



# The **HIGHWAY CODE** for The Bahamas



**This Publication serves as the “Highway Code Booklet of the Bahamas”.**

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE

**919**

AMBULANCE

**322-2221**

HOSPITAL

**322-2861**

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## *A message from the Controller*

This Highway Code is primarily designed to help all road users be safe on the roads. It includes the rules and regulations on how we should use the roads as well as providing advice on making our journeys less stressful. Also, if all road users follow the rules and advice provided, it will help to reduce congestion and improve our environment. We are all road users - whether we are walking, riding in a jitney or driving a car – and need to be aware of, and follow, the rules that are there to help the whole community.

All adults, especially the parents of young children, should know about the contents of the ‘code’ even before they are aiming to become a driver, but learner drivers will need to study the contents in order to pass their driving test, obtain a licence; and then become a safe and considerate driver.

The code includes all the information you will need to know about traffic rules and regulations, traffic signs, signals and road markings. It also provided guidance on maintaining your vehicle, what to do in the event of braking down or being involved in an accident and some useful advice on first aid. It also provides detailed guidance on how to go about passing your driving test - both the written knowledge part and the on-road practical test.

I would like express my gratitude for the guidance and assistance provided by the Inter-American Development Bank and the many other agencies that contributed to the production and printing of this valuable document.

It is my sincere hope that you will always remember the information in the ‘code’ whenever you use our roads and I would like to take this opportunity to wish every learner driver success in their studies and a long lifetime of safe driving. I look forward to seeing your displays of safe driving on our streets. The roads are for us all, don’t be one of the minority who spoil it for the majority.

*Controller,*  
**Road Traffic Department**

## INTRODUCTION

The *Highway Code* explains how to use our roads safely and efficiently. It has been written for all road users, including pedestrians, passengers, cyclists, motorcyclists, and drivers.

The *Highway Code* is the official guide to using our roads, as provided for in the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 220). It is a mixture of **rules** and **advice**. The **rules** are part of the traffic laws and if you disobey them you are committing an offence and you may be fined, disqualified from driving and even sent to prison. Where you see the words “MUST” or “MUST NOT” it is referring to a legal requirement. However, legislation can change and you should seek advice from your local official if in any doubt about the current rules.

The *Highway Code* groups the rules and advice according to the type of road user. This makes it easier to identify and refer to sections of particular relevance; nevertheless, it is recommended that everyone read all the parts in order to generate a better understanding between road users.

The *Highway Code* tries to explain things in simple language, but some of the terms used may be unfamiliar to you, or have a slightly different meaning to what you are use to. A short guide is given below:

“**Driver**” - any person who drives a motor vehicle or other vehicle (including a cycle)

“**Passenger**” - a traveller in a public or private conveyance

“**Give way**” - a driver must not continue if to do so would force the drivers of other vehicles to change speed or direction quickly

“**Lane**” - part of a road which has been marked out for use by one moving line of vehicles

“**Pedestrian crossing**” - part of a road which is painted with white stripes – also known as a “zebra crossing”

“**Road user**” - anyone travelling, or present on a road, or in a vehicle on a road

“**Traffic**” - moving vehicles

“**Traffic Island**” – a raised area over which vehicles may not pass, placed at a street junction, or between opposing traffic lanes

“**Vehicle**” means any machine propelled along the road by any power, and includes pedal cycles, hand carts, and animal-drawn carts.

“**Motor Vehicle**” means any vehicle driven solely or partly by mechanical means.

## GENERAL ADVICE FOR ALL ROAD USERS

### BE FIT AND WELL

You have to be fit and well to use the road safely. If you are not feeling well, do not drive, and get help if you need to go somewhere. Do not use the road if you have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs to the extent that you are not fully in control of yourself. If you are taking any medicine ask your doctor for advice on whether you should drive – some medicines reduce alertness and come with warnings against driving or using dangerous equipment.

### BE RESPONSIBLE

You have a duty to make every effort to avoid doing anything that might result in harm to others. This includes things that are known to be dangerous, such as speeding, drinking and driving, and overtaking at a bend. You also have a responsibility to yourself and your family, so always wear your seat belt, or crash helmet if riding a motorcycle.

### CONCENTRATE

Safe use of the road requires your full concentration, whether you are a driver or a pedestrian. Don't let others distract you and you shouldn't drive while eating, using a mobile phone, trying to read a map, or even tuning the radio.

### BE CALM AND PATIENT

Avoid getting angry about the bad behaviour of others. Never try to punish them. Be patient in traffic jams, and do not make things worse by trying to get ahead of those in front of you. Driving aggressively saves very little time, increases stress, pollutes the environment and increases wear and tear on the vehicle.

### BE HELPFUL TO OTHERS

If everyone follows the rules and is helpful to others driving will be more pleasurable and there will be fewer delays. Selfishness makes things worse for everyone and can be dangerous. You should behave towards other drivers, as you would like them to behave towards you.

### PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

You have a duty to assist and protect old people, the disabled, and children. Drivers of motor vehicles must take extra care when sharing the road with those who have little protection against injury such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

## KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE

Our road and side walks are provided for travel and transport.

Use them safely and do not misuse or obstruct them in any way.

Damaged roads and blockages can cause traffic jams and crashes; especially at night.

### YOU SHOULD NOT DAMAGE THE ROADS AND SIDE WALKS

- by removing road signs or obscuring them with posters
- by digging up the road or side walk without permission
- by overloading your vehicle
- by using a tracked vehicle (such as a bulldozer with tracks or chains)
- by spilling diesel or oil on the road - this 'melts' the road surface
- by blocking the road drains
- by not spilling concrete on the road

### YOU SHOULD NOT BLOCK THE ROAD AND SIDE WALK

- by sitting or standing in the road talking to others
- by playing in the road - or letting children play in the road
- by walking in the road when there is a side walk you could use
- by holding demonstrations or celebrations without permission from the Police or without proper supervision
- by leaving rubbish, bricks or sand or other building material on the road
- by selling goods on the road or side walk
- by using the road for the repair of vehicles
- by erecting signs

***DON'T FORGET!***

**The road is for movement - if you misuse it, block it or damage it, you could cause a crash - and someone could die. We all need to help to keep our roads safe.**

## FOR PEDESTRIANS

### Walking along the road

Use the side walk where there is one. If there is no side walk, walk along the RIGHT edge of the road so that you are FACING the vehicles that are coming towards you. If there is more than one of you, walk in single file (one behind the other), especially on narrow roads and at night. Darkness makes it especially dangerous for pedestrians, so after dark wear something white or bright. Carrying a flashlight, or wearing a reflectorised belt or arm band, will also make you much safer.

### Crossing the road

#### **FOLLOW THE CROSSING CODE**

##### **1. Find a safe place to cross**

*Choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Never cross behind buses or parked vehicles or at other unsafe places. It is safer to cross at traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, overhead pedestrian bridges, traffic islands, or where there is a police officer. It is worth walking a little out of your way to get to a safe place to cross.*

##### **2. Stop at the edge of the road**

##### **3. Look all round for vehicles and listen**

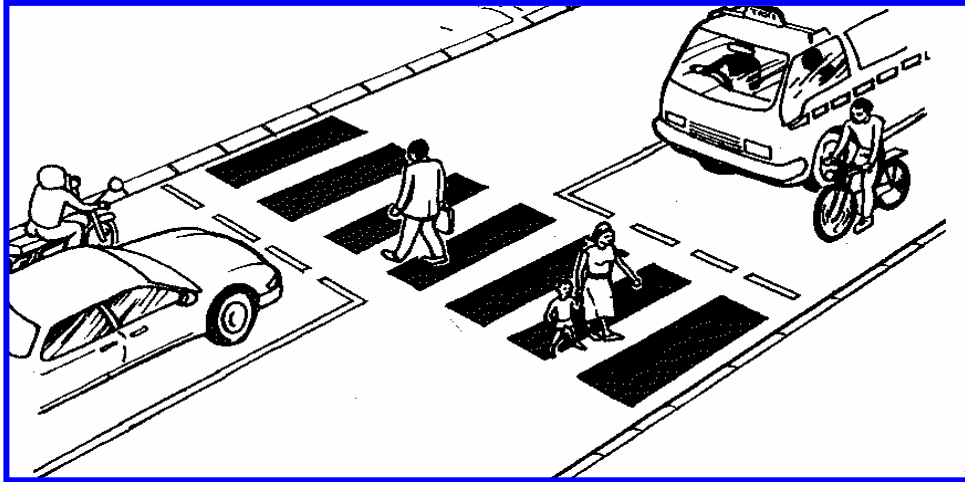
*Vehicles could come from any direction, so look carefully. Listen too, because you can sometimes hear vehicles before you see them.*

##### **4. When there are no vehicles near, walk straight across the road - but keep looking and listening**

*If there are vehicles coming, let them go past. Remember that vehicles cannot stop quickly. When it is safe, walk straight across the road - do not run. Keep looking and listening in case there are any other vehicles you did not see.*



## FOR PEDESTRIANS



### **Allow time for vehicles to stop or change direction**

Many pedestrians think that drivers can easily see, and avoid, them. But it is not always easy to see a pedestrian in a complex environment, and moving vehicles cannot stop or change direction suddenly. At night you can see a vehicle with its lights on long before its driver can see you. Drivers have difficulty seeing what is behind them, so watch out when vehicles are reversing towards you. You must look after your own safety, and not expect too much from drivers.


### **Crossing at a pedestrian crossing**

If there is a pedestrian ('zebra') crossing nearby, use it. Give drivers plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross. Drivers are required by law to stop for pedestrians using the crossing, but do not cross until they have stopped. Then walk straight across, but keep looking both ways and listen. If there are two lanes to cross and a car has stopped in the inside lane be extra careful of 'overtaking' cars in the outside lane. If there is a traffic island in the middle of the crossing, wait on the island and follow the same rules before crossing the second half of the road – it is a separate crossing.

## FOR PEDESTRIANS

### Crossing at pedestrian signals

In some places there are traffic light signals which instruct the traffic when to stop and pedestrians when to cross. When the red “standing man” signal is showing do not cross. When the lights change to show a steady green “walking man” signal, check that the traffic has stopped and then cross with care. After a while the green signal will start to flash, and this means that you should **NOT** start to cross, because it is about to change back to red.

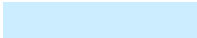
	<b>AMBER</b> means that pedestrians must not cross the road
	Steady <b>GREEN</b> means that pedestrians may cross with care
	Flashing <b>GREEN</b> means that pedestrians must not start to cross as the <b>AMBER</b> signal is about to come on.

### Child safety

Children do not realise how dangerous the road is. Younger children (especially under the age of 10) cannot judge vehicle speed and distance well enough to be able to cross the road safely, and because they are children they may sometimes do silly things. So children’s safety depends on you. Parents need to start the child’s road safety education. Never let young children walk on the road or sidewalk alone. Walk between them and the traffic, and hold their hands firmly. Children learn by example, so always use the Crossing Code when crossing the road with them. Show them the safest routes to the shops, school and play areas. Never let your children play on, or near the road - tell them there is a big risk of being killed or badly injured.

### The old and disabled

Be prepared to help older people and the disabled – or anyone having difficulty crossing the road. You can be their eyes and ears. Help them to cross to the road safely using the Crossing Code; which will also mean that you are safe while doing it.



## FOR PEDESTRIANS

### Being safe near traffic

Pedestrians are very vulnerable road users and always come off worst if hit by a vehicle. Whenever you are near traffic you need to concentrate to be safe. While you have to be especially careful near busy roads, you must not assume that quiet roads will always be safe. You need to concentrate, think ahead, avoid dangerous situations, and be ready to act quickly if required. Be patient near traffic, do not be in such a hurry that you take unnecessary risks – your life is not worth the few seconds. Also, never take so much alcohol or drugs that you are incapable of walking along or crossing the road safely. Drunken pedestrians, as well as drunk drivers, represent a high proportion of accident casualties

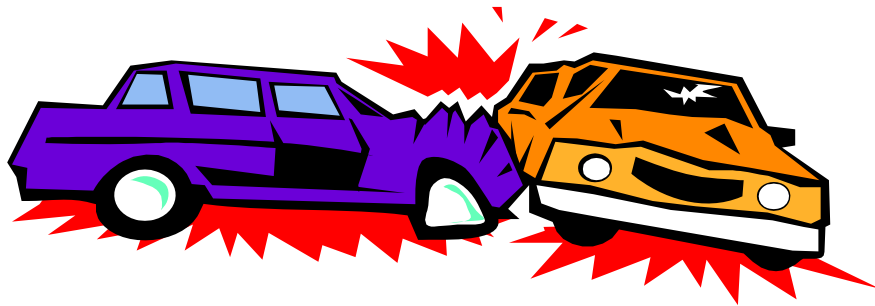
### *DON'T FORGET!*

#### **PEDESTRIANS BEWARE**

As many pedestrians as drivers are killed on the roads. Don't become an accident statistic. Do not expect that all drivers will always behave safely; you must take responsibility for your own safety. Be especially careful at night, in bad weather and if you have consumed alcohol or drugs.

#### **PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

Roads are very dangerous for young children. Don't let them use the roads alone. Teach them the **CROSSING CODE** as soon as they are old enough to understand it and practice it with them. Set good examples for your children whether walking along or crossing the road and by *always* wearing your seatbelt when driving.



## FOR PASSENGERS ON JITNEYS (OMNI-BUSES)

Your safety is very much in the hands of the driver but there are things you can do to help make your journey safer and more comfortable.

### **Always:**

- Wait for jitneys to pick you up at safe places such as proper bus stops
- Wait for the vehicle at the side of the road – not on the road
- Let the vehicle come to a complete stop before getting on or off
- Always let other passengers get out first before you get in
- Be careful when opening the door of a vehicle - it may hit someone
- Get down from the vehicle only at proper stops at the side of the road
- Use the seat belt if there is one.

### **Never:**

- Get into a vehicle that looks to be in a bad condition
- Get into vehicles which are already full
- Push others while getting in or out of a vehicle
- Distract the driver
- Encourage the driver to speed or drive dangerously
- Interfere with the controls of the vehicle
- Sit with your head or arm out of the window - you could be seriously injured by a passing vehicle
- Sit at the front if carrying a baby or young child
- Throw things out of the window
- Be a nuisance to other passengers
- Cross the road immediately in front of or behind the Jitney - because drivers of other vehicles will not be able to see you.

## FOR PASSENGERS ON JITNEYS (MINI-BUSES)

**Encourage** drivers to behave in a safe and professional way. Complain to them in a friendly way if you think they drive dangerously or if you see them drinking alcohol. If they do not behave sensibly, get off the vehicle at the next stop, note the bus plate and route numbers and report the incident to the Complaints Unit of the Road Traffic Department or the Police.

