















































































































































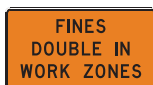
Drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrows, and orange and white-striped barriers are all used to keep traffic out of a construction area or areas where it is dangerous to drive. You may also see people holding orange signs, flags or stop signs, giving directions in work zones. Always follow their directions.



Indicates that a person with a flag is ahead. Drive cautiously.



Indicates that workers are performing maintenance on the roadway. Reduce speed and adjust lane position away from workers.



Reduced speeds are often posted in work zones. Motorists who violate the posted speed limit in work zones when workers are present will be assessed twice the usual fine.



## Historic, Cultural, and Recreational Signs

Brown signs point out historic sites, parks, and other points of interest.





## Motorist Services Signs

Blue signs direct you to services such as telephones, gas, food, motels, hospitals, and rest areas.



## Guidance and Information Signs

Green signs indicate exits, distance to cities, interstate interchanges, street or route names, and bicycle routes.



## Route Signs

Route signs indicate different types of roadways.



Interstate Freeway



U.S. Highway



Minnesota Highway



County Road



County Road

## Traffic-Control Signals

Traffic-control signals are used at intersections where traffic volume is high. Signals promote safety and orderly flow of traffic. If a traffic signal is not functioning, treat the intersection as you would an uncontrolled intersection.

## Intersection Gridlock

A driver shall not enter an intersection controlled by a traffic-control signal until the driver is able to move the vehicle immediately, continuously, and completely through the intersection without impeding or blocking the movement of cross traffic.



**A steady red light means “stop.”**

Stop and wait for the light to change. Come to a complete stop at the stop line, before the crosswalk, or before entering the intersection.

After stopping, you may make a right turn when the intersection is clear, if traffic is permitted to travel in that direction.

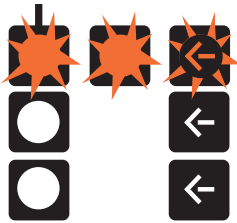
If a “No Turn on Red” sign is posted at an intersection, you must wait for the light to turn green.

If certain conditions are met, you may make a left turn from a one-way roadway onto a one-way cross street while the traffic light is red. Before turning, you must first come to a complete stop, make sure the intersection is clear, and yield to any pedestrians or other vehicles. Traffic must be permitted to travel only in the direction in which you are turning.



**A red arrow means “stop.”**

You must come to a complete stop at the stop line, before the crosswalk, or before entering the intersection. When the arrow turns green, you may proceed in the direction it indicates.



Treat a flashing red light as you would a stop sign. Come to a complete stop, yield to vehicles and pedestrians who reach the intersection before you, and proceed when the intersection is clear.



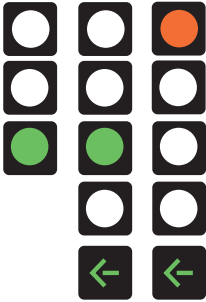
**A steady yellow light or arrow means “caution.” The signal is about to turn red.**

Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely before doing so. If you cannot stop safely, proceed through the intersection with caution. If you are waiting in the intersection to make a turn, and the signal turns from yellow to red, complete the turn as soon as it is safely possible. Do not back up.



**A flashing yellow light or arrow means "caution."**

Proceed through the intersection with caution. Yield the right of way to vehicles and pedestrians already in the intersection. Vehicles turning left or making a U-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.



**A green light means "go."**

You may begin to cross the intersection as soon as it is clear. Yield to any vehicles or pedestrians in the intersection. When turning left, yield to oncoming traffic. When turning right or left, yield to pedestrians crossing in front of your vehicle.

**A green arrow means you can safely turn in the direction of the arrow.**

Your turn should be "protected" from oncoming or crossing traffic.

**Pedestrian Signals**

There are stop and go signals for pedestrians. Pedestrians must obey these signals.



When the pedestrian or "Walk" signal is visible, pedestrians should look to see if it is safe to cross the intersection before proceeding. Once in the intersection, pedestrians may continue walking to the other side of the roadway.



When the raised hand or "Don't Walk" signal is flashing, pedestrians should not begin to cross the intersection. Pedestrians who are already in the intersection may continue walking to the other side of the roadway at a normal pace.



When a steady raised hand or "Don't Walk" signal is visible, pedestrians should not attempt to cross the intersection. Pedestrians who are already in the intersection should walk to the nearest safe location as quickly and as safely as possible.

## Lane Use Control Signals

These signals allow lanes to be used by traffic from different directions at different times. Drivers must also follow all other traffic signs and signals that apply.



A steady downward green arrow means you are allowed to drive in the lane below the green arrow.



A steady yellow X means you should prepare to move into another lane in a safe manner. A lane-control change is being made in the lane below the steady yellow X. A steady red X will be displayed next, and you cannot occupy the lane at that time.



A flashing yellow X means you can use the lane below the flashing yellow X to make a left turn. You must use caution because left-turning vehicles from the other direction may be using the same lane.



A steady downward yellow arrow means you should prepare to move into another lane in a safe manner. The freeway lane below the steady downward yellow arrow will be closed.



A flashing downward yellow arrow means you can use the freeway lane under the flashing downward yellow arrow. Exercise caution in this lane.



A steady red X means you cannot drive in the lane under the steady red X signal.

## Freeway Ramp Meters

Ramp meters are signal lights on freeway entrance ramps that help control the flow of merging traffic. Like traffic signals at intersections, red, yellow, and green lights indicate when drivers can proceed. Only one car may proceed each time the light is green.



### One Car per Green Light

Used with freeway ramp meters at on-ramps to indicate that one car may proceed each time the light turns green.

## Pavement Markings

Pavement markings direct and regulate traffic.

### White Lines

White lines separate lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

A line composed of white dashes indicates that drivers can change lanes in areas where this type of marking is present.

A line of shorter and thicker white dashes indicates that the lane will end.

A solid white line indicates that lane changes are discouraged in areas where this type of marking is present. Solid white lines also mark crosswalks, stop lines at intersections, parking stalls, and the edges of a roadway.

Double solid white lines indicate that lane changes are prohibited in areas where this type of marking is present.

A solid white line with a bicycle insignia along the side of the road indicates an area is designated for bicycle traffic only. Bicycles must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic.

### Yellow Lines

Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

A solid yellow line indicates that passing is prohibited in areas where this marking is present. Passing in a no-passing zone is illegal.

A line composed of yellow dashes indicates that passing is allowed in areas where this type of marking is present.

A solid yellow line may appear on one side of the roadway, while a line composed of dashes appears on the other side. Drivers must obey the marking that is present in their lane of traffic.

Two solid yellow lines, one in each lane of traffic, indicate that passing is prohibited in both directions. Drivers traveling in both directions are prohibited from crossing the double solid center line in order to pass other vehicles.











## Execute

Carry out your decision. To create space and minimize harm:

- Communicate your presence with lights and/or horn.
- Adjust your speed appropriately.
- Adjust your position and/or direction.

