



## Rules of the Road

Monthly Training Topic  
NV Transport Inc.  
Safety & Loss  
Prevention



# Introduction

***Rules of the road can be defined as both the laws and informal rules that have developed over time to facilitate an orderly traffic flow.***

***These rules are the general practices and procedures that road users are required to follow. These rules usually apply to all road users, though they are of special importance to motorists.***

***These rules govern interactions between vehicles and pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists and vehicles and other vehicles.***

***Although there are many “rules” (both required and informal) drivers should obey while on the road, this training will cover only the following:***

- ***The Right of Way***
- ***Traffic lights and signs***
- ***Turning and turn signals***
- ***Intersections (Controlled and Uncontrolled)***
- ***Speed Limits***



# Facts & Statistics

***More than 2 million people are injured in traffic crashes/collisions each year.***

***More than 30,000 people die in traffic crashes/collisions each year:***

- ***Approximately 100 people/ day***
- ***15 people/ hour***
- ***1 person every 5 minutes***
- ***16 fatalities for every 100,000 licensed drivers***
- ***Motor Vehicle Collisions are the number one cause of occupational deaths***

***Many accidents are caused by improper driving, this includes speeding, failing to yield, improper turning, and disregarding traffic signs and signals.***



*The above facts and statistics are obtained from one or all of the following websites: The AAA Foundation, The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, The National Highway Safety Administration, The National Safety Council*

# Right of Way

***Vehicles often come across conflict with other vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians because their intended courses of travel intersect with one another. Who has the right of way?***

***The right of way must always be given in the following circumstances:***

- ***At a yield sign***
- ***To pedestrians in a crosswalk***
- ***When making a left turn***
- ***At uncontrolled intersections where vehicles are already in the intersection***
- ***When driving on an unpaved road that intersects with a paved road***
- ***When returning to the roadway after the car is parked***

***The law is unclear as to who has the right of way, it only states who must yield.***

***Never insist on taking the right-of-way.***

***Never assume others will give you the right-of-way.***



# Traffic Lights and Signals



*Traffic lights are signaling devices positioned at road intersections, pedestrian crossings and other locations to control competing flows of traffic.*

*Everyone knows green means go and red means stop. However, approximately 3 out of 5 people admit to running red lights on regular basis. Why do so many driver run red lights?*

- *Drivers being in a hurry*
- *Frustration and road rage*

## *Safety Tips:*

- *When approaching the intersection, SLOW DOWN and look both ways even if the light is green.*
- *When a light turns yellow, do not speed up. Slow down and come to a safe stop. Most yellow lights will remain yellow for approximately 3 seconds.*
- *Never run a red light*

*Red light cameras are devices that capture a picture of your vehicle/ license plate when a driver runs a red light. Tickets are then mailed to the address where the vehicle/ license plate is registered.*

# Turning and Turn Signals

*During your trip it is more than likely you will need to make a turn and you will encounter other vehicles making a turn. Below are various types of turns and safety tips while attempting these turns:*

- **Right hand turn**
  - *While attempting to make a right turn on a red light, ensure there is no light or sign that prohibits a right on red.*
  - *Be alert and ensure there are no pedestrians/bicyclists crossing the intersection.*
- **Left hand turn**
  - *If there is a left turn lane, law requires you to use that lane while making a left hand turn.*
  - *Follow through with your turn only when it is safe and oncoming traffic is either stopped or at a good distance.*
- **U – turn**
  - *Be sure a u-turn is legal before attempting the maneuver.*
  - *Do not attempt a u-turn on curves, hills, freeways, and in inclement weather.*

## **General safety tips:**

- *Reduce your speed as you approach the turn.*
- *Ensure you are in the correct lane to make the turn.*
- *Always use your turn signals well in advance to notify other drivers of your intentions.*



# Intersections (Controlled and Uncontrolled)

*An intersection is a road junction where two or more roads either meet or cross at the same level. Intersections can be 3 way, 4 way, 5 way, 6 way etc. depending on the number of road segments.*

*Controlled intersections have traffic lights or signs (stop, yield, etc.) to indicate the right of way.*

*Uncontrolled intersections do not have any traffic lights or signs to indicate the right of way. Below are some general rules to follow when approaching an uncontrolled intersection:*

- *At a 4 way intersection, typically the traffic to the right often has priority*
- *At a 3 way intersection, typically the traffic to the right often has priority (or traffic on the continuing road that goes straight)*