**Discourage** drivers from allowing extra passengers to get on board, if the vehicle is already full.

### ***DON'T FORGET!***

**Passengers on public service vehicles have a right to travel in safety and comfort. Try to choose a vehicle that is in good condition and not overcrowded. Don't suffer in silence if the driving is frightening. Complain in a friendly manner, but, if the driver ignores you, get out of the vehicle at the next stop and report the driver.**

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 1. Before setting off

#### YOU:

- MUST hold a valid driving licence for the class of vehicle you are driving (except for drivers of non-motorised vehicles)
- MUST be insured (at least for third party risks)
- Must be able to see properly - wear glasses if necessary (and keep the wind-screen clean)
- Must adjust your seat and mirrors so that you can see all around the vehicle
- Must be feeling well - not ill or tired
- Must not drive if on medication that may influence your ability to drive safely
- MUST NOT be impaired by having drunk alcohol or taken drugs (you MUST NOT drive with a breath alcohol level higher than 35 mcg/100ml or a blood alcohol level of more than 80 mg/100ml). *It is best not to drink any alcohol if you intend to drive*
- MUST wear the seat belt, if fitted - and encourage all your passengers in both the front and back seats to wear theirs
  - - *You must wear the seat belt properly; the lap portion should fit snugly low across your hips below the stomach and the shoulder portion should pass over the shoulder and cross your chest diagonally with a minimum of slack*
  - - *Drivers are responsible to ensure that passengers age 16 and under are wearing a seat belt.*
- MUST wear a safety helmet (with the chin strap fastened) - this applies to your passenger too.

Avoid wearing loose footwear, such as sandals and slippers, as these can prevent you controlling the vehicle properly. They are especially dangerous when using motorcycles or cycles, because they leave the feet unprotected. Holding a package, person or animal while driving is dangerous. Put packages and other objects in a safe place where they will not be thrown about and hurt people if the vehicle stops suddenly.

You should have your driver's licence with you at all times.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE:**

- MUST be registered
- MUST be insured
- MUST have a valid inspection certificate
- MUST have a seat belt for driver and passengers
- MUST NOT be overloaded with either passengers or goods - make sure any loads carried are tightly fastened and do not extend more than 1 feet outside the vehicle, if it extends more it MUST have a red tag attach to the end.
- The windshield (windscreen) should be clean.

### **A regular safety check for motor vehicles:**

- wheels are in good order and nuts secure
- there is adequate fuel, oil, water, and windscreen wash
- that the windshield (windscreen) wipers are working
- tyres, including spare, for damage, thread depth, and pressure
- lights and indicators are in working order
- horn is working correctly
- that all glass is clean inside and out, and that the mirrors and reflectors are clean
- outside of vehicle for damage or defects
- that tools and jack are present and in working order
- check for abnormal noise when the engine is idling.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

**You are in charge of a vehicle that can easily kill someone, including yourself** – always behave responsibly; take pride in being a 'safe' driver

**Crashes are not "accidents"** – they are almost always the result of a road user making a mistake

**Do not drink and drive** - alcohol, even in small amounts, makes you much less able to drive properly

**Wearing seat belts and motorcycle helmets saves lives and reduces the risk of serious injury in a crash**

- Seatbelts have been proven effective in reducing the probability of serious injury by 40 percent and increasing the chance of survival by 60 percent
- Passengers, sixteen or younger, are the responsibility of the driver; children under the age of five should be restrained by an appropriate child seat (except in a taxi)
- Don't forget to fasten the helmet's chin strap

**It makes sense to carry a first-aid kit** – replace used items promptly

**Check your vehicle regularly** - don't take risks with an unsafe vehicle – it could kill someone – maybe you

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 2. Driving along

#### **Always drive carefully**

You **MUST NOT**:

Drive dangerously or recklessly.

Drive carelessly or without reasonable consideration for others.

#### **Be considerate to other road users**

Drive calmly and help others when it is safe to do so. Never race with other drivers or try and punish them for any mistakes they make. Never force smaller vehicles off the road. If everyone obeys the rules and drives in a patient manner, everyone will get to their destination quicker, and there will be fewer crashes.

#### **Starting off**

Use your mirrors and also look over your shoulder to check whether the road is clear. Only move off when you can do so without causing another vehicle to brake or turn sharply to avoid you. Give a signal before starting off.

#### **Keep to the left**

You **MUST** drive on the left side of the road unless carrying out a manoeuvre (such as overtaking or turning) that requires you to move over the centre-line. If there are two lanes for traffic going in your direction, you can use both lanes but still keep to the left whenever possible. This is especially important for slow moving vehicles such as pedal-cycles and tractors, etc.) that should keep to the edge of the road and allow faster vehicles to overtake them.

#### **Obstructions ahead**

If there is an obstruction ahead on your side of the road (such as a parked car or stopped vehicle) remember that you have to give way to oncoming traffic. If the obstruction is on the right-hand side of the road, you have the right-of-way; but be careful in case oncoming vehicles do not give way.



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **Don't drive over sidewalks and pedestrian areas**

You **MUST NOT** drive on any sidewalk or pavement intended solely for pedestrians.

### **Concentrate on your driving**

Concentrate fully on your driving. Avoid talking or arguing with passengers. Don't eat or drink or try to read a map. Don't smoke and drive. You should never use a mobile phone while driving.

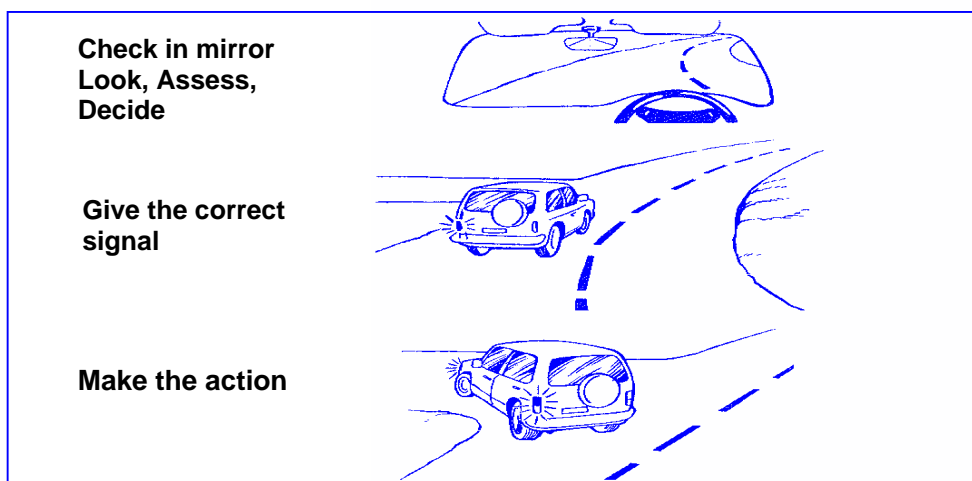
### **Practise defensive driving**

Always look out for problems ahead – such as a child chasing a ball, or a vehicle approaching fast along a side road. If a bus stops ahead of you, be ready for passengers to cross the road from behind it. If there is a parked vehicle ahead with someone in it, expect him or her to open the door and get out without looking. When you see a possible problem, slow down and be ready to take action to avoid a crash.

### **Concentrate - use your mirrors - signal properly**

Watch the road ahead and use your mirrors often so you always know what is behind and to the side of you. Before you make a turn or change speed, check carefully to make sure it is safe to do so, then give the correct signal if you need to. You **MUST** signal if you are intending to move off from the side of the road, turn, change lanes, make a major change of direction, or slow down abruptly. Signal clearly and in good time.

**Whenever you drive off, change lanes, overtake, turn, slowdown or move in to the side to stop.**



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### Traffic queues

If there is a line of stopped traffic ahead, join the back of it. Do not try and jump the queue. Be patient. Always stop your vehicle so that you can see the rear tyres of the vehicle ahead – it may run back a little when it starts off.

### Driving when tired

Driving when tired is very dangerous. Never start a long journey when you are tired. Avoid driving between midnight and 6 a.m. Try and take a break from driving every two hours. If you become sleepy while driving, stop the vehicle at a safe place and have a short rest or sleep. Do not use drugs to try and stay awake.

### Emergency vehicles

When you hear the alarm or see the flashing lights of an emergency vehicle (police, fire, army, ambulance), you **MUST** immediately move to the side of the road, stop and remain there until the emergency vehicle has passed.

### *DON'T FORGET!*

#### **The sequence: mirror – signal - manoeuvre**

**Whenever** you drive off, change lanes, overtake, turn, slow down, or move in to the side to stop.

Check in mirrors

Give the correct signal

Make the manoeuvre

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### SIGNS AND SIGNALS

#### Drivers and Riders Signals to other road users

These signals should be given by drivers, motorcyclists, pedal cyclists and those in charge of horses. Signal clearly, decisively and in good time. Fully extend the arm. After signaling, carry out your intended maneuver only when it is safe to do so.

#### WITH A LEFT-HAND DRIVE



"I intend to TURN  
to my RIGHT"



"I intend to TURN  
to my LEFT"



"I intend to SLOW DOWN  
to my STOP"

This signal should be used also  
when slowing down or stopping  
at a crossing.

#### WITH A RIGHT-HAND DRIVE



"I intend to TURN  
to my RIGHT"



"I intend to TURN  
to my LEFT"



"I intend to SLOW DOWN  
to my STOP"

This signal should be used also  
when slowing down or stopping  
at a crossing.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 3. Speed

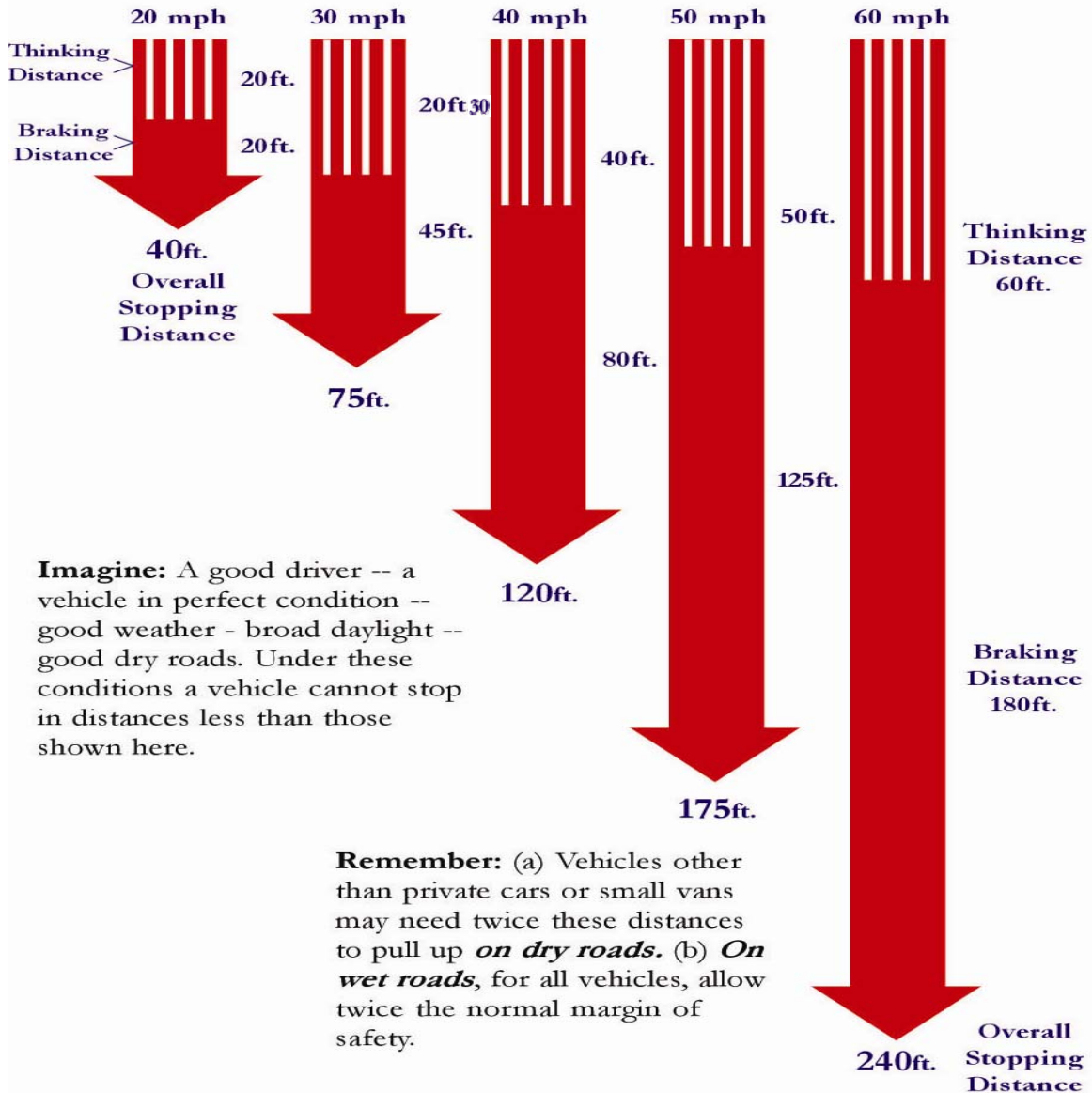
#### **Drive at a safe speed for the conditions**

You **MUST NOT** drive at a speed, which might be dangerous to other road users. A safe speed is often lower than the posted speed limit. For example, slow down if you are approaching a 'blind' bend, busy junction, or an area with lots of pedestrians. Drive more slowly if the road is wet, at night, or if mist or fog makes it difficult to see. Keep checking your speed and select the gear, which will give you most control and smooth movement.

Your selected speed should allow you to stop well within the distance you can see to be clear ahead of you. Leave enough space between you and vehicle in front (especially jitneys and taxis) so that you can stop safely if they suddenly slow down or stop. The safe rule is never to get closer than the overall stopping distance.

Remember that, if you double your speed, your stopping distance increases by three times. And on wet roads and unsealed ('dirt') roads it may take twice as long to bring your vehicle to a stop. Large vehicles and motorcycles always take longer to stop than cars.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **Obey the speed limits**

You **MUST NOT** exceed the maximum speed limits for the road and your vehicle (see box). Remember that a speed limit does not mean that it is safe to drive at that speed. Road and weather conditions vary and you must drive at a safe speed within the maximum speed limit.

### **MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS**

Within the Nassau city limit and Family Island Settlements, the speed limit is 25 mph (approximately 40 kilometers per hour). Outside the city limits, the limit is 30 mph (50 kph) and where there is no speed limit posted. The speed limit outside the Family Island Settlements is normally 45 mph (70 kph) or it is posted.

Watch out for signs that set special local speed limits.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

#### **Speed Kills**

Driving too fast for the conditions is one of the main causes of road accidents in The Bahamas.

The fastest drivers (those travelling at a speed higher than the average) are twice as likely to have a crash than other drivers.