## Three-Second Rule

Applying the “Three-Second Rule” is a way to help keep a safe distance between your car and the vehicle ahead of you. This rule pertains to standard-length vehicles driving in ideal conditions.

Choose a fixed reference point at the side of the road ahead, such as a telephone pole, signpost, tree, or bridge.

When the vehicle ahead of you passes the reference point, begin counting: “One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three.” If you pass the reference point before you are through counting, you are following too closely.

Gradually slow down until you have reached a safe following distance and speed. When road conditions are poor, or if you are driving a vehicle that is longer than the standard length, increase your following distance to a four- or five-second count.

If the vehicle behind you is following too closely, slow down slightly and allow it to pass.

## Stopping Distance

The distance you need to stop your vehicle can determine a safe following distance, but your actual stopping distance will depend on many factors, including:

- The time it takes a driver to see and recognize that there is a danger ahead.
- The length of time from perception of danger to using the brakes happens in  $\frac{3}{4}$  seconds.
- Weather conditions.
- Condition of your tire treads.
- Type and condition of your brakes.

## Night Driving

Although there is usually less traffic at night, nearly half of all fatal traffic crashes in Minnesota occur after dark. To help ensure that you reach your destination safely, study road maps and directions before starting out. Make sure that your vehicle lights are working and your windshield is clean and free of defects.

## Headlights

When you are within 1,000 feet of an oncoming vehicle, or following another vehicle at a distance of 200 feet or less, your headlights must be set on low beam. Your headlights must be turned on at sunset and used until sunrise. They must also be used during weather conditions that include rain, snow, hail, sleet, or fog and any time you cannot clearly see the road ahead for a distance of at least 500 feet.

Don't "overdrive" your headlights. You should be able to stop within the distance that your headlights illuminate the road. For most vehicles, this distance is no more than 350 feet on high beam.

When driving in the dark, you may encounter glare from oncoming headlights or from the reflection of headlights in your rearview mirror. If you are blinded by the glare, use the white line along the edge of the road as a reference. For glare caused by headlights from behind you, use a "day-night" mirror or re-adjust your regular mirror.

## Freeway Driving

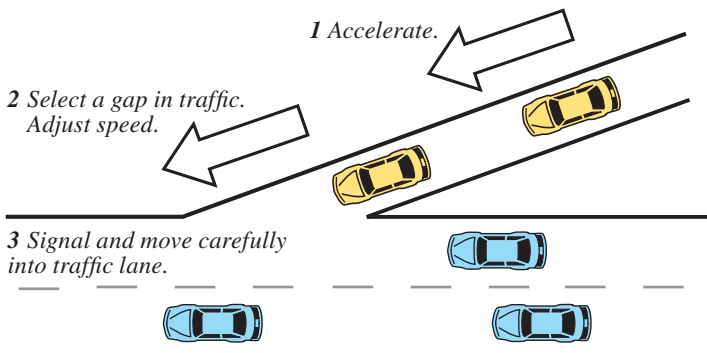
Freeways are multi-lane, divided highways with limited access from other roads. Because there are no stops or cross traffic, they permit you to travel long distances without stopping.

## Entering the Freeway

Entry ramps are short, one-way roads that provide access to freeways. At the end of most entry ramps, you will find an acceleration lane that allows you to increase your speed in order to safely merge with traffic that is already on the freeway.

To avoid disrupting traffic flow or "cutting off" other drivers when you merge, try to adjust your speed to accommodate vehicles already on the freeway. You must yield to other vehicles when you are merging.

Use your turn signal to let other drivers know your intention. Watch for an opening in the nearest traffic lane and merge into the flow of traffic when you are able to do so.



Do not stop on the ramp or in the acceleration lane unless it is absolutely necessary.

When an acceleration lane is not available, and a “Yield” sign is posted on the entry ramp, obey the sign. Stop, if it is necessary. Do not force your way into the lane of traffic.

## Freeway Ramp Meters

Ramp meters are used on many freeway entry ramps in the metropolitan area to reduce traffic jams, crashes, and to make merging onto the freeway easier.

The meters are traffic signals, placed about halfway down the entry ramp, that are usually activated during peak travel hours. Red, yellow, and green lights indicate when drivers can proceed. It is illegal to go through the red light. Only one car may proceed each time the light is green.

## Freeway Speed and Lane Use

Maintain the same approximate speed as surrounding vehicles, when possible, but never exceed the posted speed limits. If you are driving at a slower speed than other traffic, stay in the lane nearest to the right side of the road. If you must change lanes to pass other vehicles or to leave the freeway, signal your intent and make sure your path is clear before moving over.

## Use of Freeway or Expressway Shoulders by Buses

Transit buses and Metro Mobility buses are permitted to use the shoulder of a freeway or expressway. Buses authorized to use the shoulder may be operated only when main-line traffic speeds are less than 35 miles per hour. Drivers of buses being operated on the shoulder may not exceed the speed of main-line traffic by more than 15 miles per hour and may never exceed 35 miles per hour. Drivers of buses being operated on the shoulder must yield to merging, entering, and exiting traffic and must yield to other vehicles on the shoulder.

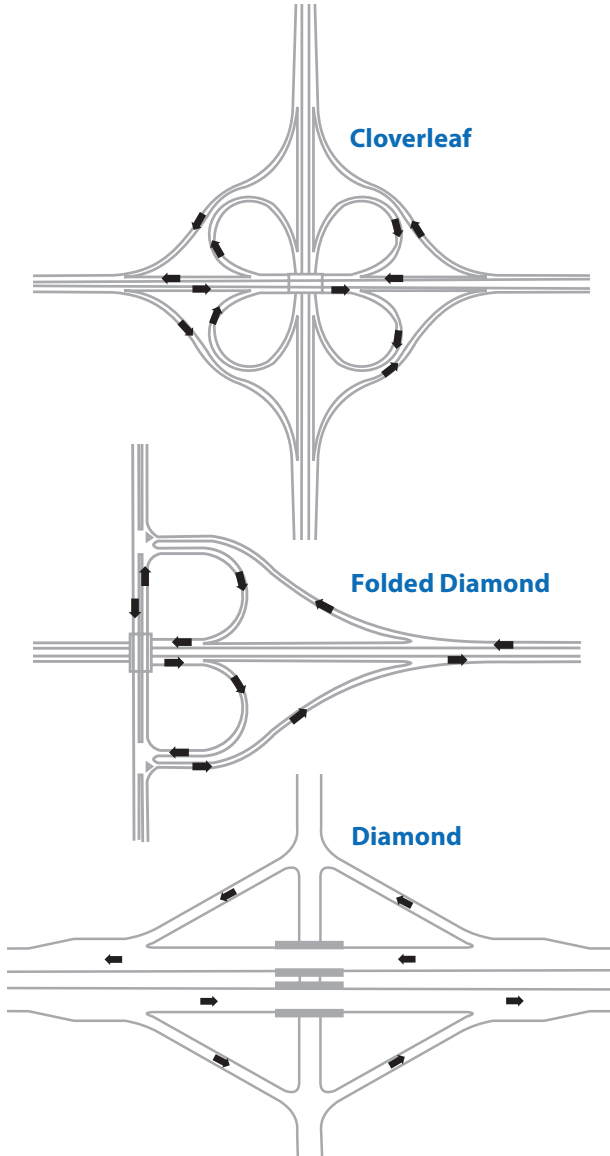
## Message Signs

Message and lane-use signs on some freeways warn drivers of traffic crashes, stalled vehicles, or other traffic conditions ahead.

