

CHAPTER 3

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS



Traffic control devices include traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. Traffic control may also be provided by law enforcement officers, highway personnel or school crossing guards. You must obey directions given by them.

Traffic Signs

There are three types of traffic signs: regulatory, warning, and guide. You should learn to recognize them by color and shape as well as the messages or symbols they carry.

Regulatory Signs – Regulatory signs are generally black and white, although some are red and white, and must be obeyed at all times.

-  • **Stop:** You must come to a complete stop before entering the intersection ahead. You are required to stop behind the stop line or a crosswalk if there is one.
-  • **Yield:** Slow down so that you may safely yield the right of way to other vehicles or pedestrians.
-  • **Wrong Way:** You are approaching a lane of traffic from the wrong way.
-  • **Do Not Enter:** You may not enter this section of roadway from the direction you are traveling.



- **Speed Limit:** The maximum speed limit on this section of road (under ideal driving conditions).



- **Slow Moving Vehicle:** You are approaching a slow moving vehicle. You should slow down and approach the vehicle with caution. This sign has a red perimeter and orange center and is primarily on off road vehicles (implements of husbandry, construction equipment, etc).



No Left Turn



No Right turn



No U-Turn



Do Not Pass



Proceed Straight



Left Turn Only



Right Turn Only



U-Turn Permitted



Railroad Crossing: May also tell you how many tracks you may expect a train to appear on.

Warning Signs: Most warning signs are black on yellow. Warning signs also include the bright yellow school warning signs, and the orange and black construction zone signs.



- **3 Way Intersection:** You are approaching a 3-way “T” intersection and will have to turn either to the right or the left. You must stop and yield to drivers approaching from the other two directions.



- **Open Range:** You are traveling in an area where livestock have the right of way and are allowed to roam freely and unfenced.



Intersection



Traffic Signal



Merging Traffic



Two Way Traffic



Lane Ends



School Zone



School Crossing



Pedestrian Crossing



Divided Road Begins



Divided Road Ends



Bridge Clearance



Railroad Crossing



Slippery When Wet



Keep Right of Island



Hill



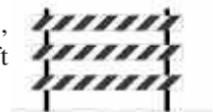
No Passing Zone

- **Guide Signs:** Guide signs are either white on green for directional and distance, white on blue for motorists services, or white on brown for cultural, historical, or scenic points of interest.
- **Barricades:** Highway departments and construction crews often perform work that requires traffic lanes or entire roads to be temporarily or permanently closed. If a lane or road is closed to traffic, one of three types of barricades will be placed in the road as a warning to drivers. Barricades are either red and white (permanent) or orange and white (temporary). Even though barricades can be different colors, the instructions they give to drivers are the same.

The V-shaped pattern on this barricade means that the road is closed and traffic can proceed no further.



The lines on this barricade angle down to the left, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the left side.



The lines on this barricade angle down to the right, indicating that traffic must pass the barricade on the right side.



Traffic Signals

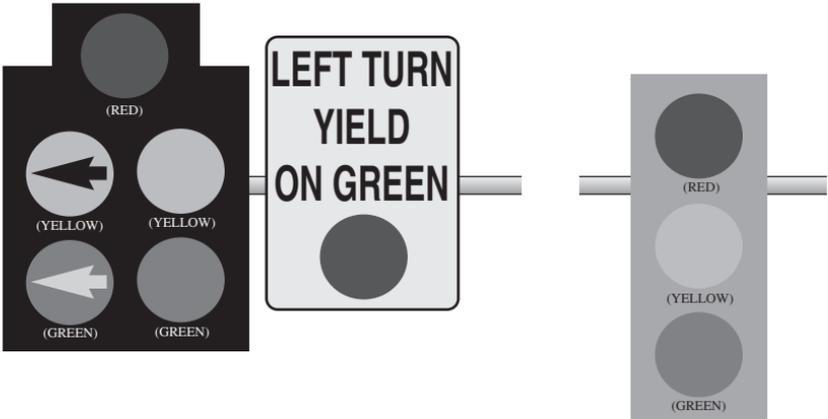
Traffic signals are lights that regulate the flow of traffic mainly through intersections. Most traffic lights have a red light at the top, a yellow light in the middle, and a green light at the bottom.