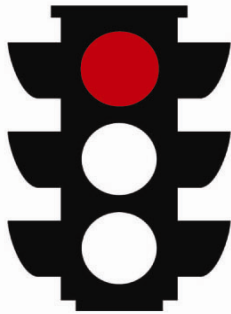
If a car hits a pedestrian at 25 mph the pedestrian has a 95 % chance of surviving; at 50 mph it is only 25%

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 4. Signs and signals

#### Obey the traffic signs and traffic light signals

You **MUST** obey all traffic light signals and traffic signs giving orders. Make sure you also know and act on all other traffic signs and road markings that are there to help you. Refer to the section at the back of the *Highway Code*, which contains illustrations of all the signs. You **MUST** also obey signals by uniformed police officers and traffic wardens.



**RED means STOP.**  
Wait behind the stop line on the carriageway.



**RED and AMBER also means STOP.**  
Do not pass through or start until GREEN shows.



**GREEN means you may GO ON if the way is clear.**  
Take special care if you mean to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing.



**AMBER means STOP at the stop line.**  
You may only go on if the AMBER appears after you have crossed the stop line or are so close to it that to pull up might cause an accident.



**GREEN ARROW means that you may go in the direction shown by the arrow.**  
You may do this whatever light is showing.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### Signals given by police officers

**STOP**



Vehicles approaching from front

**COME ON**



Beckoning on a vehicle from front



Vehicles approaching from behind



Beckoning on a vehicle from behind



Vehicles approaching from Both front and behind



Beckoning on a vehicle from the side



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **Use of the horn**

When your vehicle is moving, use the horn only if you need to warn other road users that you are there. Do not use the horn as a means of saying “hello” (or “goodbye”) to people you know. Never use it to show you are angry. Do not use the horn outside hospitals, courtrooms and schools; or between midnight and 6 a.m. in town.

### **Flashing headlights**

Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there – in situations where the horn might not be heard, or at night in town. Do not flash your headlights to show you are angry or to try and claim the right of way. If another driver flashes his headlights do not assume that it is a signal that he is letting you go first.

## **5. Taking Care near Pedestrians**

### **Watch out for pedestrians**

Pedestrians don't have much of a chance when hit by vehicles. And many pedestrians, especially those in rural areas or on less trafficked Islands, are not use to heavy traffic and do not know how dangerous the road is. Drive extra carefully and slow down when there are pedestrians about, particularly in crowded town centres, markets, schools and near bus stops. Watch out for pedestrians stepping suddenly into the road from behind a parked or stopped vehicle (a bus perhaps).

If there are pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning, you should stop and let them cross.

### **Children**

Don't expect children to behave like grown-ups. They cannot judge speeds very well and have difficulty concentrating on road safety when near traffic, and when they get into danger they may stand still in fright, instead of getting out of the way. Where there are children around slow down and take extra care.

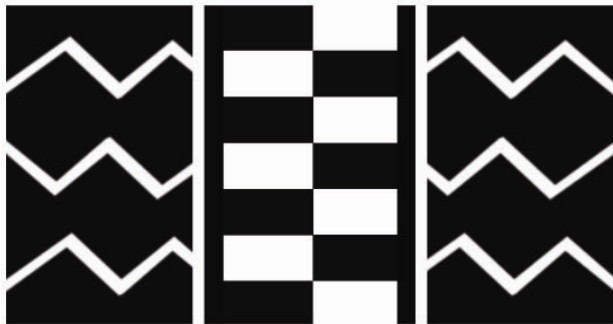
Be friendly to old people and disabled persons when they are having difficulty crossing the road. Let them cross if it is safe to do so. Always slow down near schools and hospitals.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **Pedestrian crossings (“Zebras”)**

When coming to a pedestrian crossing marked with white stripes (a “zebra” crossing) be ready to slow down and stop to let people cross. You **MUST** stop once they have stepped onto the crossing. You **MUST NOT** overtake on or near a pedestrian crossing, because this may make it difficult for you to see a pedestrian who has stepped onto the crossing - and will make it difficult for them to see you. For the same reason, you **MUST NOT** park your vehicle on a pedestrian crossing - or near one.

### **ZEBRA/CHECKER CROSSING ZIG-ZAG LINES**



Vehicles must not overtake., wait or park in the zig-zag areas.

Pedestrians should not cross on the zig-zag areas. They should always use the crossing.

### **Signal-controlled pedestrian crossings**

Some pedestrian crossings are controlled by traffic light signals and they may not always have the white stripes (or these may have worn out or be covered by oil). You must obey the traffic light signals - pedestrians may cross the road in front of you when your signal is at RED; and let those already crossing clear the road before moving off.

### **Crossing controlled by police officer (In Uniform)**

If you are a driver (or a pedestrian) you **MUST** obey any instructions given by the police. A pedestrian does not cross the road when a police officer controlling the traffic is allowing traffic to move, or has signaled you to stop, even if you think you have the right-of-way.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### *DON'T FORGET !*

As many pedestrians are killed each year as drivers. We are all pedestrians some of the time, so take care and be considerate when driving near pedestrians.

Slow down - they have as much right to use the road as you do.

Take special care when there are lots of pedestrians around, especially near schools and at school-times

## 6. Taking Care near Motorcyclists and Cyclists

Motorcyclists and cyclists are vulnerable on the road, because they have little protection in a collision. Drivers of other vehicles often don't notice them, especially when they are coming up from behind, coming out of junctions and on roundabouts.

Remember to "**Think bike**" when looking out for other vehicles (and pedestrians); especially when entering and leaving junctions.

Give motorcyclists and cyclists plenty of space when passing them; more than you think they need. They may be a little erratic or need to swerve to avoid a pot-hole or obstruction. If they signal that they intend to turn, slow down and let them proceed. Never overtake and then turn close in front of them.

## 7. Overtaking

### **Overtaking a moving vehicle**

Overtaking is very risky; always ask yourself, "Do I really need to overtake?" If you must overtake, you should ensure that:

- the road is sufficiently clear ahead of you to complete the manoeuvre
- any vehicle behind you is not beginning to overtake you
- the vehicle ahead is not about to overtaking another vehicle

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

- there is a suitable gap in front of the vehicle you are about to overtake to move into safely
- Your overtaking must not cause any other vehicle to have to change their speed or swerve
- You must not exceed the speed limit in order to overtake.

### Overtaking a stopped vehicle

Try to check why the vehicle has stopped – perhaps the driver is letting a pedestrian cross the road or has stopped because of an obstruction you haven't noticed. If you see the vehicle stopping in front of you take care in case the driver, or a passenger, opens their door in front of you.

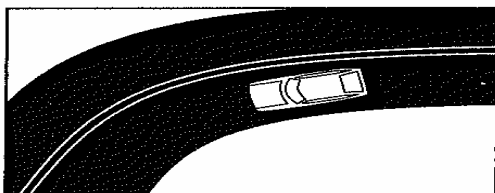
### Unsafe places to overtake

You **MUST NOT** overtake a moving or parked vehicle:

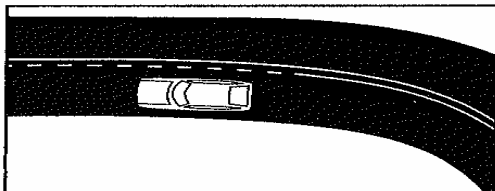
- if a vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction - unless you are sure you can do so without forcing that vehicle to slow down or swerve to avoid you
- where you cannot see far, such as at a bend or on a hill
- at junctions
- at or near pedestrian crossings
- where prohibited by “No Overtaking” signs or road markings.



You **MUST NOT** cross the centrelines



You **MUST NOT** cross the centrelines



You may cross the centrelines if it is safe to do so.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **BASIC OVERTAKING PROCEDURE**

#### **Before you overtake**

Before you start to overtake make sure that the road is sufficiently clear ahead to enable you to overtake and return to the left side without forcing any other vehicle to slow down or turn sharply to miss you. **If in doubt – do not overtake.** Use your mirrors to check that no-one is overtaking you. Signal before you start to move out [1]. Take extra care at night and in mist or heavy rain when it is harder to judge speed and distance.

#### **Remember: mirrors - signal - manoeuvre**

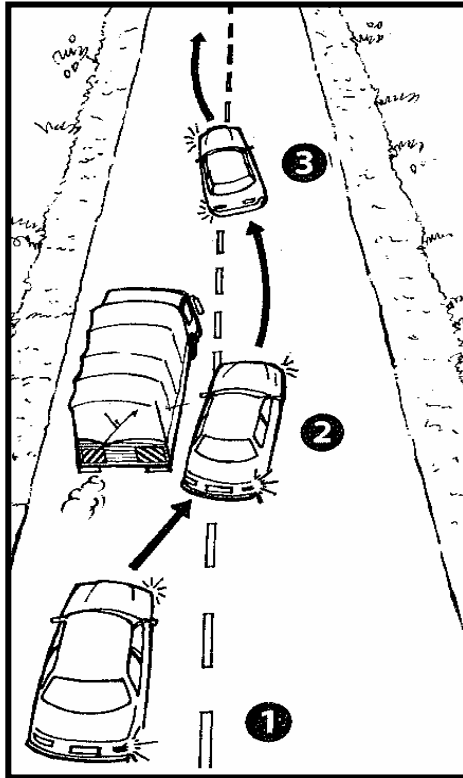
#### **While overtaking**

Once you have started to overtake, [2] move quickly past the vehicle you are overtaking and leave it plenty of room. When overtaking cyclists or motorcyclists give them at least as much room as you would give a car. Move back to the left side of the road as soon as you can, [3] but do not cut in so sharply that the vehicle you are overtaking has to brake or make a sharp turn to avoid you. Check this by looking to see the vehicle in your mirror.

#### **If you are being overtaken**

Do not increase your speed when you are being overtaken. Move to the left if you can do so safely. Slow down if necessary to let the overtaking vehicle pass quickly and safely.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS



### The overtaking manoeuvre

#### Overtake on the right

You **MUST** always overtake on the right, except when:

the vehicle in front is signalling to turn right, and there is room to overtake on the left safely (but **DO NOT** use the shoulder to overtake, especially if there are pedestrians walking on it); traffic is moving slowly in lanes, and vehicles in a lane on the right are moving more slowly than you are.

#### When others signal you to overtake them

Sometimes the driver of a vehicle ahead of you signals that the road is clear for you to overtake him. Do not assume that the driver is right. Make your own judgement.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### **If the vehicle you are overtaking speeds up**

If a driver you are overtaking speeds up, or resists in any way, stop trying to overtake. Never get into a race with another driver.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

Careless overtaking can lead to very serious crashes; 'head-on' accidents are the most likely to result in serious injuries or even fatalities.

**If in doubt - do not overtake.**

## **8. Junctions**

### **Approaching road junctions**

Many crashes happen at road junctions, so special care is needed. When driving along always look out for junctions (there should be a warning sign) and check your speed and position. Be on the lookout for other road users and give them plenty of time and space.

Position your vehicle correctly (especially when turning right) and signal in good time if you are turning. Traffic emerging into your path from a side junction will probably assume you are driving within the speed limit.

At many junctions there are white line markings (and sometimes hatching) that divide the road into lanes. And there may be arrows marked on the road showing which lane is for which direction. Get into the correct lane in good time and do not change lanes without reason. If you need to change lanes, first use your mirror to make sure the way is clear and signal.

**Remember: mirrors - signal – manoeuvre**

If there is a queue of traffic ahead in your lane, **JOIN THE BACK OF THE QUEUE.** Do not try and get ahead of them.

At a junction with a "STOP" sign (it may also have an unbroken white line across the road), you **MUST** stop at the sign - every time. Wait for a safe gap in the traffic before you move off.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

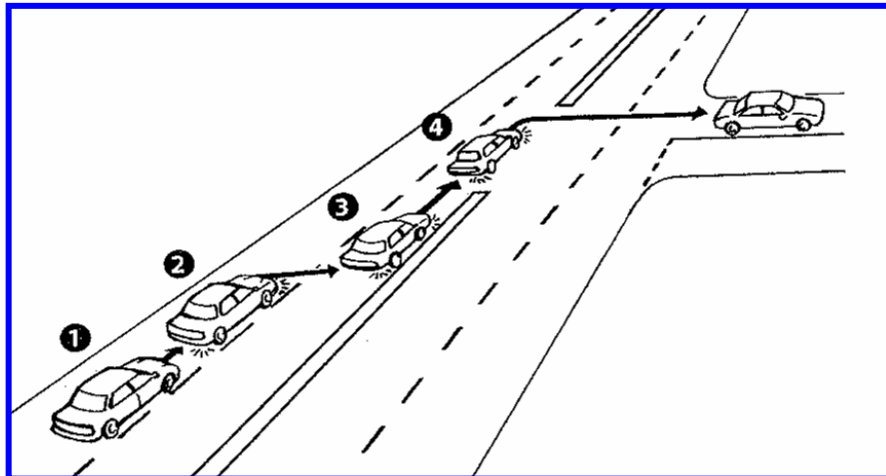
At a junction with a “GIVE WAY” sign (it may also have a broken white line across the road) you **MUST** give way to traffic on the other road. Wait for a safe gap in the traffic before you move off.

### Before you enter the junction

Check that your path through the junction is clear. **NEVER ENTER A JUNCTION IF YOUR EXIT IS BLOCKED BY STOPPED VEHICLES** – it will just cause a traffic jam that will delay you as well as others - stay back and allow other traffic to cross in front of you. Be considerate and friendly; perhaps other drivers will ‘learn’ to do the same to you if you show them what to do.

### Turning right

- Well before you turn right, use your mirrors to check that the vehicles behind you are at a safe distance
- Give a right turn signal and then start to slow down
- Move to a position just right of the center line of the road; don’t wait in the on-coming traffic’s lane, but try and leave room for non turning traffic. (Apply to double roadways only)



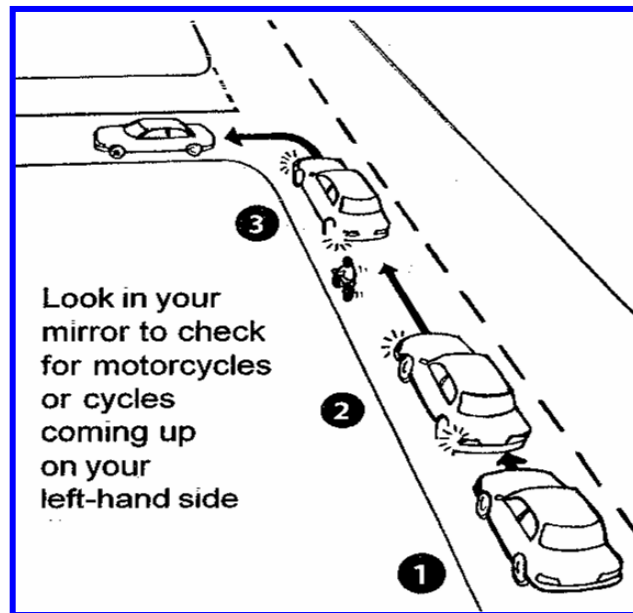
at the corner. Watch out for cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians - if there is anyone crossing the road into which you are turning, you must give way to them.



