> <li>✓ Decrease the amount of time one needs to see &amp; understand actions</li> <li>✓ Require reaction rather than response</li> <li>✓ Increase stress and anxiety</li> <li>✓ Increase risk to yourself and others</li> </ul>
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**Brainstorm: List options drivers have to communicate their options.**

Signal, headlights, brake lights, reverse lights, horn, hand signals, speed, lane position

## BACKING

**Backing presents more risk than moving forward. Why?**

### 1. Vision

- Vehicle blind area is much larger to the rear.
- Harder to visual monitor what is happening on both sides of the car.

### 2. Control

- The vehicle is much harder to steer while you are backing.
- Back tires don't turn, requires more space to move.

### 3. You are required to yield to other vehicles and pedestrians while backing.



**Reducing risk while backing:**

**Get the best possible vision and control when backing!**

### 1. 360 check

- Before moving your vehicle, do a 360 search.
- Check your mirrors and rear view camera too (if you have one).
- Check for traffic, pedestrians and objects around your car.

### 2. When moving in reverse, most of your vision should be directed out the rear window.

- Target out the rear window like when moving forward.

### 3. Position yourself in the seat for the best vision and best control.

- Place your left hand on the 12 o'clock position on the steering wheel.
- Place your right arm on the back of the seat and turn around so you can look directly through the rear window.

### 4. Keep your head on a swivel

- Make quick glances to the front, both sides, and mirrors until you stop the vehicle.

### 5. Keep it slow

- Unless necessary, stay off the gas!!
- Keep your foot on the brake pedal and adjust pressure to control speed.
  - Inching vs. walking pace
- Moving slowly allows you to monitor what is going on all around your car.

*Twisting around to look out the back window may not be the most comfortable position when seated in the car. We don't back too often or for that long. "Most collisions happen because the driver fails to see what is happening!"*

### 6. Yield

- Stop before sidewalks or entering the road. Look for pedestrians and traffic.
- **If you have line-of-sight blockage... creep back until you can see. Stop again to check traffic.**

#### **Rear Reference Point: Stop before line/ curb**

Depending on what type of vehicle you drive, you can find the rear reference point a couple different ways!

- **Curb appears to be in the middle of the back door.**
- **Lean forward, look over left shoulder.** The curb will appear in corner of window.
- **Side mirror:** Curb will appear right behind rear tire.

## Backing Turns

**Palming the wheel:** Press your palm against the top of the steering wheel and pull the steering wheel down and around.

**Turn the wheel the way you want to turn.** Back Right–Turn Right / Back Left–Turn Left

### Backing onto street

- Back around the corner close enough to the edge of the road so you don't disrupt traffic flow.
- Stay within 18 inches of the curb or edge of the road.

**Pivot Point:** Curb lines up with the corner of the rear window post. This is where you will begin turning the wheel.

- ✓ Trust your spot: The body of the vehicle blocks your view of the ground around you. A good pivot point will keep you close.

### Before turning the wheel

- Check the front swing of the vehicle, so you do not strike anything.

### Control your speed!

- Move at an inching pace and turn the wheel fully.
- ✓ Most of your vision should be directed back with glances to the front and sides!

### Straightening the wheel

When the wheel is fully turned in either direction, counter-steer back to the top of the steering wheel twice.

When you are almost parallel with the roadway, straighten the wheel.

- Left hand in the 12 o'clock position and target out the rear window.

**Turning around: U & Y Turn:** Illegal when the turn cannot be made safely or anywhere a sign prohibits it.

<p><b>U- Turn:</b> Illegal when the turn cannot be made safely or anywhere a sign prohibits it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low traffic areas, mid-block.</li><li>• SMOG</li></ul>	<p><b>Y- Turn: Narrow streets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SMOG</li><li>• Turn left to curb</li><li>• Backup to right</li><li>• Shift to drive</li><li>• Check traffic and go.</li></ul>		
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## PASSENGER RESTRAINT

Fatal collisions continue to decline because of improving vehicle safety features.

<p><b>Passive Restraints:</b> A restraint the occupant does not have to fasten.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Automatic seatbelts &amp; airbags</p>	<p><b>Active Restraints:</b> A restraint the occupant must fasten.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Seatbelts &amp; car seats</p>
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### Washington's Child Restraint Laws

- Children under 13 years old are to be transported in the back seat where it is practical to do so.
- Children up to their 8th birthday, unless they are 4'9" tall, must use a child safety restraint.

### Advantages of Seatbelt Use

Being thrown out of the vehicle is almost always deadly. During a crash, being buckled up helps keep you safe and secure in your vehicle.

- They slow your body down gradually.
- Occupants will not crash into you.

