A SAFE DRIVER ALWAYS CONSIDERS SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS WHILE MAKING DRIVING DECISIONS.

Traffic signs inform you about traffic rules and hazards. They must be obeyed or you could crash and get a traffic ticket. Signs inform you where you are, how to get to where you want to go, and they inform you where there are services. Each type of sign is identified by shape and color.

Know These Signs by Their Shape

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<td>A sign’s shape is the first thing you will see. You need to know what a sign’s shape means in case it is covered by snow or dirt.</td>
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Know These Signs by Their Color

RED  Stop, yield or you can’t do something

YELLOW  Warning

BRIGHT Yellow-Green  Warning
(Fluorescent Yellow-Green)

WHITE  Information, rules and laws

BLACK  Regulatory, rules and laws

GREEN  Guide

BLUE  Information
You can get services and help
GasHospital

ORANGE  Construction
The road is being fixed and people are working on or near the road

BROWN  Parks and recreation areas

Restroom  Boat Launch  Hiking Trail
Know These Signs

**OCTAGON**

A STOP sign is the only 8-sided traffic sign.

- Come to a COMPLETE stop
- Do not drive into the intersection before you stop
- Do not drive into the crosswalk before you stop

Just slowing down for a stop sign is against the law. You must **STOP**.

**Where to Stop**

The three legal stop positions:

1. Before the Stop Line, or
2. Before the Crosswalk, or
3. Before the Intersection

Watch for cars, bicycles and pedestrians before driving ahead

1. look **LEFT**, 
2. then **RIGHT**, 
3. then **STRAIGHT AHEAD**, and 
4. then **LEFT** again.

If you can’t see traffic on the road, move forward slowly until you can see. Wait until it is safe and your path of travel is clear before driving ahead.

**TRIANGLE**

A **YIELD** sign is a red triangle pointing down. **YIELD** means give the right of way. The sign means slow down to a safe, reasonable speed and wait for cars on the other road to go first. You must yield the right of way to cars, bikes and pedestrians on the road you want to cross or enter. Yield means wait and let other cars go first.
Know These Signs

Signs inform drivers what to do, and what **NOT** to do, so that traffic moves properly and safely.

![ONE WAY]

The road ahead is a one-way street.

![DO NOT ENTER]

All vehicles are prohibited. Do not enter.

The red circle and stripe means **NO**.

These signs tell you not to do something.

**NO U TURN** means you cannot turn around to go in the opposite direction at this intersection. Pull into a parking lot to turn and go the other way.

**RECTANGLE**

**Most regulatory and information signs are rectangles.**

Drivers must obey the rules on all regulatory signs.
**Know These Signs**

**DIAMOND** Most warning signs are yellow diamonds.
They tell you of possible danger ahead. Slow down and watch carefully.

**ROUND** This sign warns about railroad crossings.
The RR on the sign means Railroad.

**ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN!**
Watch for trains. Slow down, look and listen for trains.
Be prepared to STOP and wait when a train is coming.
NEVER stop on train tracks.

**The law requires you to stop for trains.**
Trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. That’s 18 football fields!

Do not be fooled — the train you see is closer and faster moving than you think. Look both ways. If you see a train approaching, wait for it to go by before you cross the tracks.
Know These Signs

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY
FIVE-SIDED School signs look like a building.

School ahead. Slow to 20 mph or other posted speed limit. Watch for children AT ALL TIMES.

A school bus might be stopped up ahead. Maybe you cannot see it because of a hill or curve. Be ready to stop.

Know These Signs

One warning sign is pennant shaped. Do Not Pass any vehicles going in the same direction as you are going while in the No Passing Zone.

When you have passed this sign, you are again permitted to pass other vehicles if it is safe to do so.

The solid yellow line in the road means DO NOT PASS.
Warning Signs

Some warning signs inform about the top safe speed. You should not drive faster than 35 mph on the turn ahead.

If the road is bad or the weather is bad, drive even more slowly into the curve.

The road is ICY, SLIPPERY and DANGEROUS.
Slow down. Never use cruise control when roads are wet or icy.

Merging Signs

MERGING signs show drivers where to expect the direction of more traffic.

MERGING means joining. More traffic may be going to join the roadway and drive along the same lane.
When you see a merging car ahead, drivers should signal and move over to the other lane if they can safely change lanes.
Sometimes the driver in the merging car has to yield, slow down and wait for a safe gap in highway traffic.