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### Turning left

- Well before you turn left, use your mirrors to check that no-one is coming up behind you on your left
- Give a left turn signal and then start to slow down
- If the way is clear make the turn keeping close to the left-hand edge of the road (drivers of long vehicles may have to move to the centre of the road in order to make the turn).
- Watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists who may have come up on your left-hand side – let them overtake you and get clear before you make the turn.
- Watch out for pedestrians - if there are pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning, you must stop and let them cross
- **NEVER** overtake a vehicle and then cut in front of it to turn left.



### Turning into a main road

Take great care when turning into a main road from a side road; you will need to look for traffic in both directions and wait for a safe gap before moving off. If you are turning right, do not 'short-cut' the corner.

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 9. Roundabouts

“Is a Traffic Control Device”

#### Roundabouts

Well before you reach the roundabout: decide which exit you need to take (and which entry lane you need to use), check your mirror, reduce your speed and get into the correct lane if there is more than one (see sketch). On reaching the roundabout give way to traffic already in the roundabout. Watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists, who can be difficult to see if there is a lot of traffic. Remember that there might also be pedestrians crossing the road – from the left as well as the right.

#### ***When turning left***

- Approach the roundabout
- Signal left
- Give way to traffic on the roundabout
- Keep to the left lane
- Proceed to your exit, still signaling left

#### ***When going straight ahead***

- Approach roundabout and select lane (if arrows aren't in place)
- Do not signal
- Give way to traffic in the roundabout
- Merge with traffic in the roundabout (stay in lane)
- Merge with traffic safely as you exit the roundabout (If lane ends)

#### ***When turning right (or 3/4 around roundabout)***

- Approach the roundabout
- Signal right
- Give way to traffic on the roundabout
- Keep to the right lane
- Proceed to your exit, still signaling right (stay in lane)

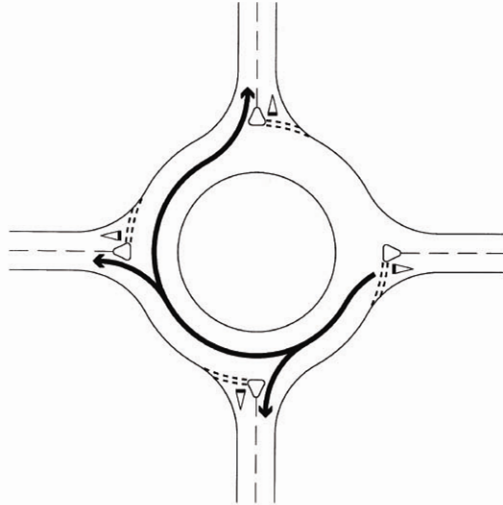
#### ***When making a U-Turn***

- Approach the roundabout
- Signal right
- Give way to traffic on the roundabout
- Keep to the right lane
- Proceed to your exit (stay in lane)

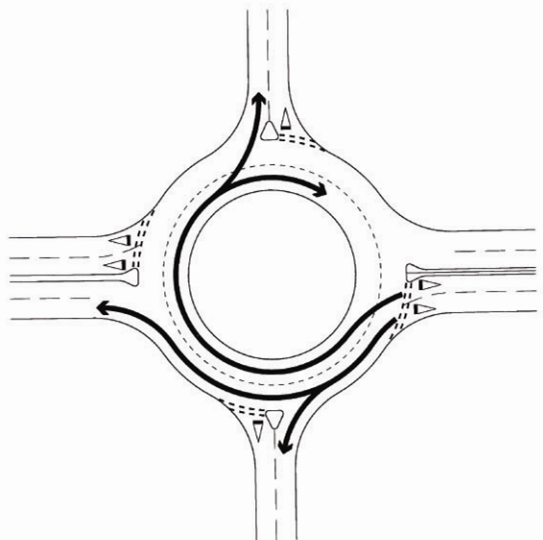
# BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

## ROUNDBABOUTS

### SINGLE LANE APPROACH/DEPARTURE

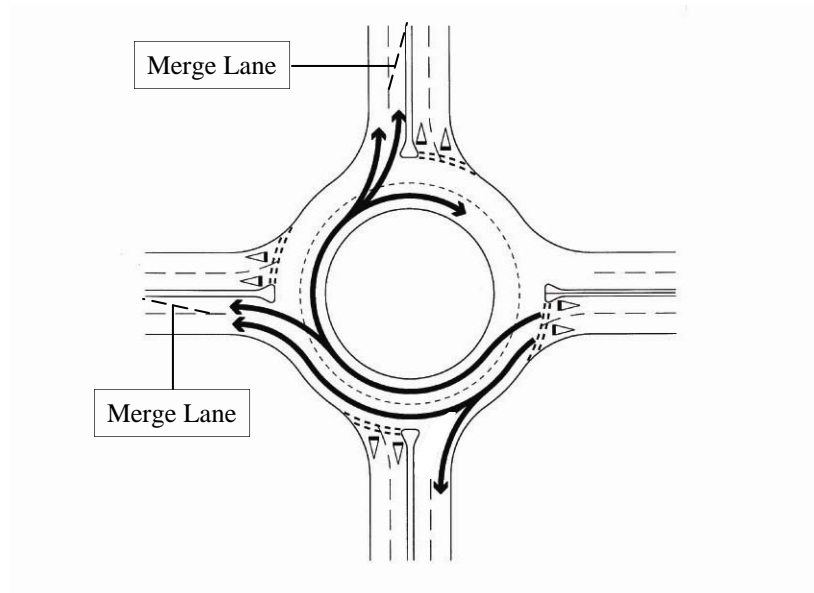


### DOUBLE LANE MAIN ROAD/SINGLE LANE SIDE ROAD MERGE LANE AREA (SEE MERGE LANE AREA)



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### DOUBLE LANE APPROACH/DOUBLE DEPARTURE MERGE LEFT DEPARTURE



**NEVER** stop or park within a roundabout.

**Note that some 'roundabouts' in Cable Beach do stop circulating traffic to give through traffic the priority.**

When in the roundabout be extra careful of long vehicles which cannot always remain inside their lanes – and might crush you against the centre island.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

Roundabouts only work if everybody obeys the rules and behaves properly:

- Let those on the roundabout get off it before you enter
- **ALWAYS give way to traffic from the right**
- Never go round a roundabout the wrong way
- Look out for motorcyclists and cyclists – and give them room.
- If you go past your exit road by mistake, just go round the roundabout again – **Do not reverse**

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 10. Driving at night and in bad weather

Driving at night is harder and more dangerous than during the day, because it is much more difficult to see the road ahead and other road users. The headlights of oncoming vehicles can dazzle you, especially when the road is wet. Drive at a speed, which will allow you to stop within the distance you can see to be clear. Try and avoid driving when the visibility is bad, such as in heavy rain or fog, or in stormy weather.

All drivers can make things easier for themselves and others by:

- Making sure that all the lights and reflectors on your vehicle are clean and working – it is particularly dangerous to have only one working headlight
- The headlights must be correctly adjusted so as to provide maximum light without blinding other drivers - a qualified motor mechanic can check this for you
- You should use full headlights between the hours of sunset and sunrise, and at any time when the light is poor, such as in mist, fog or heavy rain
- In towns with good street lighting you should drive on dipped headlights
- Where there is no street lighting you should drive on main beam headlights, but you **MUST** dip them when vehicles are approaching You must also dip your headlights when following other vehicles
- Keep a good look-out for pedestrians, who can sometimes be hard to see
- Do not switch on fog lights or other additional lights, unless it is foggy or misty
- Avoid looking directly at the headlights of oncoming vehicles - if you are blinded by headlights of other vehicles, slow down and be prepared to stop
- Do not drive with your flashing hazard lights on.

#### ***DON'T FORGET !***

- See and be seen to be safe.
- Don't be slow to put on your headlights
- Used dipped headlights when vehicles are approaching AND when following another vehicle

## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

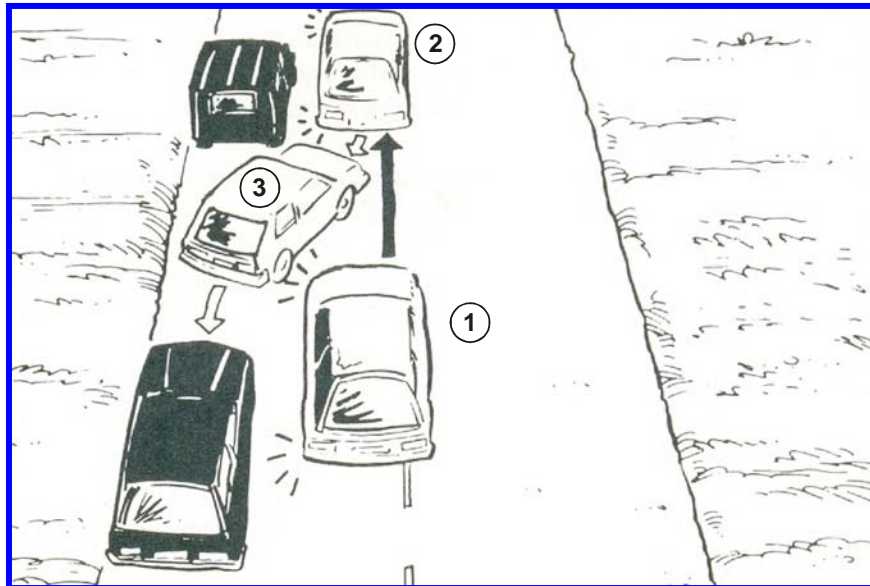
### 11. Reversing

Reversing in the wrong situations can be risky. Ask yourself the question, “Do I really need to reverse here?”

Before reversing make sure that there are no pedestrians (especially small children) or objects in the road behind you. Always reverse slowly and with care, and never for longer than necessary. If you cannot see clearly, get someone to guide you. This person can also warn other road users to keep clear. Reversing lights will warn others during the daytime and help you see better at night.

Be particularly careful when you are reversing out of a building, a yard, or a house plot – the walls or fences may hide pedestrians who are about to walk across the opening. If possible reverse in, so that you can drive out forwards.

Never reverse from a minor side-road onto a main road, through a major junction or over a pedestrian crossing.



## BASIC RULES AND ADVICE FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS

### 12. Waiting and Parking

When you want to stop or park:

remember “**mirrors - signal – manoeuvre**”.

Move off the road where possible onto an area suitable for parking. If you have to stop on the road, stop as close as you can to the side. Always check whether it is safe to park and whether parking is permitted. Before you or your passengers open a door, make sure it will not hit anyone passing on the road or side walk - watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists.

You **MUST NOT** park:

- carelessly or without reasonable consideration for others
- near a pedestrian crossing
- near a junction
- at a bus stop or near a “bus stop” sign
- on a side walk or pavement
- in front of vehicle entrances to properties
- on a road marked with two white centrelines, even if one of the lines is broken
- where there are parking restrictions shown by the a No Parking sign.

Do not park at any other place where it would be dangerous or cause problems for other road users, for example:

- near a school entrance
- near the top of a hill
- on a sharp bend
- alongside another parked vehicle (double parking)
- opposite a traffic island
- where you will block the view of a traffic sign.

When you are leaving the vehicle you must switch off the engine and the headlights, and make sure the handbrake is on.

Do not park at night on busy roads or where there is fast-moving traffic. If you cannot avoid doing this, switch your parking lights on. At night only park on the left-hand side of the road.

## CARRYING CHILDREN

### CHILD RESTRAINTS

It is extremely dangerous to ride in a moving vehicle while holding a child on your lap. Rather than protecting them, you are putting them at risk!

In a collision, the child will continue forward (kinetic energy) and the force required to stop this motion is beyond human capability. If you love them, protect them! Put them in a Child Restraint! It is the law!

Children should be secured in a device appropriate to their size and age. These child restraints should be properly installed in accordance with the seat manufacturer's recommendation.

**The Infant Seat:** This restraint is intended for children weighing less than around 20 lbs (9 kgs). The child is cushioned by the seat on all sides. At this age, the child's head is larger and heavier than the rest of his/her body. The seat should be positioned facing the rear with the child firmly secured to the seat, which is then attached to the vehicle using the safety belt. The safest position is the back seat however; attaching the infant seat to the front seat will permit the driver to check on the infant without having to turn around (**BUT ONLY IF THERE IS NO AIR BAG**). Make sure that you do this by glancing and returning your eyes to the road ahead in between glances. Do not permit yourself to become distracted. If any situation arises where your infant requires attention. **STOP THE VEHICLE**, in a safe manner of course, then care for your child. Do not put yourself and your infant at risk.



## CARRYING CHILDREN

**The Toddler Seat:** This seat is designed for children ranging from 20 to 40 lbs (9 to 18 kgs) who have now become more active. This seat requires a semi permanent installation and is best attached to the rear seat. Secure the toddler seat using the seat belt and in keeping with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the restraint. Your child should be facing forward and securely buckled into the toddler seat. Accustom yourself to conversing with your child without taking your eyes off the road. Visually check him/her by using the interior rearview mirror. As previously mentioned, park your vehicle if you must offer physical assistance.

**Pre-Schoolers:** Children weighing 40 to 55 lbs (18 to 25kgs) are too big for the usual child restraint and yet they are not quite large enough to use the regular safety belts, especially the shoulder belt. You may often see parents allowing children to stand just behind the front seats in order to see the road. You can imagine what will happen in a collision. There are variety booster seats available which raise the child while incorporating the safety belt. This raises him/her to a sufficient height that the shoulder belt may also be used. Engineers have also designed a shoulder harness that is adjustable; the height of the shoulder attachment can be raised or lowered to accommodate children.

### **CHILD DOOR LOCKS**

If the vehicle is fitted with child door locks make sure they are used, especially for older children.

## **FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES**

- Your vehicle must be roadworthy, insured, clean and tidy.
- You must always remain courteous to your customers.
- You should not smoke or drink alcohol while working.
- You should only park your vehicle in a designated area.
- Remember, you are often the first (and last) person to be in contact with business visitors and tourists. Leave them with a good impression of our country.

## FOR JITNEYS (OMNIBUS DRIVERS)

Omnibuses (jitneys) are a very popular and inexpensive means of travel. In many cases they are people's only means of getting around. They often carry many people which help to reduce congestion and pollution. Therefore, it is important that passengers see them as a safe and comfortable way of traveling. The owners and drivers must take their duties to the community seriously. These duties include the following:

### **Keep the vehicle in good condition**

- Regular servicing, especially tyres, brakes, lights, steering, and doors
- Keeping the seats clean and in good repair
- Proper insurance and vehicle registration
- Displaying a destination sign.