Message signs may be activated when the state issues an AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alert in response to a child abduction. The signs will provide information, such as a vehicle description. Drivers who see a vehicle fitting the description, or who have other information about the missing child, will be asked to notify law enforcement.

## Freeway Interchange

An interchange is the connection of a freeway to a road or another freeway by a series of ramps. The connecting roadways allow you to leave one road and enter another safely, without disrupting the flow of traffic.



## High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

These lanes are for use only by motorcycles, buses, and vehicles carrying two or more people.

## Stopping, Parking, and Backing Up

It is illegal to stop or park a motor vehicle on an interstate freeway, except in the event of an emergency. Running out of fuel is not considered an emergency. If this occurs, you could receive a citation.

If you must stop on the freeway because of an emergency, take the following actions:

- Park your vehicle on the shoulder, as far from the main roadway as possible.
- Open the trunk and raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the radio antenna or a door handle.
- Use hazard warning lights, if you have them.
- If you have flares or reflectors, place them from 100 to 500 feet behind your vehicle on the right edge of the main road.
- Stay with your vehicle, if possible. If you must leave your vehicle, do not walk on the area of the highway reserved for vehicle traffic. This is illegal and extremely dangerous.

It is illegal to back up or turn around on a freeway. An exception to this law applies to drivers of emergency and road repair vehicles. Drivers of these vehicles may back up or turn around, as necessary, to perform their duties.

## Emergency Vehicles on the Freeway

When you see the flashing lights of an ambulance, fire truck, or police car on the shoulder of the road, you must move a lane away from the emergency vehicle, if it is possible to do so safely.

If you are not able to safely move a lane away, slow down.

When you see an emergency vehicle with its lights and siren activated behind you, move to the nearest side of the road and stop. Do not slam on the brakes or swerve into other lanes. Remember to use your turn signal.

Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has completely passed. Look for other emergency vehicles that may be following it before pulling out.

Stay at least 500 feet back from any firefighting vehicle.

## Getting off the Freeway

It is helpful to know, before you begin driving, where you need to exit the freeway.

Watch for signs that provide information about upcoming exits.

As you near the desired exit signal your intent to change lanes, and move into the deceleration lane, when you can do so safely. This should provide time to slow down before you reach the exit ramp. It should also help you to avoid obstructing faster-moving traffic.

If you miss your exit, proceed to the next one. Do not back up or make a U-turn to return to the desired exit.

## Crashes

If you are involved in a crash that results in injury, stay where you are. If you are able to do so, call 911 or the nearest law enforcement agency for help.

If the crash results only in property damage, move to a safe location. Do not step out of your vehicle until you have moved to a safe location, away from traffic.

Exchange driver's license and insurance information with the other driver or drivers. Write down the license plate numbers of other vehicles involved. You may also wish to exchange vehicle identification numbers. Call for law enforcement assistance, if necessary.

## Distracted Driving

Driver distraction or inattention is a leading factor in crashes in Minnesota, accounting for at least 25 percent of all crashes annually. Drivers who are distracted fail to recognize potential hazards on the road and react more slowly to traffic conditions, decreasing their margin of safety.

There are three main types of driver distraction:

- Visual – looking away from the road.
- Mechanical/Physical – taking hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive – being “lost in thought.”

Distractions inside the vehicle can include activities such as cell phone use, using a GPS, reaching for items, eating and drinking, adjusting the radio, talking to other passengers, and reading maps and other materials. Even when you are watching the road, behaviors such as looking at a crash scene, or even daydreaming, can divert attention from your driving responsibilities. For safety, make sure you give the task of driving your full attention at all times.

There are certain driver behaviors that are illegal on Minnesota roads, specifically:

- Using a cell phone or wireless computer device for text messaging, e-mailing, or accessing the Internet while driving — including while stopped in traffic.
- Drivers under age 18 with an instruction permit or provisional license using a cell phone, whether hand-held or hands-free — except to call 911 in an emergency.
- Wearing headphones or earphones that are used in both ears simultaneously to listen to a radio or other sound-producing device.

## Aggressive Driving

People who drive aggressively tend to have a low level of concern for other motorists. They exhibit anger and frustration while driving, not necessarily as a result of other drivers' actions, but because of their personal mindset.

Aggressive driving usually involves driving faster than surrounding vehicles, which leads to behaviors such as following too closely; changing lanes frequently and abruptly, often without signaling; passing other vehicles on the shoulder; and glaring at or threatening motorists around them.

If you recognize your own behavior in this description, you should make a greater effort to stay calm when driving. It is important to share the road. Safe driving requires courtesy and cooperation from all drivers.

If you are confronted by an aggressive driver, do not challenge him or her. Stay out of the person's way, avoid eye contact, and do not allow the situation to escalate.

## Obstructed View

It is illegal to drive a vehicle packed with a load, or occupied by more than three people in the front seat, if the items or people obstruct your view to the front or sides of the vehicle or interfere with your ability to control the vehicle.

## Carrying a Projecting Load

A load must not stick out more than three feet in front of the front wheels or bumper of any motor vehicle.

If a load extends four feet or more from the rear of any vehicle, a red, yellow, or orange flag at least 16 inches square must be attached to the end of the load. At night, a red lantern or lamp, visible from a distance of at least 500 feet, must be attached to the end of the load.

Passenger vehicles may not carry loads that extend beyond the line of the fenders on the left side and more than six inches beyond the fender line on the right side.

## Campers and Trailers

If you pull a camper or trailer with your vehicle, you must maintain at least 500 feet following distance from other vehicles.

When loaded, 10 to 15 percent of the trailer's weight should be balanced on the hitch between trailer and vehicle. When correctly loaded, the trailer's floor should be level. After the first few miles, stop and check the hitch, tires, lights, and load. Repeat this process at all rest stops.

Travel at a slower speed. Many trailers have smaller wheels that turn at a faster rate than your car wheels, resulting in heat buildup that can cause trailer wheel bearings to fail.



Remember that the brakes on your vehicle probably were not designed to handle heavy trailer loads. A sudden stop at high speed could flip both the trailer and the car.

