

# Staying Safe

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



Safe Sober



# RULES OF THE ROAD

## MAKING A PROPER TURN

### Right turns

- Both the approach and the turn must be made as closely as you can to the right hand curb or shoulder.

### Left turns

- Approach and complete the turn in the farthest left lane available to traffic moving in your direction.

### Roundabouts

- Follow the same rules provided above. However, semi trailers and other long vehicles generally can't stay in one lane at roundabouts. All drivers should avoid driving next to or passing trucks while approaching and maneuvering through a roundabout.

## PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE

Usually you are required to drive on the right hand side of a two-lane street or highway. One of the occasions during which it is legal to drive on the left side of a two-lane road or highway is when you are legally passing another vehicle.

When you pass on a two lane road you must leave the right lane early enough and remain in the left lane long enough to pass without interfering with the other vehicle. It's your responsibility when passing to make sure it's safe. It is the other driver's responsibility to give way and let you pass without speeding up. Of course you cannot pass in a no passing zone designated by signs or a solid yellow line on the pavement on your side of the center line.

Take extra care when passing bicycles. They must be given at least three feet of clearance.

It is legal to pass a bus stopped on the road, taking on or letting off passengers unless it's a school bus with flashing red lights activated. But it is not legal to turn right in the intersection directly in front of the bus. If you need to turn right, wait behind the bus until it moves away.

You may not pass another vehicle within 100 feet of railroad tracks, a tunnel or an intersection, unless there are two or more lanes of traffic in your direction.

## EMERGENCY VEHICLES

When an emergency vehicle approaches with its siren on you must yield the right of way as quickly as possible. Pull to the right and stop your vehicle.

Position your vehicle as if parking, next to the curb. If there isn't a curb, pull as far to the right as is safe, but don't block an intersection. Remain in that position until the emergency vehicle is well past you.

Don't "zoom out" right after the emergency vehicle has passed.

Since 2001, Wisconsin requires motorists to shift lanes, where possible, to give stopped emergency vehicles or tow trucks a safe zone in which to work.

Under this law, when approaching an authorized emergency vehicle or tow truck stopped within 12 feet of the pavement and which has its emergency lights operating, you should shift lanes, if possible, leaving the lane next to the emergency vehicle open. If shifting lanes is unsafe, motorists are required to slow until they are past the emergency vehicle.

**TURN SIGNAL USE**  
State law requires the use of turn signals when changing lanes or making a turn.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY**  
If the cars approach at right angles to each other, the vehicle on the right has the right of way and the one to the left must wait.  
If two vehicles approach an intersection from opposite directions and one wants to turn left across the other's path, the turning vehicle must wait until the other has passed.

If one road terminates at an intersection and the other goes through, as in a "T" intersection, vehicles on the through section have right of way over those on the road which terminates.

**FLASHING YELLOW ARROWS**  
A driver may make a left turn if there is no oncoming traffic and there are no pedestrians crossing the street. The new flashing yellow arrow provides a more direct message for left turns: yield to opposing traffic and pedestrians before proceeding.



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