### **Loading the bus correctly**

- You must not carry more passengers than the vehicle is licenced to carry – passengers don't like being squashed, and it increases the risk of serious injury if there is a crash
- Do not carry standing passengers unless the vehicle is designed and licenced to do so.

## FOR JITNEYS (OMNIBUS DRIVERS)

### Driving the bus in a safe and sensible way

- You **MUST** hold a valid Public Drivers Licence for the class of vehicle you are driving
- You **MUST NOT** drink **ANY** alcohol during the period when you are on duty
- You **MUST NOT** use the horn to attract the attention of possible passengers
- Drive at a speed suitable for conditions
- Be friendly to other drivers – too many omnibus drivers behave as if they are competing with all other road users
- Bus drivers must not race with other buses in order to get more passengers.
- Obey all traffic rules and signs
- Be patient – do not keep changing lanes – never set off until all the passengers are seated
- Never stop suddenly to pick up or drop off passengers – stop only at recognized stopping places, and always signal to other road users, to indicate what you are going to do

*(Remember: **mirror – signal – manoeuvre**)*

- Don't talk or argue with passengers
- Respect the rights and interests of passengers
- Do not deviate from your proper route
- Don't smoke and drive.

## FOR DRIVERS OF LARGE VEHICLES

Drivers of large buses and trucks must have advanced driving skills and good road sense. Try to learn from the problems you encounter, take pride in being a safe driver but always seek to improve your skill and knowledge. Driving a large vehicle does not give you the right to drive aggressively and force other people to give way to you.

If you are driving a bus with passengers or a truck carrying hazardous substances (such as petrol) you have even more of a special responsibility to drive safely.

You must have a valid license for the class of vehicle that you are driving.

### **Check that your vehicle is safe**

This must be done before you set off in the morning and be repeated at least once during the day. You must ensure that your vehicle is in good working order and is not likely to be a danger to others.

Carry out regular safety checks and pay special attention to:

- Tyres - *damaged? too little / too much air in them? no tread? (don't forget to check the spare tyre)*
- wheel nuts - *loose? missing?*
- suspension - *broken or badly repaired springs?*
- brakes - *soft? - leaking brake fluid?*
- steering – *too loose - steering wheel has to be turned a long way before the wheels move?*
- lights and indicators – *not working?*
- mirrors – *missing or broken? - are they adjusted so that you can see down both sides of the vehicle?*
- tools and jack – *missing or broken?*
- engine care – *oil level low? - loose wires?*

Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it.

### **Check that the vehicle is loaded safely**

The safety of your load is as important as the safety of your vehicle. Never overload the vehicle; it will be dangerous and will damage the vehicle and the road. Follow these simple rules:

- Check that your vehicle is suitable for the load it is to carry

## FOR DRIVERS OF LARGE VEHICLES

- You must not overload the vehicle – know what the limit is and what the load weighs
- If the load contains dangerous materials, make sure they are properly packaged and find out how to deal with them in an emergency - carry a suitable fire extinguisher
- You must always make sure that your load is secure before you move off – loose material such as sand and gravel must be covered
- Always make sure that your mirrors are adjusted so that you can see all the way down both sides of the vehicle
- Make sure any loads carried are tightly fastened and do not extend more than 1 feet outside the vehicle, if it extends more it **MUST** have a red tag attach to the end.

Never allow passengers to travel on the roof, or sit on the sides of lorries – it is very dangerous

### **Do not drive when tired**

Driving is a difficult and tiring task. Night driving is especially tiring. Do not drive for more than four hours without a break of at least 30 minutes - and when you stop, get out of the vehicle and walk about to get some fresh air and exercise. Have a drink and some food, but don't drink alcohol, or take drugs to help you keep awake. Do not drive for a total of more than 10 hours in any period of 24 hours. If you are tired park safely and get some sleep.

### **Never drink and drive**

Drivers of trucks and buses **MUST NOT** drink **ANY** alcohol during the period when they are on duty.

### **Do not drive fast**

Speed kills and driving fast does not make sense. You may save 15 minutes on a long journey, but you risk a serious crash, you use more fuel, and it is less comfortable for you and your passengers

### **Keep control of your vehicle**

Many bus and truck crash happen because the driver loses control - no other vehicle is involved.

## FOR DRIVERS OF LARGE VEHICLES

Sometimes the brakes fail, but mostly it is due to speeding. Don't try and push your vehicle to the maximum it can do - leave a little margin for safety. Read the road ahead, look for road signs and other clues, and drive at a speed which lets you travel in safety and comfort.

### **Watch out for children, other pedestrians, and cyclists**

Trucks and buses kill a lot of people in the community (settlement) along our roads. Slow down when you enter a community (settlement)+ or come upon pedestrians walking in the road. Remember that people living in rural areas on the Islands often have little traffic experience and may not understand the dangers. Take extra care when approaching children, as they can sometimes do silly things. Slow down and be ready for the unexpected.

### **Take extra care when turning at junctions**

Slow down enough so that you can keep your vehicle under complete control. When the way is clear, make a wide turn so that your wheels do not go off the edge of the road. Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists, especially those that may have come up on the inside of your vehicle when you slowed down. Use your mirrors to check this. If there are pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning you must stop and let them cross.

### **Park your vehicle carefully**

Bad parking is the cause of very many crashes on our roads, particularly at night. Drivers who leave their vehicles on the road at places where they cannot be seen from a distance risk causing a crash - drivers may not see your vehicle in time and may run into the back of it, or hit an oncoming vehicle while trying to avoid it. You **MUST NOT** park or stand your vehicle without reasonable consideration for other road users. Whenever you want to stop, follow these simple rules:

- If possible choose a place where you can get the vehicle off the road
- If you have to stop on the road, choose a place where other drivers can see your vehicle a long way off - never stop on bends or the top of hills or near them - do not stop at road-side restaurants and tea shops that are at dangerous places
- If you are parking on the road, get your vehicle as close to the left-hand side of the road as possible
- If you are parking on the road at night switch your parking lights on.

## FOR DRIVERS OF LARGE VEHICLES

### **When you have a breakdown**

The rules about parking also apply when you have a breakdown. If a problem occurs with your vehicle you will always have enough power and control to move it to the side of the road. Stopping the vehicle in the middle of the road blocks traffic and is very dangerous. If you are forced to stop at a place where drivers cannot see you from a long way off, place a warning triangle on the road at least 50yards from the back of the vehicle. Don't spill oil or diesel on the road, as this could cause vehicles to skid, and may seriously damage the road. If you carry chemicals or other dangerous materials learn what to do if there is a spillage.

### **DON'T FORGET !**

Take pride in driving a safe vehicle and being a safe driver.

Remember, your careless mistake could result in the loss of many lives.

Do not drive for more than 4 hours without a break, and never let your helper drive.

Speeding does not make sense - drive sensibly and have a safe, comfortable, breakdown-free journey.

Look for problems ahead (bends, hills, parked vehicles, pedestrians in the road, etc) and if necessary slow down and be ready to cope with them.

Choose a safe place to park, and, if you break down, always try and get the vehicle to the side of the road.



## FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

Riding a motorcycle, even if you are a safe rider, can be very dangerous. You have to think for both yourself and other road users because they may not see you. Road conditions such as potholes and slippery roads are much more of a problem for motorcyclists than for drivers. You may be tempted to take short cuts around stopped vehicles and through junctions because they take up little space and can turn easily. It is especially dangerous since other drivers may not anticipate your movement.

### **Always:**

- Wear a safety helmet, with the strap securely fastened (an unfastened helmet will simply come off when it is most needed)
- Make sure your passenger wear securely fastened helmets.
- Wear bright clothes – preferably a high-visibility yellow jacket with reflective strips
- Drive slowly and carefully – motorcycles are the most dangerous of all vehicles, because in a crash there is nothing to stop you, or your passenger, from getting badly hurt.

### **Never:**

- Carry more than one passenger on your motorcycle
- Carry small children (under the age of 10)
- Carry large, heavy or dangerous loads such as glass, or allow your passenger to do so
- Overtake a vehicle on its left side - it may be going to turn left or pull in to the side of the road - only overtake on the left when the vehicle ahead is indicating that it is turning right and there is plenty of room to pass it on the left
- Squeeze into narrow spaces between vehicles - the drivers may not see you, and you could be squashed between the vehicles
- Drive over the side walk or traffic island in order to get ahead of vehicles in front of you
- Ride with your front wheel raised ('pop' your bike)
- Wear sandals or slippers
- Wear long or loose clothes, which might get caught up in a wheel - the same applies to your passenger.

## FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

### **Be bright - be seen**

A motorcycle is not as visible as other vehicles on the road, especially at night and in bad weather conditions. Always wear bright or light-coloured clothing. It is recommended that you use dipped headlights in daylight to make you more visible.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

Motorcyclists have little protection in the event of a crash and many are killed and seriously injured on the road every year.

The main causes are speeding, dangerous actions, and failure to follow the traffic rules.

## FOR PEDAL CYCLISTS

### **The traffic rules apply to you**

Remember that the traffic rules apply to you too. You must obey all traffic signs, signals, markings as well as instructions given by Police Officers.

### **Choosing and maintaining your cycle**

- Do not ride a cycle which is too big or too small for you.
- Make sure your cycle is properly equipped and in good condition. For example, ensure that:
- There are reflectors at the front and back (white to the front, red to the back) – at night you must have a working front and rear light
- Tyres are in good condition and properly inflated
- Both the brakes are working correctly
- There is a bell to warn other road users
- Saddle is adjusted to the correct height.

### **Safety equipment and clothing**

A bicycle is not as visible as other vehicles on the road, especially at night and in bad weather conditions. Always wear bright or light-coloured clothing; preferably a high-visibility yellow jacket with reflective stripes. Reflective arm or ankle bands will also make you much more visible at night.

Don't wear long or loose clothes which may get tangled in the chain or a wheel. Wearing a properly-fitting cycle helmet (which is compulsory in many countries; especially for children) will greatly reduce the risk of head injury – the most frequent serious injury - if you have a crash.

### **Safe cycling**

When cycling:

- Never carry anything that may interfere with the proper control of your machine
- Do not ride close behind a moving vehicle where you cannot see the signal
- Do not hold on to another vehicle for a tow, or to another cycle
- Ride in single file when road or traffic conditions require it, but never more than two abreast. Always glance behind before you signal to move off, change course, overtake or turn
- Do not weave about the roadway
- Always use both hands on the handlebars except when signaling

## FOR PEDAL CYCLISTS

- Always keep on the left side of the road near the road edge
- Obey all traffic signs, signals, and markings (including pedestrian crossings)
- Give clear hand signals to warn other road users of your intentions keep at least one hand on the handlebars
- Look behind you before moving off, overtaking, or moving into the centre of the road to turn right .  
Follow the procedure: look - signal – manoeuvre
- Be extra careful at junctions, roundabouts and the exits from bus bays and lay-bys - because drivers may not notice you amongst the other traffic
- Be extra careful when overtaking stopped vehicles; they may start up or their door may be opened suddenly
- Be extra careful at night (you may not be seen) and when it is raining (it takes a lot longer to stop and potholes fill with water and become invisible).

Take great care not to inconvenience or cause danger to pedestrians.

- Never carry a passenger, unless your cycle has been adapted to carry a small child
- Never overtake a vehicle on its left side - it may be going to turn left or pull in to the side of the road - only overtake on the left when the vehicle ahead is indicating that it is turning right and there is ample room to pass it on the left.
- Never weave in and out of traffic or squeeze through narrow spaces between vehicles
- Never ride after taking alcohol or drugs
- Never ride on the side walk at the side of the road.

### **DON'T FORGET !**

Cycling is good for you, but it can be risky unless you follow the rules. Choose a well-equipped bike and maintain it regularly. Other drivers can find it difficult to see you, so always wear bright clothing. At night you **MUST** have a working headlight and rear light reflector.

Remember that the traffic rules apply to you too.

## A SHORT HIGHWAY CODE FOR CHILDREN

The following short list of **do's and don'ts** apply especially to young children. If you are a parent or are responsible for other people's children you should always set a good example, make sure the child knows about the rules and that they **follows the rules**:

- Don't play near or in the road
- Whenever possible walk on the side walk
- Never run along the side walk near traffic or across the road (in case you trip)
- Always do what your parents, older family and friends tell you to do to keep safe
- Only cross the road where you have a good view of approaching traffic
- Always stop before crossing a road, look right, look left and right again; when it is safe to cross, do so quickly – but carry on looking and listening for traffic clear
- Always look very carefully when you HAVE to cross the road from behind a vehicle
- Always look for vehicles turning corners
- Always look and listen for warning signals
- Always wait until the bus or truck stops before getting off or on
- Always help younger children across the road. Children under seven (7) years of age, if alone, should always ask an older person to help them across a busy road
- Always keep on the sidewalk and where there is none, walk-on the right side of the road in single file
- Always play in the park or other safe places, not on a busy road
- Never dash into the roadway on leaving school or when trying to catch a bus

## A SHORT HIGHWAY CODE FOR CHILDREN

- Never run behind or hold on to cars, trucks, drays or other vehicles
- Never push or chase each other into the roadway
- Never throw things into the roadway or at passing vehicles
- Never play around a stationary vehicle
- Always use your school crossing and obey your school crossing patrols.



Walk in single file where there is not a sidewalk



Wrong Way to walk in the street



Use Pedestrian crossing



Don't Play in the street

## INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING ANIMALS

You **MUST** keep any animal in your charge under proper control. This applies to both pets and farm animals. Stray dogs in the road can end up dead – or cause an accident.

- Go slowly when driving past or near animals. Give them plenty of room and be ready to stop if necessary. Do not frighten the animals by sounding your horn or revving your engine. Watch out for animals being led on your side of the road, and be especially careful at a left-hand bend or brow of a hill.
- Do not let your dog stray. When you take it for a walk, or when it is in your car, keep it under close control.
- Make sure that the road is clear before you let or take animals on the road.
- If you are riding a horse, keep to the left.
- When leading an animal in the road, always place yourself between it and the traffic, and keep animals to the edge of the road.

If you are herding animals along or across the road and there is someone with you, send him along the road to warn drivers at danger points such as bends and brows of hills. Carry lights after sunset. Where there are more than a few animals you should have two persons, one at the front and one at the back. Never herd animals at night.

## PROCESSIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

If you are organising a procession or a demonstration you **MUST**:

- Make sure that traffic rules are obeyed
- Try not to inconvenience other road users
- Inform the police in good time – you may need to get their approval and help.