- **Red Light:** Stop. Come to a complete stop before you reach the stop line, crosswalk, or intersection. Remain stopped until the light changes and cross traffic clears the intersection.
- **Yellow Light:** Caution. An amber or yellow light warns that the signal is about to change to red. If you have not entered the intersection and can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.
- **Green Light:** Go. You may pass through the intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the way is clear.
- **Green Arrow:** Go. You may proceed if it is safe in the direction the arrow is pointing. Oncoming traffic is required to stop.
- **Red Arrow:** Stop. You cannot turn in the direction the arrow is pointing.
- **Flashing Yellow Light:** Caution. You should slow down, look carefully for hazards and proceed with caution.
- **Flashing Red Light:** Stop. You must come to a complete stop, yield to cross traffic or pedestrians, then proceed when the way is clear.

“Dog House” Signals

Idaho highway districts are beginning to use a new type of traffic signal to improve traffic flow at major intersections. The new signals display five lights instead of the three standard “red, yellow, and green” lights. In most Idaho counties, the signal will be positioned to the left of a standard three-light signal at intersections, as shown in the above illustration.

The purpose of this type of signal is to allow more vehicles to make left



turns at intersections, if it is safe to do so. When you approach this type of signal:

- **Red** - A single red light means “STOP.”
- **Yellow** - The solid-yellow circular light on the right means the signal is changing. If you have not entered the intersection and you can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.
- **Green** - The solid-green circular light on the right means that you may proceed forward or if you are in the left turn lane you must yield to oncoming traffic before turning left.
- **Green Arrow** - The green light on the left with an arrow means that you may turn left and that oncoming traffic is required to stop, regardless of what other lights are lit.
- **Yellow Arrow** - The yellow light on the left with an arrow means the signal is changing. If you have not entered the intersection and you can come to a safe stop, you should do so. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely.

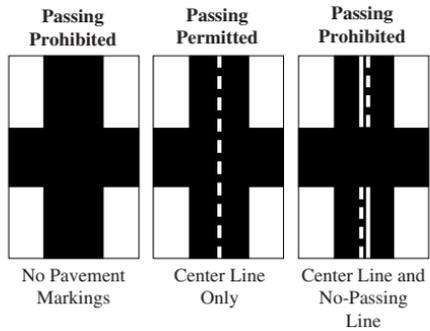
Whenever a traffic signal is not functioning, you should always treat the intersection as a 4-way stop.

Pavement Markings

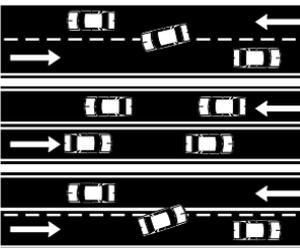
The lines and symbols that are painted on the roadways divide lanes, tell you where it is not safe to pass other vehicles, where you may not change lanes, which lanes to use for turns, where pedestrians may walk, and where you must stop for signs or traffic signals.

- **Lane Dividers:** This drawing shows three types of lane dividing lines. A dashed yellow line means that vehicles in either lane can cross the line if it is safe to do so. If the dashed yellow line is marked through an intersection, you may pass vehicles in the intersection. Otherwise, no passing is allowed in intersections.

Passing in an Intersection



Two solid yellow lines mean that neither lane of traffic can cross the lines unless they are turning (if it is safe to do so). No passing is allowed.