Roundabouts are circular roads around a center island with access to several roads heading out in different directions. Yield to traffic already driving in the roundabout. Find a safe gap. Merge with the flow of traffic, signal and turn right onto the road you need.
Warning Signs

A side road enters or crosses the highway ahead. Watch out for cars entering or slowing down to turn.

There are sharp turns and curves in the road ahead. **REDUCE SPEED.** Slow down. Keep well to the right. Watch for approaching traffic.

The road you are on comes to an end ahead. **REDUCE SPEED.** You will have to turn either right or left.

Watch the road ahead. Some signs warn that the road changes direction in a way that could surprise a driver.

You are approaching an overhead obstruction. It might be an old bridge or a low underpass. If you have a high load, you may not be able to get through.
Warning Signs – What They Mean
(YELLOW AND BLACK)

There are more signs that warn about people and animals crossing the roadway.

**Remember: XING means CROSSING.**

Walking people are called **PEDESTRIANS**. That word is too big for the sign, so just **PED** is used. Pedestrians may be crossing the road ahead. Slow down and stop when a person is waiting or crossing the road. **REMEMBER:** always give pedestrians the right of way regardless of where they are located.

These warning signs are only in high wildlife crossing areas but deer are found everywhere in Montana. Watch out for animals at all times. Slow down when you see deer. There may be more than one crossing the road ahead.

A highway often splits a farm. This sign shows where livestock may be crossing the road.

There are no fences and cattle may wander out onto the road. Watch the road ahead. Cattle have the right of way.

Be careful. Be ready to stop for any animals on the road.
Warning Signs – What They Mean (YELLOW AND BLACK)

The road ahead goes **DOWNHILL**. Trucks gear down and will be going slowly. Watch for them. You may have to slow down or change lanes. **SLOW DOWN.**

The bridge ahead may be too narrow to meet or pass a truck, you must be careful. The road is not as wide as the road you are traveling. There will be room for cars to meet and pass. You MAY have to wait for oncoming vehicles to cross.

There **IS NOT ROOM** on the bridge ahead to meet or pass a car or truck.

When a lane ends you may see a warning sign like this one. When the right lane ends, signal, watch for other traffic and change lanes. Do not stay in the outer lane. You might be forced off the pavement.

Traffic must keep to the right of the median.

In the diagram below, the roadway is separated by a median.

Keep right, drive it as a one-way road.
Regulatory Signs

Regulatory means you MUST obey.
Regulatory signs define the laws drivers must obey

You are coming to a place where the speed limit is lower.
If you go faster than the posted speed limit you could get a speeding ticket.

Visibility is limited at night. Your speed will be limited too.

LANE SIGNS inform you where you can go from certain lanes.

Look ahead for arrows at intersections.
Stay in your lane when turning.
Construction Area Signs
(ORANGE AND BLACK)

**ORANGE** signs warn of road **CONSTRUCTION**.

The road is being built or repaired ahead. Drive slowly. Be alert. Workers may be on or near the road. Heavy machinery may be crossing the road. Watch for and follow directions of flaggers who may be standing near the road.

**Construction signs can give drivers many warnings**
Highways must be repaired. Work crews must be protected.

- Loose gravel can cause your car to lose control and skid. Gravel can be thrown onto your windshield by another car.
- One side of the road is soft. Don’t drive off the pavement.

A place in the road is not finished. You will have to go around. Signs with arrows will show you where to go.
Guide Signs
Signs help drivers find the right way to go. Guide signs are on maps. Drivers can study the map and watch for highway numbers and route markers.

Blue signs mean services are nearby.

Brown signs show where to find parks and other recreation areas.

Interstate Highways are numbered from West to East. Even Numbered Highways go East and West (e.g. I-90). Odd Numbered Highways go North and South (e.g. I-15). Mile post markers tell your location and number each exit.
Road and Pavement Markings
Watch out for and obey pavement markings. White lines separate traffic lanes going in the same direction. Stay in your lane when turning. Follow the turn path markings on the road.

Turn Arrows

Yellow Road Centerline
No passing is allowed when solid yellow line is in your lane.

When overtaking and passing another vehicle it is permissible to drive a vehicle to the left of the centerline on a two lane highway if you can pass safely.

Look ahead and wait for a path of travel clear of cars coming from the opposite direction. You need enough time to return safely to your travel lane.

Passing Markings
ROAD AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pedestrian Crosswalk
Pedestrians are people walking. Crosswalks are marked with white lines or colored pavement. Always **STOP** when people are waiting to cross the street. No parking is allowed in the crosswalk or in the intersection.