## THE HIGHWAY CODE AND TOURISM

*Tourism is vital for the well-being of the economy of the Bahamas* - and tourists often hire cars and rent motorcycles or cycles; they will also walk. Because they are tourists (here to relax and 'unwind'); and they may come from a place where there is a different 'code' for road users, do not expect them to always behave safely or properly. It is our responsibility to stay alert, be prepared for the unusual or unexpected and make an allowance for our 'visitors'. Never get aggressive or into arguments; be tolerant.



## TRAFFIC SIGNS

### Colours and Their Meaning

<b>RED:</b>	Exclusively for STOP and YIELD signs, multiway supplemental plates, DO NOT ENTER and WRONG WAY signs, for legend or symbols on certain regulatory signs and as part of interstate and certain State route markers.
<b>BLACK:</b>	Used as background for ONE WAY, night speed limit, inspection station signs and as message colour on signs with white, yellow or orange backgrounds.
<b>WHITE:</b>	Used as background for route markers, guide signs, certain regulatory signs and as message color on signs with brown, green, blue, black and red backgrounds.
<b>ORANGE:</b>	Used as background colour for Construction and Maintenance signs.
<b>YELLOW:</b>	Used as background colour for warning signs (except for construction and maintenance signs) and school signs.
<b>BROWN:</b>	Used as background for GUIDE and INFORMATION signs related to points of recreational or cultural interests.
<b>GREEN:</b>	Used as background colour for guide signs, mileposts and as a message colour on permissive regulation and parking signs.
<b>BLUE:</b>	Used as background colour for traveller services, information signs and the CIVIL DEFENCE EVACUATION ROUTE MARKER.
<b>FLOURESCENT YELLOW - GREEN:</b>	New approved for pedestrian, bicycle and school crossing warning signs.
<b>PURPLE:</b>	Reserved for future use.
<b>LITE BLUE:</b>	Reserved for future use.
<b>CORAL:</b>	Reserved for future use.

## TRAFFIC SIGNS

### Regulatory Signals

Regulatory signs tell you what to do. You must always obey them. The following are examples of regulatory signs and their meanings:



**ALL-WAY STOP:** This sign means there are four STOP signs at the intersection. Traffic from all directions must stop. The first driver to stop is the first driver to go. Other drivers must wait their turn. Yield to the driver on your right.



#### INTERNATIONAL STOP SIGN



**YIELD:** The three-sided (triangle) sign tells you to give the right-of-way to all vehicles and pedestrians near you. Slow down to a safe speed and stop if necessary. When stopping, do so at a marked crosswalk or before entering the intersection.



**DO NOT ENTER:** This sign is posted on one-way streets and other roadways that you are not allowed to enter.



**SPEED ZONE AHEAD:** The larger sign tells you there is a speed zone ahead. The smaller sign tells what the speed limit will be.



**SPEED LIMIT:** Signs like these give the speed limit. Some signs show maximum and minimum speed limits for all types of vehicles on roadways and limited access highways. In construction and maintenance zones, posted speeds legally reduce the speed limit on that portion of the highway.



**WRONG WAY:** This sign tells you that your vehicle is moving in the wrong direction. You will see this sign on expressway ramps a short distance past the **DO NOT ENTER** sign. You will also see this sign if you turn the wrong way into a one-way street alley or driveway.



**NO (not allowed):** Signs having a red circle with a red slash from upper left to lower right mean no. The picture within the circle shows what is not allowed.

## TRAFFIC SIGNS

### Regulatory Signals



Special mention should be made of “**NO-TURN**” signs that are posted on divided roadways or highways. You may see one where there is an opening in the divided highway that leads to the other side. These openings are for authorized vehicles only such as police cars, ambulances, snow plows, construction/maintenance equipment and other emergency vehicles. You may not use this opening.

**ONE-WAY:** These signs are used on one-way streets or driveways. You must always go only in the direction of the arrow.

**TWO-WAY LEFT TURN LANES:** Either of two signs can be used to indicate a two-way left turn lane in the center of a highway. Along with a sign, the two-way left turn lane is marked with yellow lines and white arrows.

**NO TURN ON RED:** This sign is used at some intersections. It tells you that a right turn on a red light or a left turn on a red light at intersecting one-way streets is prohibited.

**KEEP RIGHT:** This sign tells you where to drive when you approach traffic islands, medians or other obstructions in the middle of the roadway.

**SLOWER TRAFFIC KEEP LEFT:** This sign is posted for those driving slower than the normal speed of traffic on a multilane highway. It tells the slow driver to drive in the left lane.

**STOP HERE ON RED:** This sign is used when it is not clear where vehicles must stop at an intersection with traffic signals.

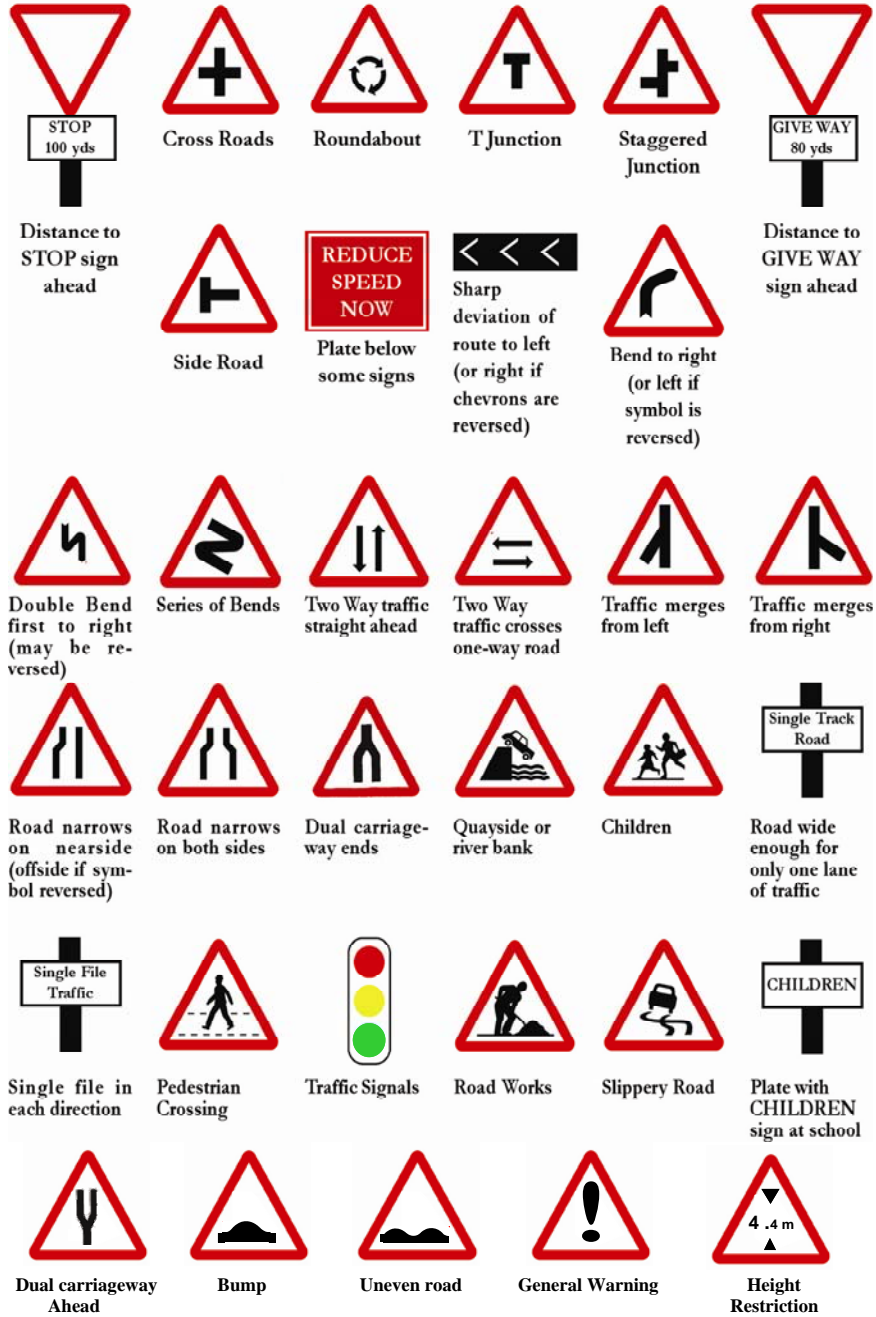
**DO NOT PASS:** This sign tells you that you may not pass other vehicles. It is posted on many two-lane roads where traffic goes in both directions. There will also be yellow “no passing” lines on the road.

**PASS WITH CARE:** This sign tells you that you are at the end of the no-passing zone. You may pass now only when it is safe.

**ROAD CLOSED:** This sign is used when the road is closed to all traffic. You may not continue on the road.

# TRAFFIC SIGNS AND MARKINGS

## Warning Signs



# TRAFFIC SIGNS

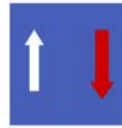
## Information Signs



One Way Traffic



One Way Street



Priority over vehicles from opposite direction



No through road



Advance warning of no through road



Parking by Disabled only Decal



Keep left (right if symbol is reversed)



Pass either side



Turn left ahead (right if symbol is reversed)



Turn left (right if symbol is reversed)



Ahead only

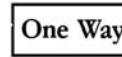


Plate supplementing "Turn" signals



Route for cycles only



Roundabout



Route for Pedestrians only



Route for Buses only



Stop and Give Way



Give Way to traffic on major road



No Entry



No Right Turn



No Left Turn



No U Turns



School Crossing Patrol



Maximum Speed Limit



No Waiting



No Overtaking



Give priority to vehicles from opposite direction



Lorries Prohibited

# TRAFFIC SIGNS

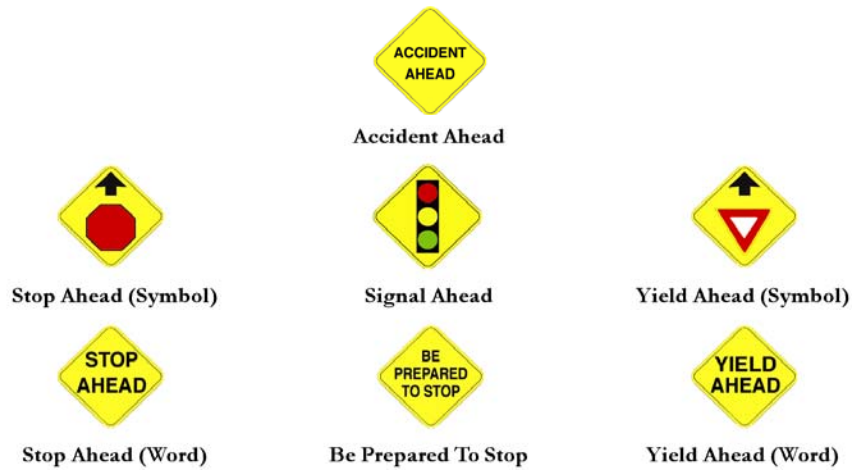
## Information Signs



## Divided Highways



## Stop, Yield Or Signal Ahead





# TRAFFIC SIGNS

## Turn And Lane Use Regulation



Straight Only



No Turns



Right Turn Only



Left Turn or Straight Only



Left Turn Only



Straight or Right Turn Only



Sharp Right Curve  
(Left if sign is reversed)



Left or Right Turn Only

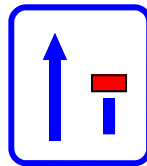


Winding Road

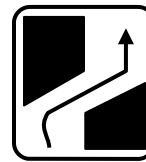
## Roadworks signs



Roadworks



Lane closed



Cross-over to  
opposing roadway



Barricade (No entry)



Traffic control  
ahead

# TRAFFIC SIGNALS

## Traffic signals

### Standard signals



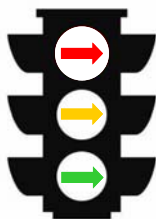
**RED** means stop

**AMBER** means stop unless you are so close to the stop line that it would be dangerous to try and stop

**GREEN** means you may go ahead or turn with care

The sequence is GREEN - AMBER - RED

### Arrow signals



Signals in the form of arrows to the direction of travel indicated by the arrow

### Pedestrian signals



**AMBER** means that pedestrians must not cross the road

Steady **GREEN** means that pedestrians may cross with care

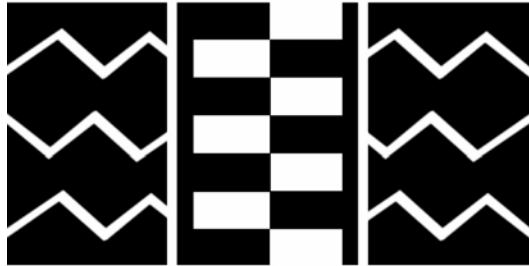
Flashing **GREEN** means that pedestrians must not start to cross as the **AMBER** signal is about to come on.



## ROAD MARKINGS

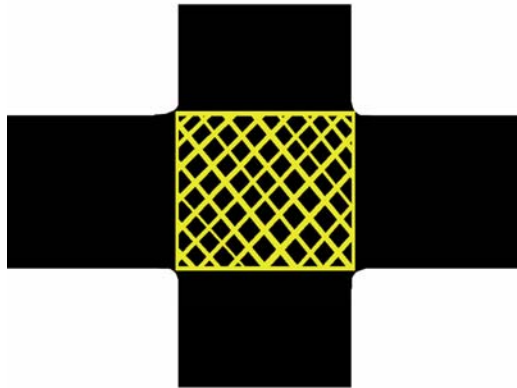
### ROAD MARKINGS

#### ZEBRA/CHECKER CROSSING ZIG-ZAG LINES



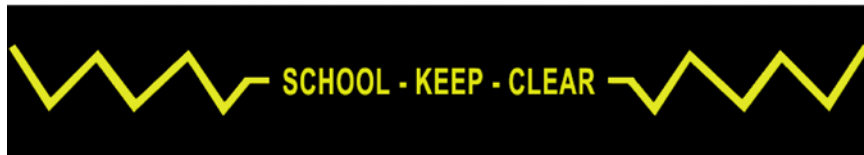
Vehicles must not overtake, wait or park in the zig-zag areas. Pedestrians should not cross on the zig-zag areas. They should always use the crossing.

#### TO PREVENT INTERSECTION BLOCKING



Do not enter box unless you exit road or lane is clear, except to turn left.