Speed up carefully, using a lower gear if necessary. Maintain enough following distance to prevent the need for sudden stops. When passing other vehicles, remember the additional length of your trailer and be aware that your ability to accelerate is reduced.

Wind and rain will affect your ability to handle and control a vehicle pulling extra weight. When towing a trailer or camper in wet or windy conditions, reduce your speed more than you would normally do in such weather.

Allow plenty of room for turns. Long trailers will swing closer to the edge of the road than your vehicle.

Pay extra attention to your vehicle's cooling system when towing extra weight. Your engine will overheat more easily in warm weather, at high speeds, and in hilly areas.

## Trailer Requirements

### Measurements:

Maximum length — 45 feet

Maximum width — 8 feet 6 inches

Maximum height — 13 feet 6 inches

### Lights:

Tail lamps — Two, red

Reflectors — Two, red

Rear license plate — One, white

Trailer stop and turn signals must be used for night driving and whenever stop and turn signals on the towing vehicle are not visible to other drivers.

The 102-inch width limit (8 feet, 6 inches) for recreational vehicles does not include attachments that do not extend beyond the vehicle's exterior rearview mirrors if the recreational vehicle is self-propelled. The width of a trailer may not extend beyond the exterior rearview mirrors of the towing vehicle.

Type A, B, or C motor homes may not be longer than 45 feet. The general length limit for single-unit vehicles is 40 feet.

All trailers with a gross vehicle weight of 3,000 pounds or more must be equipped with brakes.

All recreational trailers must have a clearly visible plate with current registration.

A safety chain must be permanently attached to the trailer and fastened to the vehicle used for towing.

## Recreational Vehicle Combinations

Recreational vehicle combination means a combination of not more than three vehicles consisting of a pickup truck or recreational truck-tractor attached to a camper trailer that has hitched to it a trailer. The trailer may carry watercraft, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, off-highway motorcycles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorized golf carts, or equestrian equipment or supplies.

You must be at least 18 years of age to drive a recreational vehicle combination. The towing rating of the pickup or recreational truck-tractor must be equal to, or greater than, the total weight of all vehicles being towed.

A recreational vehicle combination may not be more than 70 feet in length.

A recreational vehicle combination may not be driven in the seven-county metropolitan area Monday through Friday during the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## Winter Driving Vehicle Safety

Remove snow and ice from your vehicle's hood, windows, and lights before driving.

- Make sure that your windshield wiper fluid contains antifreeze.
- Get the feel of the road: try your brakes while driving slowly to test the road surface.
- Adjust your speed to road condition.
- Avoid using cruise control on slippery roads.

If your vehicle becomes stuck on ice or snow, try to free your vehicle by “rocking” it back and forth. Keep the front wheels straight and slowly drive forward, then backward, as far as possible, without spinning the tires. Accelerate gently when the tires grip. If your vehicle starts to slide or your tires start to spin, apply the brake and repeat this operation in the opposite direction.

## Snow Emergencies and Parking Rules

When a significant amount of snow accumulates, city officials may declare a snow emergency. Certain parking rules may go into effect while snow is removed from streets.

Obey snow emergency parking rules to avoid towing and fines.

## Sharing the Road with Snowplows

When roads are covered with snow or ice, watch for the flashing white, yellow, and blue lights of snowplows.

Never crowd a snowplow. Pass snowplows only when you can see the entire vehicle.

Stay well behind plows to avoid any flying sanding materials, snow, and ice that could strike your vehicle.

Be alert for dangerous snow clouds or “whiteout” conditions. Snowplows can create clouds of blowing snow that may conceal the road and hide driving hazards.

Snowplows and other removal equipment often move at slow speeds. In residential areas, they may back up in order to turn around. Give equipment operators room to do their job safely.

## Winter Survival

### Keep a Survival Kit in Your Vehicle

For safety, it is important to assemble a winter survival kit to keep in any vehicle you drive. Some recommended items include:

- Shovel.
- Container of sand or salt.
- Warm clothing and footwear.
- Red flag for your vehicle’s antenna.
- Blanket or sleeping bag.
- Quick energy foods, drinking water, and an empty waste container.
- Tow chain and tire chains.
- Road flares or reflectors.
- Jumper cables.
- Candles and matches or a lighter.
- First aid kit.

### What to Do if You Become Stranded

If you become stranded while traveling in cold weather, stay with your vehicle. Most deaths under these circumstances occur when people get out of their vehicles, become lost, and suffer prolonged exposure to the cold.

Stay calm, wait for help to arrive, and take as many of the following steps as possible:

- Turn on your hazard warning lights.
- Attach a red flag to your radio antenna.
- Set out flags and flares, if possible.
- If clothing, blankets and other survival supplies are stored in trunk, bring them inside the vehicle.

- Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and debris.
- Run the engine and heater until the vehicle is reasonably warm, and then turn it off. Repeat this process as long as fuel is available, or until you are rescued. Running the engine for approximately ten minutes each hour, in order to charge the battery and warm the interior, is recommended.
- Even in extremely cold, leave at least one window partially open to let in fresh air. Occupants of an idling vehicle can suffer carbon monoxide poisoning if ventilation is not adequate.
- At least one person in the vehicle should remain awake at all times.

## Maintaining Alertness and Concentration

Becoming tired or sleepy while behind the wheel is a common, yet very dangerous occurrence. To prevent this, be sure to get plenty of rest before starting out on a long drive.

The following suggestions may help, but will have no lasting effect:

- Stop as often as you need to — at least once every 100 miles or every two hours. Get out of the car and walk, stretch, loosen up, and relax. Have something to eat or drink.
- If you have passengers, talk in order to stay alert. Ask someone else to drive when you begin to feel tired.
- If you are alone, listen to the radio or sing aloud.
- When the weather permits, open a window slightly to increase fresh airflow. Do not rely on “stay awake” drugs.
- If none of this works, stop for the day or park far from the road and rest. If you stay in the car, lock all doors and open windows slightly to let in fresh air.

## Skidding

When you are driving on a slippery road, slow down and maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. Do not use cruise control when the road surface is slippery.

A vehicle skid occurs when tires lose their grip on the road surface. If this occurs, stay calm — do not overreact or slam on the brakes. Instead, take your foot off the accelerator and brakes until you can turn in the desired direction.

Some vehicles have an electronic anti-lock braking system that helps keep the vehicle under control while braking. If you have anti-lock brakes, do not pump them as you would regular brakes. Instead, press down on the brake pedal and continue to steer the vehicle until you regain control. If you are not sure if your vehicle has anti-lock brakes read your vehicle's owners manual for specific instructions.

## Driving in Heavy Rain or Fog

If you encounter thunderstorms or fog, reduce speed, use extra caution, and be prepared to stop. Increase your following distance. Your headlights, by law, must be used at times when you cannot see more than 500 feet ahead and when it is raining, snowing, sleet, or hail. Keep them on low beam to reduce glare.