Intersection with three marked Crosswalks

Curb Markings

No parking is allowed next to a curb painted yellow, white or red.

Only people with disabilities who have a special parking permit are allowed to park in blue handicapped parking spaces.
Road Center Line

No Passing Zone - when SOLID yellow line is in your lane
Passing Allowed - when BROKEN yellow line is in your lane

Single Solid White Line – The white Fog Line marks the side of the road
Single Broken White Line – divides one-way lanes going in the same direction

Shared Center Turn Lane for left turns and U turns if permitted. It can be used by vehicles traveling in both directions. Watch for other vehicles in the shared lane. Do not use this lane to pass or slow down for a turn.

Bicycle Lanes - can be used only by bicycles.
Do not park or drive in Bike-Only lanes.
Bicycles ride with traffic on the right side of the road. Share the road and be careful when passing bicycles.

When turning, wait for the bicyclist to pass and make sure he is clear from your vehicle before making your turn.
It is a dangerous and foolish mistake to disobey traffic signals. Always look ahead and wait for traffic to clear before crossing a road.

STOP—The red light is always at the top.

Do not go until the light changes to green and the path of travel is clear.

The green light is always at the bottom.

It means go, **after you look** to your left, right and ahead to make sure your path of travel is clear before moving.

The yellow light means get ready to stop.

Do not drive into the intersection if you can safely stop. You must not be in the intersection when the light turns red.
TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The traffic signal light is GREEN for GO. Pedestrians may walk now in the same direction traffic is going if the intersection is clear. Watch for pedestrians if you are turning.

You must always yield to pedestrians. Wait for people to cross the street.

Even though the light is green for “Go,” the words tell pedestrians that THEY MUST NOT LEAVE THE CURB NOW. The flashing DON’T WALK sign means there is not enough time to safely cross the street. Some pedestrians disobey. They think they can leave the curb because the light is green. Watch out and wait for people to cross the street.

RIGHT TURN ON RED

You may turn right on red AFTER STOPPING in every state. Right turns at red lights are allowed after you stop unless there is a sign that says you may not turn. Stop and look for a clear path of travel before turning.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS – Turn Arrows

STOP

Do NOT go straight ahead. Turn LEFT when the arrow is GREEN, and turn only the way the arrow points.

STOP

Do NOT go straight ahead. Turn RIGHT when the arrow is GREEN, and turn only the way the arrow points.

FLASHING LIGHTS

The RED LIGHT flashing means STOP.
The YELLOW LIGHT flashing or steady means SLOW DOWN.
Watch for other vehicles. Use CAUTION.
WORDS ON TRAFFIC SIGNS
You should know what these words mean

AHEAD
AIRPORT
ALL WAY
ALTERNATIVE
ARROW
BEGIN
BETWEEN SIGNS
BEYOND
BIKE
BLOCK
BUMP
BUS
BUSINESS
BYPASS
CAREFUL
CAREFULLY
CATTLE
CAUTION
CLEARANCE
CLOSED
COMMERCIAL
CONSTRUCTION
CONTROLLED
COUNTY
CROSSING
CROSSROAD
CROSSWALK
CURB
DECREASE
DEER
DETOUR
DIP
DIRECTION
DIVIDED
DO NOT
DOUBLE
DOWN
EAST
EMERGENCY
ENDS
ENFORCED
ENTER
ENTRANCE
EXCEPT
EXCLUDED
EXEMPT
EXIT
EXPRESSWAY
FACING
FALLEN ROCK
FEET
FLASHING
GRADE
GRAVEL
HIGHWAY
HILL
HITCHHIKING
HOSPITAL
ICY
INCREASE
INTERSECTION
INTERSTATE
JUNCTION
KEEP
LANE
LAW
LEFT
LIMIT
LOCAL
LODGING
LOOSE
LOW
LUGS
MACHINERY
MAINTENANCE
MERGING
MINIMUM
MOTORCYCLE
MOTORISTS
MOTORIZED
NARROW
NIGHT
NORTH
OBEY
OCCUPIED
OIL
ONCOMING
ONE
ONLY
OUTLET
OUTSIDE
PARK
PASS
PAVEMENT
PED
PEDESTRIAN
PICK-UP
PLAYGROUND
PRESENT
PROCEED
PROHIBITED
PUSH BUTTON
RADAR
RAILROAD
RAMP
RANGE
REDUCE
RESERVED
REST AREA
RESTRICTED
RESUME
RIGHT
ROAD
ROUGH
ROUTE
SCHOOL
SHARP
SHOULDERS
SIDE
SIGNALS
SINGLE
SLIPPERY
SLOW
SOFT
SOUTH
SPEED
STEEP
STOP
STREET
SURVEY CREW
TEMPORARY
THREE
THRU
TONS
TOW AWAY ZONE
TRACKS
TRAILER HITCH
TRUCKS
TURN
TWO
UNLAWFUL
USES
VILLAGE
WALK
WARNING
WAY
WEIGH STATION
WEST
WET
WINDING
WORK
WRONG
XING
YIELD
YOUR
ZONE
SELF TEST Section 4 Language of the Road