#### KEEP SCHOOL ENTRANCE CLEAR



## TRAFFIC SIGNS AND MARKINGS

### Across The Road



Give way to traffic on major road



Give way to traffic on roundabout



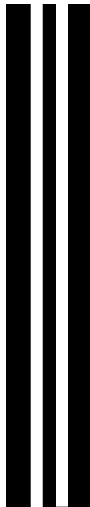
Stop line at signals and Stop Sign



Warning of Give Way sign

### Along the Road

Double White Lines



Do Not Cross

Double White Lines



No Crossing solid line  
If nearer to driver  
Than broken line

Cross Hatching



Do Not Enter  
Marked area

Lane Markings



Lane Line



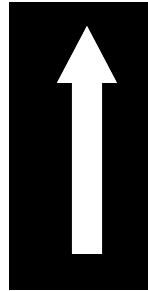
Centre Line



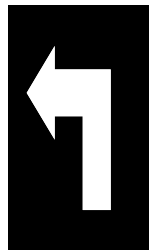
Warning Line

## ROAD MARKINGS

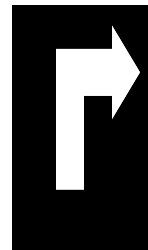
### Other Markings



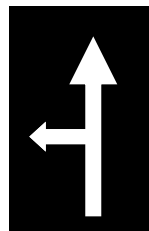
Lane arrow - ahead only



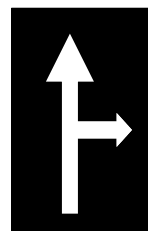
Lane arrow - left turn only



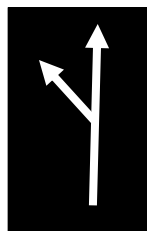
Lane arrow - right turn only



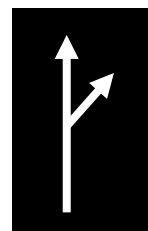
Lane arrow - ahead or  
left turn



Lane arrow - ahead or  
right turn



Diverge arrow - ahead of left  
turn lane



Diverge arrow - ahead of  
right turn lane

## DRIVING AND THE LAW

- The Laws of The Bahamas state that you must be at least 17 years old before you can apply for a Provisional Licence (Learner's Permit) or obtain a Driver's License.
- You must have a valid Provisional License (Learner's Permit) before you can take a Driver's Test.
- All Drivers Licenses expire the last day in the month you were born; except the Provisional License (Learner's Permit), which expires six (6) months from the date of issue.
- Drivers are required to have their licence in their possession at all times when driving.
- Drivers have 24hrs to produce their license to the police when requested to do so.
- You must report a traffic accident to the police within 24hrs.
- You have 48hrs to produce your insurance to the police when requested.
- To register/licence a new vehicle you must produce the Customs Vehicle Information Sheet, Bill of Sale, Valid Insurance Certificate, approved inspection slip and the Registration Fee.
- When you sell your vehicle you must give the buyer the Ownership Booklet, Bill of Sale and endorse the license disk.
- When you sell or get rid of your vehicle, the license plate assigned to you must be removed. If you no longer wish to utilize the license plate and are sure you will not need it in the future, it should be surrendered to the Controller of Road Traffic
- At night you must dim your light or deflect your headlight at least 300 yards from the on-coming vehicle.
- All vehicles must be equipped with a rear "stop" light and brake light.

## DRIVING AND THE LAW

- Whenever the load of a vehicle extends more than 4 feet beyond the rear of the vehicle a red flag must be displayed on the end of the load.
- All motor vehicles must have a license plate attached to the front and rear. The rear licence plate must have a white light for use when lights are required.

## ALCOHOL AND YOUR DRIVING

The prescribed limit of alcohol that a driver may have in his body while driving is:

- i) 30 micrograms of alcohol in 100 milliliters of breath,
- ii) 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of blood,  
or such other proportion (e.g. in urine) as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Minister.

A drunken driver is a menace to all road users. It should be borne in mind, however, that smaller quantities of alcohol which leave a person relatively safe as a pedestrian may, in certain circumstances, render them quite unfitted to drive a car.

It is impossible to state in general terms the amount of alcohol a person may take before being considered unfit to drive. The amount depends on a multitude of factors:

- The type and concentration of the alcohol
- Time of day
- Whether or not it is taken with food
- And most important of all, the person's skill as a driver and their resistance as a drinker.

For instance, the effect of alcohol is twice as great when taken on an empty stomach as when taken with food. The onus is on the individual to decide whether or not he/she may safely drive a car at any moment.

Contrary to common belief, alcohol does not speed up reactions; it slows them down. There are individual variations in this respect, but the average driver, after a large amount of alcohol, will take about 15% longer than usual to depress his brake or turn his wheel in an emergency. His hand and arm movements will also be correspondingly less steady and accurate.

The decrease of speed and accuracy of muscular movements would not in itself be so dangerous if, at the same time, the man did not intend to think that he is driving better than ever, whereas all the time his actual efficiency is well below normal. This deceptive sense of efficiency and well being, is doubtless responsible for many accidents.

**The only safe amount is zero alcohol.**

## RUNNING A CLEAN AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE

It is in everyone's interests to keep vehicles running cleanly and efficiently. Gasoline and diesel is expensive - and vehicle exhaust is a major contributor to air pollution and global warming.

**You can save money and cause less pollution by following this advice:**

**Keep your vehicle in good working condition** - a badly maintained vehicle can use as much as 15% more fuel. Have your vehicle serviced regularly by a skilled mechanic who can 'tune' the engine and check that it is safe. The carburetor, air filters, brakes and tyres need special attention.

**Drive smoothly and sensibly** - rapid acceleration and sudden braking wastes a lot of fuel. Use the gears so that you can use the brakes less and have a smoother, more comfortable, and more economic ride.

**Don't drive too fast** - it may save you a few minutes, but it will cost you much more and increases the risk of crashes. In a car you will get the most miles/kilometres from each gallon by travelling at between 30 - 40 miles per hour. At speeds over 60 miles per hour (which is over the speed limit anyway) fuel consumption can increase by about 30%.

**Load the vehicle carefully** - poor loading increases the consumption of fuel. Remove the roof rack if you are not using it, as it increases wind resistance. If luggage has to be carried on the roof rack, load it to minimize wind resistance.

**Use air conditioners sparingly** - they can use up to 20% extra fuel.

**Plan your trips and routes carefully** - don't use your car for lots of short trips - it is a waste of money. Combine the trips that you, your family and your friends make. Sharing the car reduces car use, keeps costs low, and reduces traffic congestion and pollution. Avoid travelling during the rush hour - fuel consumption in congested areas can be almost double what it is normally.

**Switch off the engine if you are held up in a traffic jam for more than a few minutes.**

## SOME COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

Everybody wants to be a safe driver and avoid having an accident; but a lot of accidents still happen and are caused by a relatively small number of behaviours. You should be aware of the most common causes of accidents and drive in such a way that you don't become an accident statistic. Think about your family and friends and how it would affect their lives. Some of the most frequent causes are:

**Excessive speed** – you should always 'read' the road ahead and drive at safe speed for the conditions, this means allowing a good safety margin; just in case the other road user does something unexpected. Reduce your speeds to negotiate junction, bends and places where there are lots of people. A safe speed can be much less than the speed limit.

**Not giving way at junctions** – follow the give way rules at junctions, especially when joining main roads from side roads. Always obey the traffic signs. If it is not clear who has the right to go first, be extra careful.

**Following too closely** - leave enough space to be sure that you can stop in time if the vehicle ahead suddenly slows down or stops. In traffic, you have to watch the vehicle ahead very carefully since it may suddenly do something unexpected.

**Drinking alcohol and driving** – even small amount of alcohol can significantly increase your risk of having an accident. Even if you don't have an accident if you are 'over the limit', you may lose your licence and receive a heavy fine.

**Taking drugs and driving when tired** - taking drugs and driving is also very dangerous. Some medicines prescribed by your doctors may also advise you not to drive after taking them. Avoid driving when tired – large numbers of accidents are caused by people actually falling asleep at the wheel; although they rarely admit it.

**Overtaking dangerously** - overtake only when you can see far enough ahead to be sure that you can complete the manoeuvre without causing other traffic to change speed or direction. Head-on crashes are much more dangerous than many crashes because two cars traveling at 50 mph have a 100 mph 'accident'. It is better to take a few minutes longer on your journey than to be dead.



## SOME COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

**Driving too fast at night** – driving at night is much more dangerous than during the daytime. Only drive as fast as your headlights allow, so your speed should allow you to switch to dipped headlights and still be able to stop in time. A lot of crashes at night happen when vehicles run into the back of unlit and badly-parked vehicles. Make sure you can stop for parked vehicles, that all your lights and reflectors are working and clean, and that you park your vehicle safely – preferably off the road.

**Driving carelessly where there are pedestrians** – wherever there are pedestrians you should slow down, take extra care, and expect them to cross the road. Overtaking is particularly dangerous because a pedestrian who is crossing the road may never see you until it is too late.

**Swerving to avoid animals in the road** – as you drive along keep looking out for problems ahead, such as animals, and be ready to take action by planning what action you can take. Don't swerve to avoid an animal if it will cause an injury to a human.

**Not concentrating** - to use the road safely you must concentrate all the time. Don't allow your passengers to talk to you in a way that stops you from being fully alert to what is happening in the road ahead. You shouldn't eat or drink, make phone calls or send text messages, try to read the map, change the cassette, CD, or tune the radio, unless it is safe to do so. Be ready for the unexpected, so avoid driving while tired or drinking alcohol.

**Pedestrians not taking sufficient care** – Always walk on the right-hand side of the road, and not in the middle. Make sure you follow the Crossing Code. Wear something bright at night. Don't take so much alcohol or drugs that you are unable to walk and cross the road safely.

## SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

When a minor offence has been committed, a police officer or traffic warden may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice, which allows the offender to avoid prosecution by paying the penalty within a certain period. If the penalty remains unpaid after this time the police may take the offender to court and they are likely to receive a larger fine - unless they can prove their innocence.

For more serious offences it is for the courts to decide what penalty to impose. They may impose a fine, imprisonment or both. In addition, the courts have the power to disqualify a driver from driving for various periods of time. For the more serious offences the law requires that a drivers licence can be suspended or even cancelled. The courts will determine the size of any punishment - within the range provided by the law.

Some fixed penalty offences are listed below, along with the associated penalties (Note: Penalties are those enforced as of January, 2004)

## CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED PENALTY OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

### Road Traffic (Vehicle Inspection) Regulations

8624	Failure to submit motor vehicle for inspection (Reg 4)	\$100
8686	No valid certificate of inspection (Reg 5)	\$100

### Motor Vehicle and Speed Limit Regulations & 41

8700	Vehicle having no proper identification plates (Reg 6)	\$250
8688	Vehicle not having licence disc properly affixed (Reg 8)	\$250
8777	Failing to replace identification plates (Reg 9)	\$ 75
8778	Failing to notify change of ownership (Reg 10)	\$ 75
8193	Using motor vehicle before inspection certificate issued (Reg 15)	\$ 75
8689	No brakes in good working order (Reg 18)	\$ 75
8690	Driving with windshield/windows not of transparent glass (Reg 19(3))	\$ 75
8791	Driving with sign, poster, etc., on windshield/ windows obstructing view (Reg 19(4))	\$ 75
8691	No windsshield wipers in good working order (Reg 20))	\$ 75
8692	No rear view mirror (Reg 21))	\$ 75
8693	No muffler in good working order (Reg 22))	\$ 75
8694	No horn fitted (Reg 23))	\$ 75
8695	Excessive or prohibited use of horn (Reg 23))	\$ 75

## CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED PENALTY OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

8696	No or one fitted front head lamps (Reg 24))	\$ 75
8708	Rear number-plate not illuminated (Reg 24(4))	\$ 75
8698	No or one fitted rear lamp (Reg 24(4))	\$ 75
8699	Vehicle causing danger or unnecessary annoyance due to condition (Reg 26))	\$ 75
8789	Discharging or throwing objects from vehicle (Reg 21(e))	\$ 80
8723	Failing to keep to the left side of the street (Reg 22 (1)(A))	\$100
8724	Failing to overtake properly (Reg 22(a))	\$100
8729	Failing to move vehicle when requested by police (Reg 22(g))	\$ 80
8730	Failing to pull into left on hearing siren/bell (Reg 22(h))	\$ 80
8731	Failing to sit opposite steering wheel (Reg 22 (i))	\$ 80
8732	Failing to remove broken down vehicle (R.eg22 (j))	\$
80		
8697	Failing to dip lights (Reg 22(k))	\$ 80
8733	Driving backwards for unreasonable distance (Reg 24(a))	\$ 80
8734	Leaving vehicle with engine running (Reg 24(b))	\$ 80
8736	Passing or attempting to pass at intersection (Reg 24(d))	\$ 80
8737	Passing or attempting to pass on hill (Reg 24(d))	\$ 80
8738	Passing or attempting to pass on a curve (Reg 24(d))	\$ 80
8739	Passing or attempting to pass on a solid line (Reg 24(d))	\$ 80

## CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED PENALTY OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

8740	Turning improperly at intersection (Reg 24(e))	\$ 80
8741	Obstructing/hindering person discharging goods (Reg 24 (f))	\$ 80
8742	Loading extending more than 1 foot on sides (Reg 24(g))	\$ 80
8790	Driving other than a motor vehicle recklessly, negligently or dangerously (Reg 24(i))	\$ 80
8695	Unnecessary use of horn (Reg 24(j))	\$ 80
8743	Carelessly or willfully damaging property (Reg 24(k))	\$ 80
8444	Carelessly or willfully hurting any person (Reg 24(k))	\$ 80
8745	Driving and being asleep (Reg 24(24(L))	\$100
8746	Using vehicle to cause annoyance (Reg 24 (m))	\$ 80
8747	Using vehicle so as to cause unnecessary noise (Reg 24 (m))	\$ 80
8779	Unnecessary noise (Reg 27)	\$ 75
8780	Trailer having one or no proper identification plate (Reg 28)	\$ 75

### **Road Traffic Regulations & 31**

8792	No horn in proper working order (Reg 5)	\$100
8711	Driving without giving proper signals (Reg 8)	\$100
8781	Parking on sidewalk, footpath, etc (Reg 9(2)(a))	\$ 80
8712	Parking in a 'No Parking' area (Reg 9(2)(b))	\$100
8782	Parking and obstructing driveway, etc (Reg 9(2) (c))	\$ 80

## CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED PENALTY OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

8783	Parking on a bend so as likely to cause danger etc., (Reg 9(2)(d))	\$100
8784	Parking within 15 feet of a corner (Reg 9(2)(e))	\$ 80
8785	Parking alongside any vehicle (Reg 9(2)(f))	\$100
8713	Parking for longer than permitted (Reg 9(4))	\$ 80
8714	Parking unlawfully in a loading zone (Reg 9(5))	\$ 80
8786	Parking more than 18 inches from curb (Reg 9(7))	\$ 80
8787	Parking on a 'Bus Stop' (Reg 9(8))	\$ 80
8715	Parking on a 'Taxi Stand' (Reg 9(11))	\$ 80
8716	Driving in wrong direction on one-way street (Reg 11)	\$ 80
8788	Driving bus or truck in prohibited place (Reg 17)	\$ 80
8717	Driving motor vehicle in prohibited place (Reg 18)	\$ 80
8718	Mounting or otherwise interfering with vehicle (Reg 21(a))	\$ 80
8719	Holding on to a vehicle while in motion (Reg 21 (b))	\$ 80
8720	Hindering or preventing progress of any vehicle (Reg 21(c))	\$ 80
8722	Riding/pushing a bicycle more than two abreast (Reg 21(d))	\$ 80
8749/8750	Driving/riding on sidewalk (Reg 24(o))	\$ 80
8751/8752	Driving/riding on closed street (Reg 24(p))	\$ 80
8753/8754	Driving/riding on street where fire hose laid (Reg 24(q))	\$ 80
8755	Allowing person to bold vehicle while in motion (Reg 24(r))	\$ 80
8756	Allowing person not seated to be a passenger (Reg 24(r))	\$ 80

## CLASSIFICATION OF FIXED PENALTY OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

8757	Carrying passenger on motorcycle or cycle on other than permanent seat {Reg 24(s)}	\$ 80
8758	Driving with insecure load (Reg 24(t))	\$ 80
8750	Riding cycle on sidewalk or paths (Reg 28(a))	\$ 80
8766	Standing cycle against public building (Reg 28(b))	\$ 80
8767	Carrying more than one passenger on cycle (Reg 28(c))	\$ 80
8770	Riding cycle without adequate brakes (Reg 28(d))	\$ 80

### Road Traffic Act

8625	Failing to register or license vehicle (Section 31)	\$200
8735	Causing obstruction to traffic (Section 48 (A))	\$500
8660	Driving vehicle in defective condition (Section 51)	\$ 80

## BREAKDOWNS

If your vehicle breaks down or you have a puncture, try and move the vehicle off the road. If this is not possible, get the vehicle close to the left-hand edge of the road and, if possible, away from junctions, bends and other dangerous places.