If you cannot see a safe distance ahead, pull off the road and stop until visibility improves.

## Hydroplaning

At speeds of 35 mph or less, most tires will “wipe” water off the road surface to keep tires in contact with the road. At higher speeds, water can collect under tires and lift them off the surface of the road — this is called “hydroplaning.”

When your tires hydroplane, they lose all contact with the road. If this occurs, you will be unable to brake, accelerate, or change direction. If your tires begin to hydroplane, take your foot off the gas pedal.

Hydroplaning is less likely to occur at normal highway speeds if your vehicle is equipped with good tires that have deep treads, which will allow water to escape. But hydroplaning can occur at any speed if the depth of the water on the road is greater than the depth of the tire treads. In heavy rain, standard cars may begin to hydroplane at 35 mph.

To prevent hydroplaning, keep your tires in good condition and reduce speed when driving on wet roads.

## Driving on Narrow Roads and Hills

When you approach curves on narrow roads, or in areas where brush and trees block your view of the road ahead, you can use your horn to warn other drivers or pedestrians that you are on the road.

It is illegal to coast down steep hills with your transmission in neutral. On steep hills, check your speedometer frequently. Vehicle speed will increase even when your foot is not on the accelerator.

## Blowouts

A “blowout” is a burst tire that can throw your vehicle out of control. Before a blowout occurs, you may hear a thumping sound or notice the steering wheel pulling to the right or left.

If you experience a blowout, hold the steering wheel tightly, steer straight ahead, and slowly ease your foot off the accelerator. Do not brake until the vehicle is back under your control.

Pull the vehicle completely off the road at the nearest safe location.

## Steering Failure

If the front wheels of your vehicle do not respond when you turn the steering wheel, ease up on the accelerator. Do not brake unless it is necessary to avoid a crash.

Your vehicle may balance on its own and travel in a straight path as you reduce speed. If you must apply the brake, do so gently. If you brake suddenly, or try to shift gears, the change in speed may throw the vehicle off balance and out of control.

## Brake Failure

A brake pedal that sinks slowly when pressure is applied is one sign that your vehicle's brakes may be failing. A warning light should come on if there is a serious problem.

If your brake pedal suddenly sinks all the way to the floor, try pumping the pedal to build pressure. If this does not work, slowly apply your emergency/parking brake. Applying the brake too abruptly could throw the vehicle into a skid. Remember: the emergency/parking brake engages only the rear brakes.

If road conditions allow you to coast to a stop, shift your car into a lower gear. Continue to down shift as you decelerate until you can safely pull over and stop.

## Running Off the Pavement

If your wheels drift onto the shoulder of the road, do not try to swerve back onto the pavement. Stay on the shoulder and slowly release the gas pedal. After you have reduced your speed, turn back onto the pavement. Then speed up again.

## Watch Out for Deer

There are some things you can do to reduce your risk of hitting a deer. Deer are most active in the dusk to dawn hours, so you should be especially alert while driving during those times. Scan the sides of the road at night to watch for the reflection of your vehicle headlights in the eyes of deer. If you see such a reflection on the side of the road, slow down. Blow the horn and be ready to stop. Always watch for more than one deer. While deer crossings typically occur in rural settings, deer sometimes wander into towns or even cities. Deer may cross anywhere, anytime.

## Vehicle Approaching in Your Lane

If a vehicle is traveling toward you in your lane, move to the right. Do not use the left lane to avoid the vehicle. The driver may return to the correct lane and will then be in your path.

If the vehicle continues toward you, steer off the road to the right, if it is necessary to avoid a crash. Sounding your horn and flashing your headlights may help a sleepy or distracted driver to become alert.

## Vehicle Trying to Pass You

Another driver may wish to pass you on a two-lane road with traffic moving in both directions. If the driver misjudges the speed of oncoming traffic or is unable, for another reason, to complete the pass, you and the other drivers are all in danger. You must act to prevent a crash.

If the passing vehicle is nearly in position to move back into the right lane, slow down and allow the driver to complete the pass as quickly as possible. If the passing vehicle must drop back, speed up to make sure there is adequate room for the vehicle to move into the lane behind you.

If a crash seems probable, and the right shoulder is wide enough for your vehicle, quickly move to the right and allow the passing vehicle to move into your lane.

## Stalling on Railroad Tracks

If your vehicle becomes stalled on railroad tracks and a train is approaching, leave the vehicle. Keeping a safe distance from the tracks, walk quickly in the direction from which the train is approaching to avoid being struck by debris from the collision.

## Flooded Roadways

Flooding can occur when streams and rivers flow over their banks, when dams or levees break, when there is run-off from deep snow or any time there is heavy rainfall. Floodwaters can be found on roads, bridges and low areas. Flash floods can come rapidly and unexpectedly. They can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- Be cautious, especially at night, when the visibility is limited.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- Two feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can hide dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways by washing away the underlying road surface.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.

## Plunging Under Water

Most vehicles will float on the surface of water from 30 to 60 seconds. If your vehicle enters deep water, make every attempt to get out of the vehicle immediately. If possible, exit the vehicle through open windows before the water reaches the window level.

If your vehicle becomes submerged, try not to panic. Vehicle doors cannot be opened until water pressure inside the car is equal to that outside. When the vehicle is completely filled, doors can be opened, if there is no structural damage.

The weight of the engine will cause the front end of the car to sink first. The rear passenger compartment may provide an air pocket while you plan your escape strategy. If there are other people in the vehicle, determine their condition and try to exit the vehicle together.

## Fire

If you notice smoke rising from beneath the hood of your vehicle, pull off the road, turn off the ignition, and exit the vehicle immediately. Do not use water to put out the fire — this will actually spread the blaze.

## Overheating

Most vehicles have dashboard gauges or lights that indicate the engine temperature. Activities such as driving in stop-and-go traffic on a hot day, driving on steep inclines, and towing a trailer can cause your engine to run hotter than normal.

When your engine becomes hot, turn off any unnecessary vehicle equipment, such as air conditioning. If the temperature is still too high, turning on the heater will help draw hot air away from the engine. If these techniques do not work and engine temperature suddenly increases or steam rises from the engine, pull over to the side of the road, stop the vehicle, and turn off the ignition immediately.

## Headlight Failure

If your headlights suddenly go out, try your parking lights, hazard warning lights, or turn signals — one of them may work and give you enough light to guide you off the road. If your headlights fail on a busy or lighted road, you will probably have enough light to guide you. If all your lights fail on a dark, deserted road, slow down and keep your vehicle on the pavement until you can move safely onto the shoulder.

## Windshield Wiper Failure or Sudden Opening of Hood

If your windshield wipers suddenly fail in blinding rain or snow, slow down and activate your hazard warning lights. Do not reduce your speed



drastically if other vehicles are behind you. Pull off the road and move to a safe location as soon as possible.