SIGNS, SIGNALS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Directions: Choose only one answer.

1. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. there is a bus stop ahead
   b. there is a stop sign ahead
   c. there is a caution sign ahead
   d. there is a No Passing Zone ahead.

2. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. you must drive slowly and sound horn
   b. you must watch for children in this area
   c. you must watch for children during school hours
   d. school ahead – slow down and watch for children at all times

3. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. the highway ahead turns only to the right
   b. the highway ahead turns to the left and then to the right
   c. the highway ahead turns sharply to the right
   d. the highway ahead turns to the right and then the left

4. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. trucks are permitted on a narrow bridge
   b. the bridge ahead is open to one way traffic only
   c. the bridge ahead is wide enough for one car at a time
   d. the bridge ahead may be too narrow to meet or pass a vehicle, you must be careful

5. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. there is a detour ahead
   b. you must stop for flaggers
   c. the road ahead is closed to traffic
   d. the highway ahead is being repaired, approach with caution
6. The sign pictured at the right means that:
   a. there are trucks hauling gravel ahead
   b. the highway ahead is under construction
   c. the highway ahead is covered with loose gravel
   d. the highway ahead has been sanded for icy conditions

7. It is permissible to drive a motor vehicle to the left of the centerline of a two-lane highway:
   a. when overtaking and passing another vehicle
   b. when you have 500 feet of clear road ahead and to the rear
   c. when the shoulder of the road is rough and the ditch is deep
   d. when the road is clear of cars coming from the opposite direction

8. The shared center lane is reserved for:
   a. making left turns
   b. u-turns when they are permitted.
   c. all vehicles traveling in both directions
   d. all of the above

9. At a traffic light which is flashing yellow:
   a. you must stop and wait for the red
   b. you must stop and wait for the green
   c. you must slow down and proceed with caution
   d. you can make a U turn

10. You may turn right on red:
    a. if there is a sign that says you can
    b. after stopping if your path of travel is clear
    c. after slowing down
    d. only in Montana

11. If the “Don’t Walk” signal is on, a pedestrian:
    a. may cross if no cars are coming.
    b. must not cross; there is not enough time to cross safely
    c. should stop in the intersection
    d. must wait for a red light
12. This sign means:
   a. a school bus may be stopped ahead
   b. everyone must stop ahead
   c. yield right of way to buses
   d. watch for bicycles

13. This sign means:
   a. you must slow if you see cars
   b. slow down, give right of way to cars on right
   c. Stop
   d. slow down to a reasonable speed and yield to other vehicles

14. This sign means:
   a. sharp curve ahead.
   b. the road turns to the right.
   c. there is a road entering the highway from the right.
   d. there is a crossroad ahead

15. This sign means:
   a. the road turns sharply to the left
   b. the road turns gradually to the left
   c. winding road ahead
   d. the road turns to the right

16. This sign means:
   a. there is a crossroads ahead.
   b. there is a railroad crossing ahead
   c. stop ahead
   d. there is a rest room ahead

17. This sign means:
   a. stop if you see cattle.
   b. cattle crossing ahead.
   c. there are no fences and cattle may wander onto the road.
      Be prepared to stop
   d. deer cross the road here
18. This sign means:
   a. you may turn to the right
   b. you must not turn left at this street
   c. you must go straight.
   d. the road curves

19. This sign means:
   a. you may pass if it is clear ahead
   b. do not pass without honking horn
   c. slow down in a school zone
   d. you must not pass the car ahead it is not safe

20. This sign means:
   a. you must stop if other cars are coming.
   b. yield to cars on the road ahead
   c. you must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection ahead.
   d. you must stop before turning.

21. This sign means:
   a. there is only room for one lane of traffic
   b. Right lane ends, merge left
   c. you are coming to a gravel road
   d. this is a one way road