If you cannot avoid stopping on the road in a dangerous place warn other traffic by:

- using your hazard warning lights (double indicators – both flashing together)
- putting a red warning triangle on the road at least 50 yards before the obstruction (if you don't have one, buy one and keep in the car)
- getting someone to walk back along the road to warn the following traffic.

Try not to stand or work on the vehicle where you are at risk of being hit by passing vehicles. While repairing the vehicle never spill diesel or oil on the road, as they can seriously damage the surface.

Make every effort to get the vehicle repaired or removed from the road before dark. If you have to leave a broken-down vehicle in the road at night, switch the parking lights on and make sure there is some sign on the road well before the vehicle to warn other drivers.

### ***DON'T FORGET !***

Many crashes happen when vehicles run into the back of broken-down vehicles left in the road. Get your vehicle off the road if possible. If not, move it as close to the side of the road as you can. Take steps to warn other traffic.



## IF THERE IS A CRASH

If you are involved in a crash, or stop to help:

- Warn other vehicles by switching on your hazard warning lights (double indicators) or signal to other drivers to slow down
- Control the traffic so as to avoid a further crash - ask other drivers and local people to help with this
- Ask drivers to switch off their engines and everyone to put out any cigarettes
- Arrange for the Police to be called immediately - state the exact location of the crash and the numbers of vehicles and injured persons involved - ask several people to do this in order to make sure the message gets through
- Be prepared to give first aid - see next section
- If the injuries are serious, and there is little chance of getting help quickly, make arrangements to take the injured to the nearest hospital or clinic
- Respect the victims and their property – and encourage everyone else to do the same
- Do not take the law into your own hands – discourage mob justice.

When you see stopped vehicles ahead, slow down and be ready to stop. If you think there are enough people helping already do not stop and add to the blockage. When passing the crash do not get distracted – concentrate on the road ahead. Obey the commands of police officers who are at the scene and stay calm if there are long delays.

If you are involved in a road crash in which someone is injured you **MUST** give your name and address (and the name and address of the vehicle owner, if different) to any other person involved and you **MUST** report the crash to the nearest police station or police officer as soon as possible.

You should stop and assist persons injured in a road crash, if you don't fear for your own safety.

### ***DON'T FORGET!***

To contact the Police in an emergency dial 919 or ????. State the exact location of the crash and the numbers of vehicles and injured persons involved.

You **MUST** report any accident in which someone is injured to the Police within 24 hours of the accident

## FIRST AID

Many road crash victims suffer unnecessarily, or even die, at the scene of the crash through lack of adequate care. Someone with First Aid training can often prevent a victim's condition from worsening and may save their life. The aims of First Aid are to:

1. Preserve life
2. Prevent a casualty's injury or illness from getting any worse
3. Promote recovery

First Aid training is available in many centres and from organisations such as the Red Cross and it is well worth learning these skills. **But even if you have no First Aid training there are some simple things you can do to help the injured**, and these are described below **in order of priority**.

### **1. Prevent further Danger and Make Safe**

First of all assess the danger to yourself, the victims and others. Make the situation safe before approaching. You do not want to become a casualty yourself. For instance, warn and control approaching vehicles to prevent further crashes. Ask other people to help you with this. If there is a danger of fire, make sure no-one smokes or uses lighters or matches.

### **Emergency Treatment**

The most important thing is to preserve life. Remember “**Dr A.B.C.**” This stands for:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>D = Danger</b>   | Is there continuing danger to the injured? – Try to make safe. Protect the casualty and keep curious onlookers away.   |
| <b>R = Response</b> | Is there any response from the casualty? – Look for reactions to voice commands or touch. If there is no response check the airway (throat).   |
| <b>A = Airway</b>   | Is the airway (throat) clear? – Tilt the head back gently to open the mouth, check the tongue to ensure that it is not blocking the throat and clear any obvious obstructions, then check for breathing. |

## FIRST AID

**B = Breathing** Is the casualty breathing? – Check by putting your ear close to the casualty’s mouth for at least 10 seconds to hear and feel the breath. If there is no breath, then immediately give two rescue breaths by pinching closed the nostrils and breathing twice into the victim’s mouth. Check again for breathing. If there is still no breath, check for circulation.

**C = Circulation** Is there a pulse? – Check the pulse by placing two fingers at the neck, and look at the casualty’s colour and pupils of the eyes. If there is no breath or circulation, call for emergency assistance immediately before continuing. Once help has been summoned, if you know the technique, then apply CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) combining chest compressions with artificial respirations until expert help arrives, the victim starts breathing, or you are exhausted.

### 3. Get Help

Expert help must be summoned as quickly as possible, normally by dialling 919 or ????. Try not to leave a casualty alone. If possible ask others to phone or get help and to report back that they have done so. These days many people have mobile phones so there may be no need to leave the scene. It is important to give the emergency services precise information on:

- The location of the accident – street name, known landmarks or places
- The nature of the accident
- Site conditions and dangers
- Number of people injured and severity of injuries.

You should not end the call first – wait for the emergency service to confirm the details.

### 4. Moving Casualties

Do not move any casualties unless absolutely necessary. Injured persons still in vehicles should not be removed unless there is immediate danger of fire, additional damage, or further accidents. Victims suffering obvious bone fractures or possible internal or spinal injuries should not be moved unless it is essential for their safety. If a casualty is unconscious but is breathing and not obviously badly injured, put them in the recovery position (see below) to prevent breathing problems.

## FIRST AID

### **5. Bleeding and Injury Treatment**

A person can bleed to death in five minutes, so it is vital that you try and stop heavy loss of blood. First check that there is no object in the wound. If there is nothing, apply firm pressure over the wound, preferably using a sterile dressing from a First Aid Kit or any other clean padding. Tie the pad over the wound with a bandage or length of cloth. If there are no broken bones, raise a bleeding limb to reduce the blood flow. When dealing with another person's bleeding wounds it is recommended that you protect yourself by putting your hands inside clean plastic bags.

If there are broken bones, fractures or dislocations it is important to stabilise the limb and avoid movement so you don't make the injury worse.

If there are burns, immediately cool the area with cold running water and then cover with a clean dressing.

### **6. Treat for Shock & Comfort Victims**

It is also very important to recognise, prevent, and treat the symptoms of shock, as these may cause even more serious deterioration than the original injury. The signs are: a cold, pale, damp skin; fast or weak pulse; rapid shallow breathing; feeling sick; yawning or sighing.

The causes of shock are many, including: injury; drop in blood pressure; and reduction in the volume of any body fluid. As well as treating the cause, it is vital not to leave the casualty alone, and to make them more comfortable by:

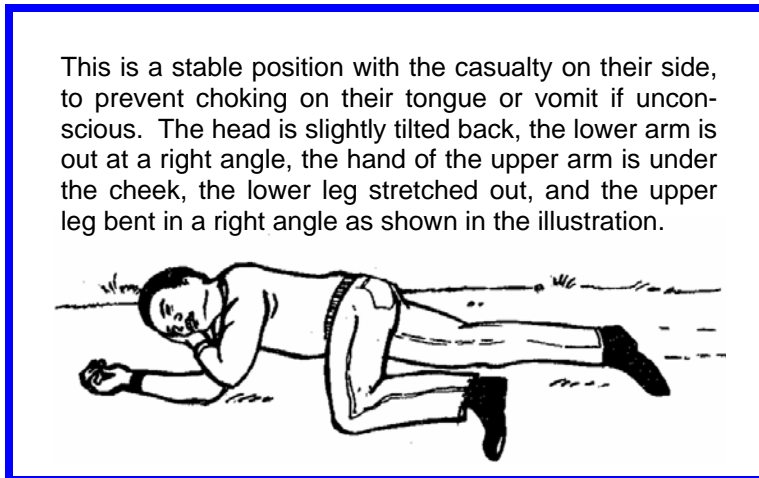
1. Lying the casualty down
2. Loosening any tight clothing particularly round the chest and airways
3. Keeping the casualty warm by covering with a blanket
4. Keeping the casualty calm by reassuring and comforting
5. Raising the legs slightly to keep blood flowing to the head.

An accident casualty should never be given anything to eat or drink. If they are thirsty, moisten their lips with water. Never give a casualty any medicines or apply anything but clean water and dressings to wounds.

## FIRST AID

### 7. Recovery Position

This is a stable position with the casualty on their side, to prevent choking on their tongue or vomit if unconscious. The head is slightly tilted back, the lower arm is out at a right angle, the hand of the upper arm is under the cheek, the lower leg stretched out, and the upper leg bent in a right angle as shown in the illustration.



### 8. Get the Injured to Hospital

Make arrangements to get the injured to the nearest hospital as soon as their condition has been stabilised by First Aid.

## OBTAINING A LICENCE AND TAKING THE TEST

In order to get a driving licence you must:

- Obtain a 'Provisional' Licence
- Pass your Knowledge Test
- Pass your Practical Test
- Apply for your 'Full' Licence

### 1. Obtaining a provisional licence

- Before starting to drive you must obtain a provisional licence
- You must be aged 17 or over.

You must complete Form DL1 (b), obtainable from the Road Traffic Department and pay the appropriate fee.

To complete the form you must, as well as providing your details, signify that:

- you are not disqualified from holding a licence-
- do not suffer from epilepsy, or from sudden attacks of disabling giddiness, or fainting
- you can read a number plate at a distance of 25 yards in good daylight (with glasses if worn)
- you are both physically and mentally capable – you may need to fill in a Disabled Drivers Claim
- you are aware that you need to have insurance cover

### 2. Taking your knowledge test

You must pass a written 'knowledge' test before you can sit your 'practical' (on-road) test.

### 3. Taking your practical test

The Regulations require an applicant for a driving license to satisfy the Examiner:-

- (a) That he is fully conversant with the contents of the. Highway Code Booklet/Driving Manual.
- (b) Generally, that he is competent to drive without danger to and with due consideration for other users of the road, a vehicle of the same class or description as that on which he is tested.

## OBTAINING A LICENCE AND TAKING THE TEST

In addition, the candidate must fulfill a selection of the following requirements prescribed in relation to the group of vehicles which comprises the one on which the test is taken (see Table below)

1. Read at a distance of 25 yards in good daylight (with the aid of glasses if worn) a motor car number plate containing six letters and figures.
2. Start the engine of the vehicle.
3. Move away straight ahead or at an angle.
4. Overtake, meet or cross the path of other vehicles and take an appropriate course.
5. Turn right and left-hand corners correctly.
6. Stop the vehicle in an emergency situation and bring it to a halt at an appropriate part of the road.
7. Reverse the vehicle in a limited opening either to the right or left.
8. Cause the vehicle to face in the opposite direction by the use of forward and reverse gears.
9. Signal; by hand or by mechanical means (if fitted to the vehicle).

You should expect the practical test to involve a variety of driving skills that include:

- Starting off**
- Backing/reversing**
- Traffic lights**
- Steering**
- Passing other vehicles**
- Right of way judgements**
- Changing gear**
- Braking**
- Stopping**
- Signals and signaling**

## OBTAINING A LICENCE AND TAKING THE TEST

**Left turn**  
**Following**  
**Intersections**  
**Right turns**  
**Stop signs**  
**Pedestrian crossing**  
**Lanes observation/lane changing**  
**Attention**  
**Parking**  
**Speed**  
**General skills**  
**Roundabout approach**  
    **a. single lane**  
    **b. double lane**

### **4. Getting your full driving licence**

When you have passed the practical test you will be given a certificate that enables you to obtain a full drivers licence.



## SOME IMPORTANT DO'S OF DRIVING

### DO:

- Make sure you and your passengers are wearing seatbelts.
- If you are carrying children make sure they are properly restrained.
- Always STOP completely at stop signs and GIVE WAY when necessary
- Give way to on-coming vehicles whenever turning, including at traffic lights
- Always signal before carrying out the a manoeuvre
- Be extra careful when following Jitneys – be prepared for them to stop suddenly
- Give way to pedestrians on crossings
- Make sure your vehicle is safe; especially the lights, brakes and tyres
- Take extra care at night or when the weather is bad
- Leave enough time for your journey
- Be courteous and considerate to other road users – behave towards them how you would like them to treat you.

## SOME IMPORTANT DON'TS OF DRIVING

### DON'T:

- Drink alcohol and drive.
- Drive too fast for conditions – this can be lower than the speed limit
- Drive too close to the vehicle ahead of you (tail-gating).
- Drive unless you have proper licence and insurance.
- Approach traffic signals too quickly that you can't stop if they change.
- Park illegally ie. where there are double white lines in the center of the road or where you are blocking other traffic.
- Be an aggressive driver – be a smart driver.
- Overtake unless you can clearly see enough of the road ahead of you to complete the manoeuvre and where there are double white lines in the center of the road.
- Drive at night with your high beam lights on when approaching on-coming vehicles.
- Drive when you are tired or ill.
- Allow yourself to be distracted, concentrate on your driving.



**Produced by:  
Road Traffic Department  
Nassau, Bahamas**