<p><b>Click it or ticket</b></p> <p><b>Primary offense:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current fine: \$124</li></ul>	<p><b>Unbuckled Passengers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 16 years of age and over receive their own ticket.</li><li>• Driver receives ticket for all passengers 15 and younger.</li></ul>
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### Fit Matter

- The seatbelt should come across your shoulder, across your rib cage and the lap belt should be adjusted low across your hips below your stomach.
- These areas are more able to withstand crash forces than other parts of your body.

### Three collisions take place during a crash

1. Vehicle hits object
2. Human
3. Internal

## PARKING: RULES & PARKING MANEUVERS

**Drivers are responsible for making sure their vehicle is not a hazard when it is parked.**

**True or False:** It is against the law to leave **children under 16 years of age** alone in a parked car with the engine running.

**No parking zones** – There are many areas where you cannot park. Check for signs that may prohibit or limit parking. Some parking restrictions are indicated by colored curb markings. Do not park:

- ✓ In an intersection.
- ✓ On a crosswalk or sidewalk.
- ✓ In a construction area if your vehicle will block traffic.
- ✓ Within **30 feet** of a traffic signal, stop sign, or yield sign.
- ✓ Within **20 feet** of a pedestrian safety zone.
- ✓ Within **15 feet** of a fire hydrant.
- ✓ Within **20 feet** of a fire station driveway on the same side of the street or within **75 feet** of the fire station driveway on the other side of the street.
- ✓ Within **50 feet** of a railroad crossing.
- ✓ On a **bridge** or **overpass** or in a **tunnel** or **underpass**.
- ✓ More than **12 inches** from the curb.
- ✓ On the **wrong side** of the street.
- ✓ Within **5 feet** of a driveway, alley, private road, or area of the curb removed or lowered for access to the sidewalk.
- ✓ On the **shoulder of the freeway** unless you have an emergency.

### Angle & Perpendicular Parking

**When moving forward:** Use your turn signal

**Be Courteous:** If you see vehicles backing out, stay back and give them room.

**Get side space (6-8 feet):** The end of the stall line should be no closer than the end of your side view mirror.

**Begin Turn:** See the end of the side view mirror cover the end of the stall line of the parking space.

**Control speed:** Turn into the space using your brake to control speed.

**Target the center of the parking space.**



Parking Reference Points	
<p><b>Angle Parking Reference Point:</b></p> <p><b>Park on the right side:</b> Curb lines up in front corner of driver side window</p> <p><b>Park on left side:</b> Curb lines up with middle of driver side door.</p>	<p><b>Perpendicular Parking Reference Point:</b></p> <p>See line under the side view mirror.</p>

**Within 12"**

- This also applies to angle and perpendicular parking.
- Could cause congestion if parked too far away.
- Bumper over the curb could cause damage underneath.

**If you have the choice, move forward.** If there is an empty spot ahead, move forward. Use rear reference point.

**Leaving parking space**

**When backing:** No signal required. You must yield to all traffic and pedestrians.

Vision & Speed	
Keep your head on a swivel, look back with glances to the front and sides. Control your speed with your brake.	
<p><b>Angle Parking</b></p> <p>1. Back straight slowly until you can see past the bumper of the vehicle in the direction you are backing out.</p>	<p><b>Perpendicular Parking</b></p> <p>1. Back straight slowly until the side mirror covers the taillight.</p>
<p>2. <b>Check front swing:</b> Before turning the wheel, check the front swing so you don't strike the other car when turning.</p> <p>3. <b>Straighten the car:</b> Once the car is straight in your lane, stop. Shift to drive. Release brake pressure and straighten the wheel when moving forward.</p>	

## Backing Perpendicular Park

### Advantages:

- Can get into and out of tight spaces
- Takes less time to park and un-park
- Better view while leaving space
- Avoids backing out into traffic
- Others let you enter traffic flow
- Gives you best control and less stress
- Less risk of hitting something or of being hit

**Approach:** Get 3 feet of side space away from the parking space

#### Set up

- Forward position
- Line up with the center of passenger side window with the middle of car.
- No car. You should see the center of the center of the parking spot.
- Find a 45° angle.
- **Creep and turn wheel fast**
  - Use least forward movement
- **Glance over right shoulder**
  - See the taillight start to disappear in rear corner of window.
  - No car. Align rear corner of window to the edge of the lane line.
- **Stop and shift to reverse.**

#### Backing in

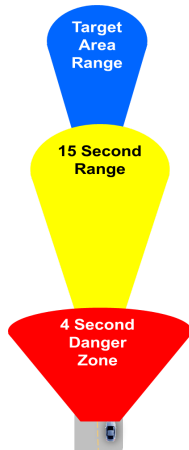
- Look to the right rear, target the center of the space.
- Inch back while turning the wheels.
- When straight in the parking stall, straighten wheel
- Continue to back until at rear reference point.
- Secure car.