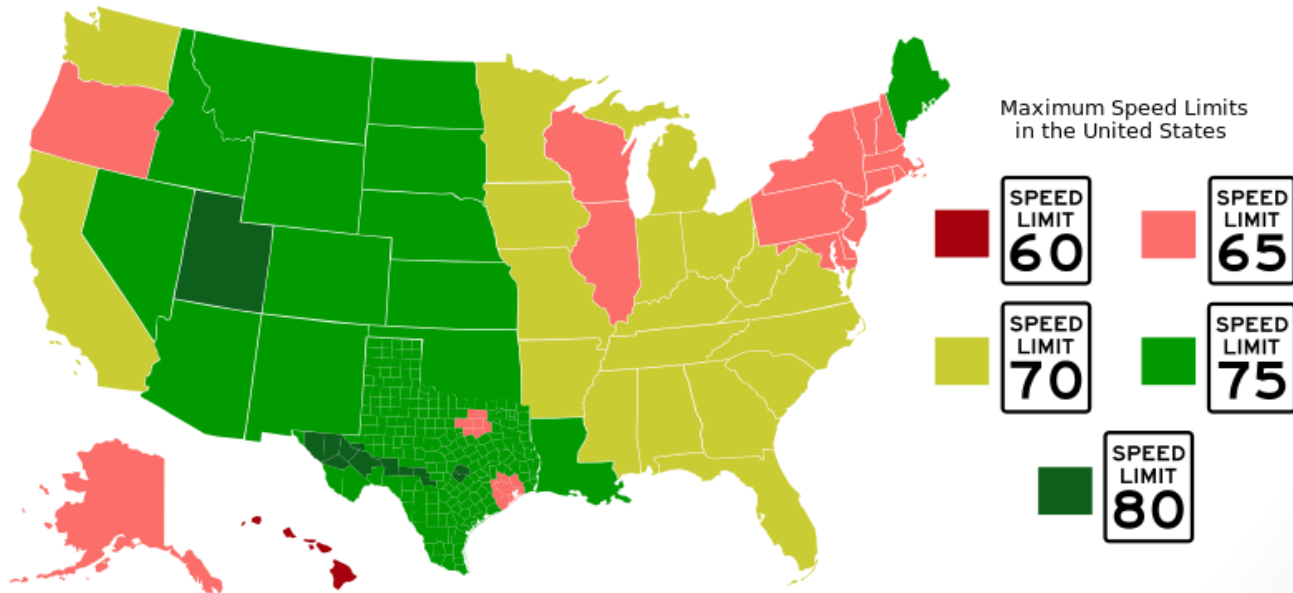


# Speed Limits

***Speed limits in the United States are typically set by state or territory. Speed limits will vary based on type of road, use of the land, terrain, time of day, size/type of vehicle etc.***

***Speeding can be defined as exceeding the posted limit (even by 1mph) and driving too fast for conditions (heavy traffic, inclement weather, etc.).***

***There are many consequences to excessive speeding; accidents are more likely to happen, costly damage is more likely and fatalities are more common. As speed increases so does the severity of the accident.***



Picture referenced from: <http://en.wikipedia.org>



# Quiz

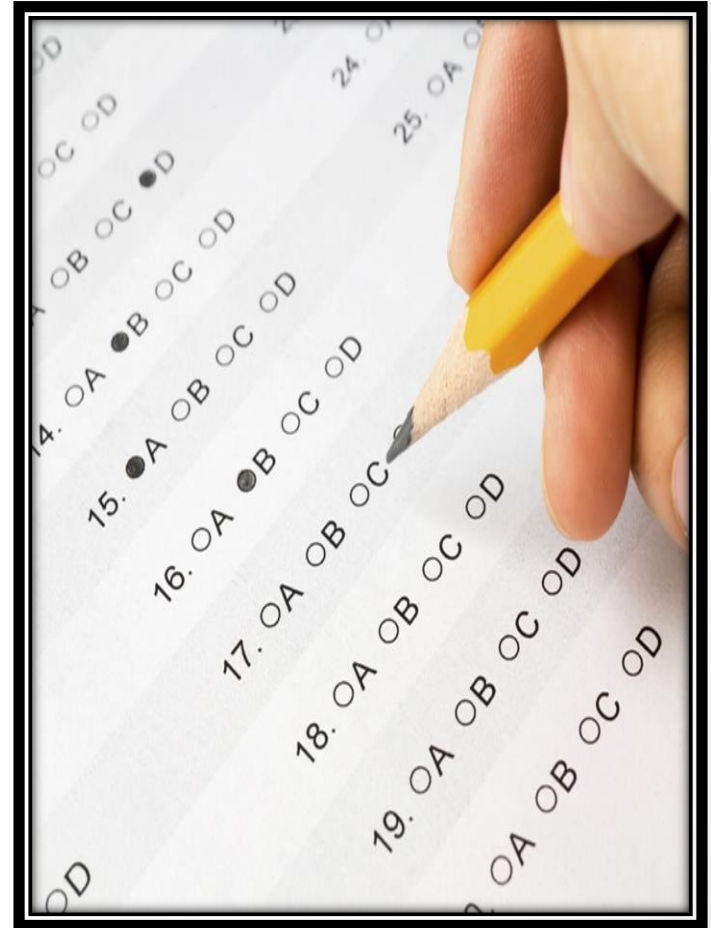
1. **True or False?** *The rules of the road govern interactions between vehicles and pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists and vehicles and other vehicles.*
2. **True or False?** *The rules of the road are both formal and informal “rules” for driver to follow.*
3. **True or False?** *The number one reason people run a red light is because they didn’t notice it was red.*
4. **True or False?** *You do not have to yield the right of way for pedestrians crossing the road in a crosswalk*
5. **True or False?** *Uncontrolled intersections have stop signs, but no traffic lights.*
6. **True or False?** *You are speeding even if you are only traveling 1 mph over the speed limit.*

# Quiz

7. **Speed limits are dependant on which of the following?**
  - A. **Type of road**
  - B. **Road terrain**
  - C. **Time of day**
  - D. **Size of vehicle**
  - E. **All of the above**
8. **When approaching an intersection, the first thing to do is \_\_\_\_\_, even if the light is green.**
9. **A controlled intersection is one the has which of the following?**
  - A. **Road signage**
  - B. **Traffic lights**
  - C. **2 or more vehicles in the intersection**
  - D. **A and B**
  - E. **All of the above**
10. **True or False? You may take the right of way if you make eye contact with the other driver.**

# Quiz Answers

1. *True*
2. *True*
3. *False*
4. *False*
5. *False*
6. *True*
7. *E*
8. *Slow Down*
9. *D*
10. *False*



# Question or Comments?



# Additional Information on Rules and Regulations

*This document is intended to be a guide on applicable rules and regulations. Although it may be used as a guide/reference for your training needs, this document is not intended to be used as the standard for FMCSA rules and regulations.*

***Additional information can be found on the FMCSA website.***

*The FMCSA website will contain the most accurate and up-to-date information on any and all applicable rules and regulations.*

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>

