

# Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober



Wisconsin Department of Transportation



# RULES OF THE ROAD & INATTENTIVE DRIVING



## STOP ON RED (AND YELLOW)

Running a red light is no joke. Many people are killed or badly injured each year because someone cruised through a red light. The law is clear on how you must behave at traffic signals:

## YELLOW

When you see a yellow light with or following the green light, you should stop before entering the intersection unless you're so close to it that a stop may not be made safely. A yellow light does NOT mean it's time to speed up and race through the intersection.

*That's how people get killed.*

## RED

Traffic facing a red signal must stop before entering the crosswalk or before entering the intersection and must remain stopped until the light changes to green or some other signal permitting movement such as a green arrow.

## DON'T TAILGATE

Tailgating is dangerous and violators can receive citations or, even worse, end up causing a crash and injuring themselves or others.

## USE SEAT BELTS

Using Seat Belts is an incredibly effective and simple way to save lives.

Consistent safety belt use by all occupants including those in rear seats is the single most effective way to protect against being ejected from a vehicle or being thrown around violently inside it during a crash.

*Costing all of us lots of money for unbelted motorists in crashes:*

- Drivers and passengers who are hurt or killed in traffic crashes because they didn't buckle up create tremendous economic losses, such as medical expenses and lost worker productivity. The rest of society pays for nearly 75 percent of these economic losses through higher insurance premiums, taxes, and other public funding, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.
- In 2013, economic losses from traffic fatalities and injuries in Wisconsin cost more than \$2.7 billion, according to the 2013 Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts.



## DRIVE RIGHT, PASS LEFT

The left lane is designed as a passing lane. The right lane is more for just an average driving lane. According to state law, any vehicle traveling "at less than the normal speed of traffic" must be driven in the right-hand lane, or as close as practicable, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle.



## USE YOUR BLINKERS!

Yes it's illegal if you do not signal your intentions before maneuvers. You are legally required to signal before pulling over, pulling into traffic, lane changing, parking, merging, turning right and left, etc. And yes you can get a ticket for failing to signal your intentions.

Using your blinkers is required if there are other vehicles around you. In the event that any other vehicle may be affected by a driver's movement, the use of a turn signal is mandatory. Your blinkers are usually needed when you are:

- Intersections and traffic lights
- Overtaking a cyclist
- Making turns
- Switching lanes
- Pulling away
- Parking



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