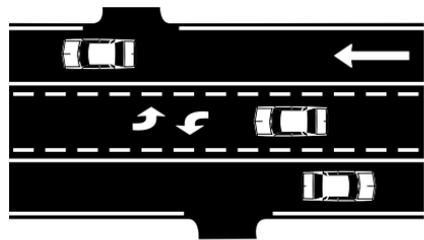
Single Dashed Yellow Line

Two Solid Yellow Lines

Solid and Dashed Yellow Lines

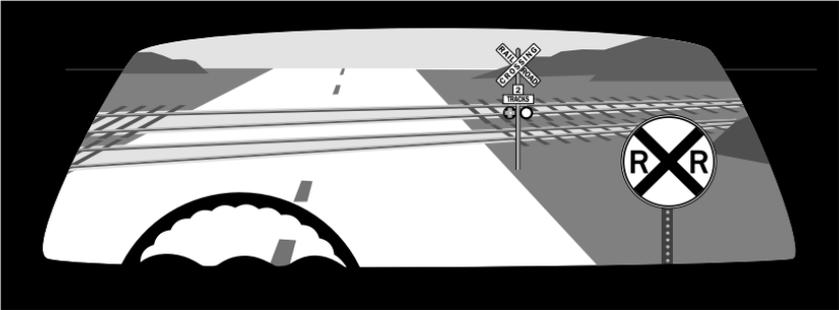
A solid yellow line with a dashed yellow line means that only vehicles in the lane with the dashed line (lower lane in this drawing) can cross the lines to pass other vehicles.

- **Shared Lanes:** Center lanes are reserved for making left turns (or U-turns when they are permitted) from either direction of travel. Shared center lanes are marked on each side by a solid and yellow dashed lines. You may not travel in the shared turn lanes or interfere with another vehicle preparing to make a turn from the center turn lane.



Shared Center Lane

Railroad Crossings



Railroad crossings are always dangerous. Driver's should listen and look both ways for an approaching train, and for signals indicating an approaching train. Never proceed until you are certain it is safe to do so. When required to stop, you should do so within 50 feet, but no less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing.

The chance of death or serious injury in a collision between a train and a motor vehicle is 40 times greater than for other highway accidents. The stopping distance for a 150-car freight train traveling 50 mph is 7,000 feet or 1 and 1/3 miles. Trains can't stop, cars can. It's up to you to protect your life and the lives of your passengers at a railway crossing.

Learn the signs and devices that highway departments and railway companies put up to warn you of danger at a crossing:



- Many times, pavements are marked in advance of a crossing with an X and the letters RR.
- Railroad crossbuck signs can be found at most crossings.
- Flashing-light signals are often combined with crossbucks at crossings on busy streets and highways. You must stop and may only proceed when you can do so safely.
- Gates are used to stop automobile traffic at many particularly dangerous crossings. You must never drive through, under or around a crossing gate that is closed or being closed.

You can avoid a tragedy by following a few safety tips:

- Expect a train at any time. Always be careful at a crossing, even if you know few trains pass that way.
- Never start across tracks unless there is room on the other side for your vehicle.

- Never drive around gates or fail to heed a warning signal, even if you can't see a train approaching.
- Never shift gears while driving through a crossing. Doing so may cause your vehicle to stall on the tracks.
- Never race a train to a crossing.
- Watch out for a second train. Do not start up until you're sure no train is approaching on another track.
- Watch out for vehicles that must stop at crossings. Some buses and trucks are required to stop at all railroad crossings.
- Look both ways as you approach a railroad crossing, even if the flasher is not flashing. It may be broken.

Study Questions

1. What does a STOP sign mean?
2. What does a YIELD sign mean?
3. What should you do when you approach an intersection and the traffic light changes from green to yellow?
4. How may you proceed at an intersection that has a green arrow in combination with a red light?
5. What does a flashing red light mean?
6. What does a flashing yellow light mean?
7. Is it legal to pass on a two-lane, two-way road when you have a solid yellow line on your side?

Know Your Traffic Signs

You must also be able to identify and show the meaning of all the traffic signs in this section.