

Guide 24: Laws, Signs, Signals & Markings

1. Respond To Stop Signs and Yield Signs

Two dimensions of a stop sign are to come to a complete stop and to effectively search to be certain the intersection will be clear before entering. The legal stop position is where the front of the car is even with the stop line. If there is a marked crosswalk and no stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk. If there is no stop line, and no crosswalk, then some states require you to stop at the stop sign, while others will allow you to stop at the curb line. Wherever you stop, it must be a complete stop. The real purpose of a stop sign is to be certain that the intersection is clear before moving into it. Therefore, your search of the intersection must effectively check the left, front and right zones.

2. Respond To Traffic Signal Lights

• Point-Of-No-Return

While approaching a green light, be prepared for the light to change to yellow. The point of no return is that point at which you are not able to stop without entering the intersection.

• Red Light and Right Turn On Red

When you see a red light, reduce speed to time your arrival into an open zone with a green light. When making a right turn with a red light, make a complete stop and check the intersection for open zones before entering.

• Yellow Changing Lights

The purpose of a yellow light is to clear the intersection. By knowing where your point of no return is, you'll see the light changing and be able to make your best decision.

• Green Lt, Search Intersection

Do not expect that a green light will prevent other drivers from coming into your path. Always search the left, front and right zones before entering an intersection.

3. Signal Arrows: Gr., Yellow, Red

• **Green arrow to right**, you are allowed to turn right at a red light. Yield to pedestrians and traffic.

• **Green arrow to left**, oncoming traffic should give you right-of-way.

• **Green arrow pointing up**, you are allowed to drive straight.

• **Green arrow pointing down**, you are allowed to drive in that lane.

• **Yellow arrow** means a change is to take place.

• **Red arrow** means you are not able to go in that direction.

4. Flashing Signal Lights

Flashing red light is the same as a stop sign. Flashing yellow indicates to be aware of potential problems.

5. Respond to Traffic Signs

You should be able to demonstrate your knowledge of the meaning and application of traffic signs. See Appendix C for more information.

• See Sign As Traffic Cue

- Check Rear Zone
- Check LOS-POT
- Check Escape Path

6. Respond To Pavement Markings

Yellow lines separate opposite traffic flows. **White lines** separate traffic moving in the same direction.

Solid lines generally mean you should not cross. **Broken lines** mean it is permissible to cross.

7. Right-of-Way Laws

• Must yield to pedestrians at all times, especially when a pedestrian is in crosswalk with no traffic light.

• When you are turning left, you must yield to oncoming traffic.

• Drivers on a minor road must yield to any vehicle on a main road.

• On two equal roads, drivers coming from the left must yield to vehicles coming at the same time from the right.

• At at 4-way stop sign, the driver reaching the intersection first gets to go first. When arrival is equal, the driver on the left yields to car on right.

Guide 25: Approaching Curves and Hillcrests

1. See Curve In Target Area

The initial detection of an approaching curve is seen in your target area.

2. Check Rear Zone

An immediate check of the mirrors gives you time to control the rear zone.

3. Test Tire-Road Grip

When roads are wet, from rain, dew, snow, ice, before entering the curve apply the brakes to test the tire-road grip. If the tires slide, reduce speed before entering the curve.

4. See A Left or Right Curve

Determine if it is a left or right curve and prepare for an effective drive line into the curve.

5. See Radius Of Curve

The size of the curve's radius will help to determine an effective speed selection.

6. For Speed Control-See 4 Seconds

Keep 4 seconds of road visible. When you have less than 4 seconds of road visible, brake before going into the curve to see more road. When braking, hold partial brake pressure until you're at the transition peg.

7. Look For Oncoming Traffic Get Best Lane Position

If there are no oncoming vehicles, the **approach into a right curve** could be in lane position two. If there is oncoming traffic, take lane position one. **For a left curve**, the approach begins in lane position three if the right-front zone is open. If closed, take lane position one.

8. See LOS-POT at Apex

Evaluate the condition of the apex. For a right curve, check the right-front zone to see if it is open, thus allowing you to go into lane position three. If closed, take lane position one. For a left curve, check the left-front zone for oncoming traffic which could be at the apex as you arrive. Take lane position one.

9. Look Into Curve

Look into the curve, much as you look into a turn, by turning your head before you turn the steering wheel. Attempt to see if your exiting path is open. For right or left curves, exit in lane position one.

10. Evaluate New Target Area

Evaluate your new target area to see what your front zone condition is.

11. Evaluate Targeting Path

Evaluate your targeting path for any LOS-POT zone changes.

12. Hill Approach LP 1

When approaching a hill, take lane position one.