If the hood of your vehicle suddenly opens, obstructing your view, you may be able to see through the space between the hood and dashboard. If this is not possible, roll down the window and lean over to look past the side of the hood. Activate your hazard warning lights, reduce speed, and choose a safe path to steer off the road.

## Stuck Gas Pedal

If your gas pedal sticks, you may be able to free it by hooking your toe under the pedal and raising it. If this does not work, apply the brakes and shift into neutral, this will disengage the engine. Next, choose a safe path and steer to the shoulder of the road. If the shoulder is not paved, switch on your hazard lights and continue steering the vehicle in a straight path until you can safely pull over to the shoulder of the road.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Safety Tips

Carbon monoxide is a deadly, odorless, and colorless gas produced by engines. It can collect inside your vehicle when the windows are closed, or in your garage, if your engine is idling. The only cure for carbon monoxide poisoning is a good supply of fresh air.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sudden fatigue, headache, dizziness, and nausea. If you experience any of these symptoms, open the windows, turn off the ignition, and get out of the vehicle or garage as soon as possible. Have the vehicle's exhaust system inspected if you suspect the exhaust system is leaking.

Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs most frequently during winter months when vehicle windows tend to be closed. When temperatures are cold, carbon monoxide can get trapped inside the garage even when the garage door is open completely. Carbon monoxide can seep into an attached house. Carbon monoxide can render a person unconscious within a few minutes.

To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and possibly death:

- Avoid idling a vehicle in a garage. A safer place to warm up a vehicle is in the driveway.
- Avoid sitting in a vehicle with the engine idling.
- Do not drive with all windows tightly closed.
- Avoid idling a vehicle when stuck in the snow or the mud.
- Make sure your vehicle's exhaust system does not leak and is not blocked.
- Periodically allow fresh air into the vehicle by lowering the windows.

# Chapter 7 Your Driving Privileges

*Driving in Minnesota is a privilege. You can lose your driving privileges if you break certain laws or fail to meet certain requirements.*

*The Minnesota Department of Public Safety maintains your driving record, which contains information about driving and licensing violations in Minnesota and other states.*

*Serious or recurring violations may result in loss of your driving privilege or restrictions on where, when, and what types of vehicle you may drive.*

## License Withdrawal

Your license may be withdrawn by suspension, revocation, or cancellation. If you commit an offense and your license is withdrawn, the Department of Public Safety will send you a notice of withdrawal and a list of requirements for reinstatement.

Some of the conditions that could cause you to lose your driving privileges are listed below.

### Suspension

Your driver's license may be suspended, if you:

- Repeatedly violate traffic laws.
- Are convicted in court for a violation that contributed to a traffic accident resulting in death, personal injury, or serious property damage.
- Use, or allow someone else to use, your license for an illegal action. It is illegal to allow anyone to use your license or permit.
- Commit a traffic offense in another state that would be grounds for suspension in Minnesota.
- Are judged in court to be legally unfit to drive a motor vehicle.
- Fail to report a medical condition that would result in cancellation of driving privileges.
- Fail to stop for a school bus with its stop arm extended and its red lights flashing, within five years of a conviction for the same offense.
- Are found to possess a fake or altered license.
- Make a fraudulent application for a license or identification card.
- Take any part of the driver's license examination for someone else, or allow someone else to take the examination for you.
- Falsely identify yourself to a police officer.
- Fail to appear in court or pay a fine on a motor vehicle-related violation when required to do so.

- Are convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of Minnesota traffic law.
- Fail to pay court-ordered child support.
- Use, or allow someone else to use, a license, permit, or ID card to buy tobacco products for someone who is under 18 years of age, or alcohol for someone who is under 21 years of age.
- Are under 21 years of age, and the court determines that you drove a motor vehicle while consuming, or after consuming, alcohol.
- Pay a fee to the state or driver's license agent with a dishonored check. (The suspension will be removed when the dishonored check and any related fees have been paid in full.)
- Are convicted for theft of gasoline.

After the period of suspension has ended, your driving privilege may be reinstated, if all requirements are met. One requirement is payment of the reinstatement fee. If your license expired during the suspension period, or your name or address changed, you must apply for a new license and pay the appropriate fee.

### Revocation

Your driver's license may be revoked, if you:

- Refuse to take a test to determine whether you are under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, or you fail such a test.
- Are convicted of manslaughter or any other criminal action while driving a motor vehicle.
- Are convicted of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Are convicted of a felony in which you used a motor vehicle.
- Are convicted of driving in excess of 100 mph.
- Are convicted of fleeing a police officer.
- Are convicted of failing to stop, identify yourself, and render aid when involved in a motor vehicle accident—especially one that involves death or personal injury to others.
- Are convicted of lying under oath, signing any legal document that contains false information about legal ownership or operation of a motor vehicle, or making a false statement to the Department of Public Safety or its agents about such information.
- Plead guilty or forfeit bail for three violations in a single year of any Minnesota traffic law or ordinance that requires a jail sentence upon conviction.
- Are convicted of an offense in another state that would be grounds for revoking your license if you were convicted in Minnesota.
- Are convicted of a misdemeanor for driving a motor vehicle with prior knowledge that the owner of the vehicle did not have no-fault vehicle insurance.

- Own a vehicle without no-fault insurance and are found to have driven it, or allowed others to drive it, with full knowledge that the vehicle was not insured.
- Are convicted of a gross misdemeanor for failing to stop for a school bus with its stop arm extended and its red lights flashing.
- Are convicted of selling or possessing a controlled substance while operating a motor vehicle.

After the period of revocation has ended, your driving privileges may be reinstated, if all the requirements for reinstatement are met. Requirements include payment of the reinstatement fee and passing the appropriate examinations. You must show proper identification when you take the knowledge test or road test. You must apply for a new license after all your testing requirements are met.

### Limited License

Under some circumstances, a limited license may be issued to a person whose driving privileges are revoked or suspended. Before a limited license will be issued, certain requirements must be met, including completion of any mandatory waiting periods. If you are issued a limited license, you are restricted to:

- Travel to and from your place of employment.
- Travel to and from chemical dependency treatment or counseling.
- Providing transportation for dependent children, and other dependents living in your household, for medical, educational, or nutritional needs.
- Travel to and from a post-secondary institution at which you are enrolled.

### Cancellation

Your license may be canceled if you do not have a legal right to a driver's license that was issued to you. Your license may be canceled if you:

- Acquire a mental or physical disability that makes you incapable of driving a motor vehicle safely.
- Do not pass a test that is legally requested by the Department of Public Safety to determine your ability to drive safely.
- Give false or misleading information on your license application. (Your license will be canceled for 60 days, or until the correct information is provided – whichever is longer.)
- Commit a crime for which cancellation of your license is a legal punishment.
- Do not qualify for a driver's license under Minnesota law.