# PERCEPTION AND EFFECTIVE SEARCHING

## Accurate perception requires you

- know where to look and what to look for
- use organized searching patterns
- know how to measure space in time
- see problems/hazards as closed zones

Experts say more than 80% of crashes could be prevented if drivers saw and responded to problems sooner.



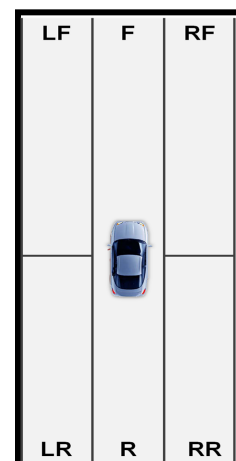
Three Searching Ranges	
<b>Target Area Range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FIND conditions of your destination</li> </ul>
<b>15 Second Range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SOLVE problems 15 seconds away</li> </ul>
<b>4 Second Danger Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CONTROL that space before you enter it.</li> <li>● Re-evaluate to make sure your solutions still work.</li> <li>● The point-of-no-return is 2 seconds away.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It takes longer than 2 seconds to stop.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Measuring Time in Space

### Your ability to measure space in seconds will help you

- **FIND** accurate information early
- **SOLVE** problems from farther away
- **CONTROL** your approach to intersections, curves, stopped traffic, and traffic controls
- Judge safe gaps and time turns
- Create open space when following others
- Get control when being followed

Zone Conditions	
<b>Open</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No line-of-sight or path-of-travel problems</li> <li>● 4 seconds following time</li> <li>● 15 seconds of visible front space</li> </ul>
<b>Closed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any line-of-sight or path-of-travel problem</li> </ul>
<b>Unstable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A worsening condition or additional complication</li> </ul>



# THE ZONE CONTROL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

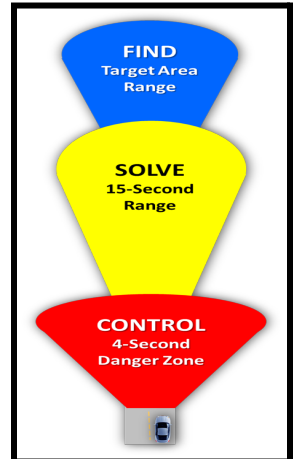
**FIND:** Open, closed, and unstable line-of-sight, and/or path-of-travel conditions

**SOLVE:** Create time & space

- First check other related zones, then get the best lane position, speed control & communication options.

**CONTROL:** Re-evaluate the 4 second danger zone.

- Find & Solve again before you enter that space.



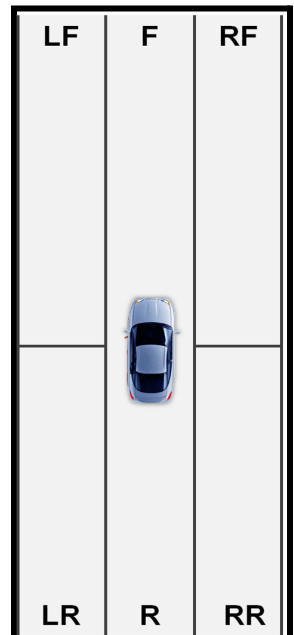
## Find Zone Conditions

**Open:** No line-of-sight or path-of-travel problems

- 4 seconds following time
- 15 seconds of visible front space

**Closed:** Any line-of-sight or path-of-travel problem

**Unstable:** A worsening condition or additional complication



## Check Related Zones

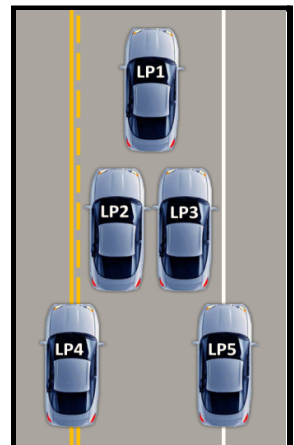
When you see a closed or unstable zone condition check opposite zones for more information and an escape path.

- closed front, check rear
- closed right front, check left front
- closed left front, check right front

On multi-lane roadways

- closed right front, check left front & left rear
- closed left front, check right front & right rear

Approaching intersections check the left, front, and right



## Speed Control Options

- accelerate, same speed, decelerate, cover brake, apply brake

## Communication Options

- turn signal, lane position, brake lights, horn, hand signals, headlights, hazard lights, speed, reverse lights

When lane position 1 is your only option, decelerate.