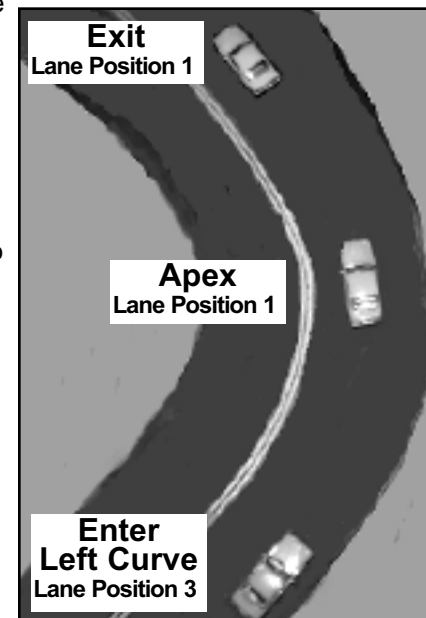
13. At Hillcrest, Evaluate POT

Search over the hillcrest to see if you have an open POT.

14. Hillcrest LP 1 (LP3 For Escape)

Look for the option of moving into lane position three if there is a problem caused by oncoming traffic in the left-front zone.

All hillcrests, due to the LOS blockage, restrict you from seeing 4-seconds of road. Therefore, speed should be reduced in an effort to gain more time to see.



Guide 26: Following Other Vehicles

1. Adjust Front Closure Rate

Whenever you use up the space between you and the car in front, there is a closure of space. Closure rate is how fast you gain on the car in front. It is best to acquire a habit that will make you sensitive to any closure of space. When you find yourself gaining on the car in front, it should serve as a cue to decrease your rate of closure and evaluate why the closure is occurring.

2. Become Alerted to Slower Vehicles

The slower the front car is going in relation to your speed, the greater your rate of closure is going to be. Let your closure rate tell you that a situation may be developing with the car in front. Many times the reason the car is going abnormally slow — which results in your fast closure rate — is the fact that the driver may be looking for an address or a street. The driver is very likely to slam on the brakes and make a quick turn without adequate use of signal lights. If you are perceptive you can make an adjustment in following time to be certain that you will have at least 4 seconds of space at the moment when it is most needed.

3. Keep 4 Seconds Of Time

When traveling behind another vehicle, try to keep at least four seconds of following time/space. The best way to learn how to measure the space you are keeping is to first guess how many seconds you think you are keeping behind the vehicle in front. Then select a stationary marker. When the front vehicle passes the marker, begin to count by 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004 until the front of your car reaches that marker.

4. Try To Improve LOS

The larger the front vehicle, the more your Line-Of-sight will be restricted. Try to gain the best view of situations ahead.

5. Read Traffic at least 12 Seconds Ahead

One important advantage of keeping four seconds of time from the vehicle you are following is that you will be able to see beyond that vehicle and gain the advantage of doing your own planning, independent of what the front vehicle is doing. You should be able to see at least 12 seconds ahead to assess your targeting path.

6. Control The Rear Zone

In order to control the rear zone you need to control the front zone. The more knowledge you have of the rear zone condition — type of tailgater for example — the better your decisions will be. If you have a Charger in back, and there is an opportunity for him to pass, you will best eliminate problems from him by having at least four seconds, which will give him adequate room to cut in front of you with the least interruption.

7. Respond To Communications

If you see the driver in front reducing speed, receive that as a communication that your following time may be affected. Become conscious of your surroundings.

8. When Front Car Slows — Adjust Space

When the driver in front reduces speed, adjust your following space.

9. Benefits Gained By 4-Seconds

- Removes the control the front vehicle has over your actions.
- Gives you more time to become aware of moments when you're closing in on the vehicle ahead.
- Your eyes can search beyond the vehicles in front.
- It will eliminate, or minimize, surprises from the actions of other drivers.
- You become aware of the disadvantages of a lesser amount of space.

Guide 27: Practice Commentary

1. Start With An Okay: Speed and Lane Position for the Conditions

The practice commentary is a conscious effort to use the ABC steps of Zone Control to solve one problem at a time. To begin, drive at the best speed and select the best lane position for the conditions.

2. Look For One LOS-POT Zone Change

Do not attempt to see and verbalize everything in the traffic scene. Look for only one Zone Change and begin the process of using the ABCs.

3. Use The ABCs For One Situation

A. See an LOS-POT Zone Change

Once you detect a Zone Change you are ready to use the B step.

B. Check The Other Zones

Check the Other Zones to get the following information:

- Check the rear zone to prepare for a braking action.
- Check opposite the Zone Change for related information.
- Check for an alternate path-of-travel for your vehicle.

C. Get The Best: Speed Control Lane Position Communication

After you get all the information from the "B" step, then take the actions to achieve the best speed control, lane position, and communication if needed.

4. Repeat The ABCs For Another Situation

Begin the ABC process again by looking for one more Zone Change.

Practice For 10-20 Minutes At A Time

When the practice is being conducted, it should take place on a very conscious level. Such practice will be demanding. It is best to practice it for 10 to 20 minutes continually, then take a break from it by working on other Guides. Then come back to it and practice another 10 to 20 minutes. When practicing, it is helpful to verbalize the A and B steps and then take actions for the C step without a need to verbalize it. Verbalization of the A and B steps will help to increase the effectiveness of your practice.