## **Commercial Driver's License Disqualification**

You can lose commercial driver's license privileges for committing certain driving offenses. See the Minnesota Commercial Driver's License Manual for information about commercial driver's license requirements.

# Chapter 8 Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

*It is illegal to operate a vehicle on Minnesota roads when impaired by alcohol or other substances.*

## Alcohol and Driving

Drinking and driving is a serious problem in Minnesota and across the nation. There is a strong relationship between alcohol use and severity of traffic crashes. Alcohol use is involved in more than one-third of the deaths on Minnesota roads each year.

Crashes involving impaired drivers kill an average of 240 people each year in Minnesota and injure thousands of others. The person most often killed in an alcohol-related crash is the impaired driver. Young males are more likely than others to engage in this deadly behavior.

## Drugs and Driving

Drug-impaired driving is as dangerous as alcohol-impaired driving. Minnesota law prohibits driving while impaired by controlled or hazardous substances. These substances include illegal drugs and prescription drugs, as well as household products.

These substances can impair a driver's mental and physical ability to safely operate a vehicle and to respond to driving conditions.

Legal drugs that may not cause impairment alone can produce powerful intoxicating effects when mixed with alcohol.

## Effect of Alcohol on Driving Skills

Alcohol is a depressant that slows body functions and impairs motor skills. The amount of alcohol in the blood is called the "alcohol concentration." Higher alcohol concentration means a greater degree of impairment. Driving ability becomes impaired after one drink.

## Types of Effects

Alcohol affects the central nervous system and impairs the ability to drive safely. The following section describes how specific functions are affected by alcohol consumption.

### Judgment

Drivers who consume alcohol misjudge their degree of impairment. They may drive too fast, misjudge stopping distance, fail to wear a seat belt, and forget to drive defensively.

### **Vision**

Range of eye movement decreases, reducing peripheral vision. Blurred vision may also occur at high alcohol-concentration levels.

### **Reaction Time**

Reaction time is slower. Impaired drivers cannot respond quickly to traffic signals, actions of other drivers and pedestrians, and events that take place on the road around them.

### **Steering**

Impaired drivers tend to over-steer, which can result in weaving and running off the road.

### **Perception**

Impaired drivers do not notice sounds and sights — or do not interpret them correctly.

### **Coordination and Balance**

Impaired drivers lose the ability to combine steadiness with speed and accuracy.

### **Attention**

Drivers have difficulty giving their attention to focus on the many tasks required to operate a motor vehicle.

## **Things to Know about Alcohol**

A 12-ounce beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, a typical mixed drink, and a nine-ounce wine cooler usually contain about the same amount of alcohol. It is important to realize, however, that mixed drinks may contain more than the standard one and a half ounces of alcohol, and the amount of alcohol in beers may vary by as much as 40 percent.

The term “proof” refers to the strength of a drink and is equal to twice the percent of alcohol the substance contains. A bottle of 80 proof whiskey, for example, contains 40 percent alcohol.

The period of time over which you drink affects your alcohol concentration. If you consume more than one standard drink per hour, your alcohol concentration will increase. The effects of alcohol vary greatly among individuals.

Factors such as age, gender, body weight, mood, food intake, metabolism, and genetics have an impact on how alcohol affects an individual. You may be affected differently by alcohol on different occasions due to fluctuating factors such as mood, food intake, and even sleepiness.

Males and females are affected differently by alcohol. Men generally have more muscle tissue, which does not allow alcohol absorption into the blood stream as readily as fat. A person who has a higher percentage of fat than another person of the same weight will reach a higher alcohol concentration by consuming the same amount of alcohol.

The only way to reduce your alcohol concentration is to wait. Alcohol is generally eliminated at the rate of about one drink per hour, but many factors influence the amount of alcohol that is retained.

The body eliminates 95 percent of alcohol through oxidation by the liver. The remaining alcohol is eliminated through breathing, perspiration, and urination. Drinking coffee, exercising, and taking cold showers do not increase the rate of oxidation.

## Making Lower-Risk Choices

Social drinking frequently leads to impaired driving. The safest policy is this: if you are going to drink, don't drive; and if you are going to drive, don't drink. Some alternatives to driving impaired are:

- Designate a driver.
- Call a taxi.
- Call a friend.
- Stay overnight at a friend's house.
- Take away the keys, if a friend is impaired.

Because alcohol consumption impairs judgment, it is important to make a decision while you are sober about how you will avoid impaired driving later.

## Minnesota DWI Law

A person with an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher (0.04 if the person is driving a commercial vehicle), who is in control of a moving or parked vehicle, can be arrested for driving while impaired (DWI). If a law enforcement officer can prove that alcohol caused the driver to commit driving errors, he or she can be arrested for DWI at an alcohol concentration level as low as 0.04.

## Implied Consent Law

If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe a driver is impaired and is operating or in physical control of a motor vehicle, the driver is required to submit to a test of his or her blood, breath, or urine. It is a crime to refuse to submit to this test. Refusal to take the test will result in a one to six year revocation of driving privileges, depending upon the number of offenses on record.

This law also applies to operation of recreational vehicles, such as boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs.

A law enforcement officer may ask you to blow into a roadside preliminary screening device. This pre-arrest breath test helps the officer determine how much alcohol you have in your system. This instrument is only used as an indicator of your alcohol-concentration level and the results have limited use as evidence in court. If you are



arrested, you will be required to submit to a blood, breath, or urine test that can be used as evidence. Any law enforcement officer may ask you to take a test when you:

- Are under arrest for DWI.
- Refuse to take a pre-arrest breath test.
- Take and fail a pre-arrest breath test.
- Are involved in an alcohol-related crash that caused personal injury, property damage, or death.

The pre-arrest breath test can be beneficial to drivers who appear to be intoxicated, but are not. Some medical conditions have symptoms similar to those associated with intoxication. Law enforcement officers will obtain medical assistance for drivers who are ill.

## Penalties

Penalties associated with an alcohol-related revocation of a driver's license include a \$680 reinstatement fee and completion of a DWI knowledge test, driver's license application, and a chemical assessment. Each offense has unique criminal penalties in addition to administrative sanctions, depending on the arrest situation, previous driving violations, and criminal record. Penalties will be more severe if the driver:

- Has prior DWI arrests.
- Has an alcohol concentration of 0.16 or above.
- Has a child younger than 16 years of age in the vehicle at the time of the stop.
- Is under 21 years of age.
- Refuses a pre-arrest breath test.

A driver who is found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or above, or who refuses to take a test to determine an alcohol concentration, will receive a seven-day temporary license. At the end of the seven-day period, the offender's driver's license will be revoked.

### First Offense

- Minimum of 90-day revocation (30 days if individual pleads guilty to DWI).
- No work permit will be issued until a 15 day revocation period has passed, and until reinstatement requirements have been met.
- 90 days in jail and/or \$1,000 fine.

### Second Offense

- Minimum one year license revocation if second offense occurred within 10 years of the first offense.
- Enrollment in the Ignition Interlock Device Program is an option.
- One year in jail and/or \$3,000 fine.
- License plates are impounded.

### Third Offense

- Loss of license for a minimum of three years.
- License is cancelled.
- Chemical use treatment assessment is required.
- Enrollment in the Ignition Interlock Device Program is required.
- One year in jail and/or \$3,000 fine.
- Vehicle is forfeited and license plates are impounded.
- Jail or maximum bail and electronic monitoring.

### Ignition Interlock Device Program

The Ignition Interlock Device Program enhances public safety by giving the eligible alcohol offender the option of having an ignition interlock device installed on his or her vehicle, helping to ensure safe and legal driving. The device is the size of a hand-held calculator and includes a blowing tube. It prevents a vehicle from starting if it detects a certain alcohol concentration level after the driver blows into the tube. The device is installed near the steering wheel and connected to the engine.

First-time alcohol offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.16 or above and all second-time alcohol offenders have the option of regaining their driving privileges by participating in the Ignition Interlock Device Program. Drivers whose licenses are canceled and whose privileges are denied as “inimical to public safety” are required to enroll in the Ignition Interlock Device Program for a period of three to six years in order to regain full driving privileges.

### Felony DWI

You may be charged for a felony DWI if you are arrested for: a fourth DWI in a 10-year period; have previously been convicted of a felony DWI; have been convicted of criminal vehicular homicide while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A fourth offense may result in a loss of license for four years and until rehabilitation and other reinstatement requirements are met. The criminal penalties for felony DWI can include a sentence of up to seven years in prison with a five-year conditional release and a \$14,000 fine.

### Underage Drinking — No Tolerance Rule

The legal age to buy and drink alcohol in Minnesota is 21. It is illegal for a person under age 21 to operate a motor vehicle with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system. If convicted of this offense you will have your driving privileges suspended for 30 days. A second conviction will result in suspension of driving privileges for 180 days.

## Commercial Driver's License and Alcohol and Controlled Substances

You will lose your commercial driver's license for at least one year on the first offense if you:

- Drive a commercial vehicle when your alcohol concentration is 0.04 or more. If your alcohol concentration is less than 0.04, but detectable, you will be put out of service for 24 hours.
- Drive any vehicle when your alcohol concentration is .08 or higher.
- Refuse a blood, breath, or urine test while driving any motor vehicle.
- Leave the scene of an accident involving a motor vehicle that you were driving.
- Use any motor vehicle to commit a felony.

If the offense occurs while you are operating a commercial motor vehicle that is placarded for hazardous materials, you will lose your commercial driver's license for at least three years. A second offense will result in permanent loss of your commercial driver's license. Using a commercial motor vehicle to commit a felony involving controlled substances will result in permanent loss of your commercial driver's license.

Drivers who have a commercial license and are arrested for impaired driving in a passenger vehicle will be unable to obtain a work permit for a commercial vehicle during the withdrawal period.

## Other Laws Related to Alcohol and Controlled Substances

### Open Container

It is unlawful to drink, or to have an open container of, any alcoholic beverage inside a motor vehicle when it is on a public street or highway. It is also unlawful to allow a passenger to drink, or to have an open container of, any alcoholic beverage inside a motor vehicle.

### Controlled Substances in Motor Vehicles

It is unlawful to use, possess or sell controlled substances in a motor vehicle.

# Chapter 9 Information Directory and Index

*This chapter will help you locate services and information related to driving in Minnesota.*

## Web Services

Online services and information are available at [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov).

Here's a sample of what you can do:

- Schedule a driver's road test.
- Find office locations.
- Check to see if your driving privileges are valid.
- File a crash report.
- Report the sale of a vehicle.
- Renew your vehicle registration.
- Find the location of the office nearest to you.
- Print a driver's license manual.
- Download forms and information related to driver's licenses and the operation and ownership of a motor vehicle.
- Find approved driver education schools and improvement clinics.

## Office Locations

Driver's license and motor vehicle services are available at more than 200 locations throughout the state. Office location information is available 24/7. Visit [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov) or call 651-297-2005.

## Contacts

Email: [dvs.driverslicense@state.mn.us](mailto:dvs.driverslicense@state.mn.us)

Road Test Scheduling (Metro Only) .....	651-284-1000
Office Locations.....	651-297-2005
Driver's License Information .....	651-297-3298
CDL Information .....	651-297-5029
Driver Evaluation .....	651-296-2025
Ignition Interlock .....	651-296-2948
No-fault Insurance Compliance .....	651-296-2015
Impounded Plates.....	651-297-5034
Vehicle Registration and Title.....	651-297-2126
Specialty Plates .....	651-297-3166
Automated Services .....	651-284-1234
Other .....	651-296-6911
Customer Assistance for Hearing-Impaired callers (TTY/TDD).....	651-282-6555

## Other State Services

State Patrol Information Line .....	651-201-7100
MnDOT Road Conditions.....	511 or visit <a href="http://www.511mn.org">www.511mn.org</a>
MnDOT Motor Carrier Services .....	651-215-6330

## Consumer Information

Attorney General's Office .....	651-296-3353
Toll-free.....	800-657-3787
TTY for hearing impaired .....	651-297-7206
Toll-free.....	800-366-4812
Web site: <a href="http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer">www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer</a>	

## Voter Registration

You may register to vote at the same time you apply for a driver's license or identification card. Simply check the voter registration box on the driver's license application and sign your name. Applications submitted within 30 days prior to election day may not be included on the voter roster.

## Organ and Tissue Donation

Thousands of people are waiting for a lifesaving or life enhancing organ, tissue or cornea transplant. Licensed drivers in the state of Minnesota can make a personal commitment to organ, tissue and eye donation. Driver's license applications contain a section where you can indicate your wish to become a donor after death. This donor indication serves as your consent. It is important to discuss your decision with your family members, and make them aware of your wishes. Drivers under the age of 18 can participate in this program with their parents' consent.

Organs and tissues that can be donated include heart, lungs, liver, kidney, pancreas, intestines, skin, heart valves, bone, and connective tissue. Organs are allocated to recipients based upon medical urgency, length of time waiting, genetic matching, and geography.

For eye donation, the whole eye or the cornea can be donated. Eyes are distributed for transplant on a patient-based, fair, equitable system.

The donation process does not prevent an open-casket funeral. Donors are treated with great care and dignity throughout the donation process. There is no charge for donation to the donor or the donor's family.

For more information about donating organs or tissues, contact LifeSource at 1-888-5-DONATE (1-888-536-6283) or visit [www.DonateLifeMn.org](http://www.DonateLifeMn.org).

For information about donating whole eyes or corneas, contact the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank at 1-866-88-SIGHT (1-866-887-4448) or visit [www.mnlionseyebank.org](http://www.mnlionseyebank.org).

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