

# Sharing the Roadway

6

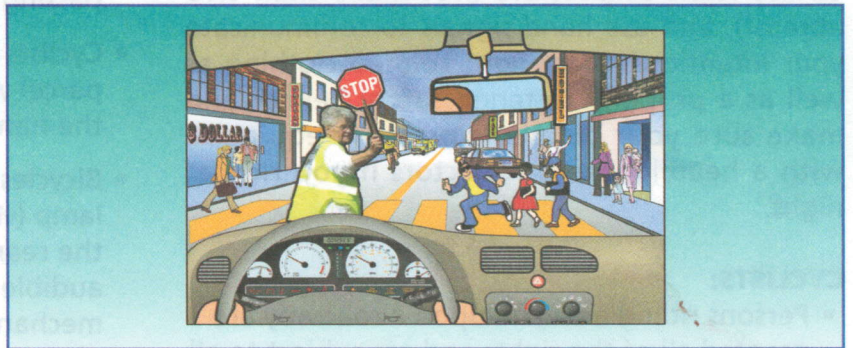
## Contents

- 6-A  
Cyclists / Motorcyclists
- 6-B  
Animals
- 6-C  
Sport Utility Vehicles
- 6-D  
Other Road Users
- 6-E  
Involved In A Crash
- 6-F  
Special Concerns
- Module One Review

In order to anticipate potential hazards, it is important to understand the special needs and characteristics of the others who will be sharing the roadway.

To share the road safely and effectively, you must observe, anticipate the movements of others, and communicate your intentions. Proper management of time, space and visibility using a defensive driving system (such as the **SIPDE System**) will minimize the risks that are inherent in driving a vehicle in the HTS.

You must be prepared for the unexpected. Be mentally prepared to give the right-of-way if there is any doubt in your mind, if your line of sight is not clear, and especially if, in so doing, you will avoid a collision.



**AFTER COMPLETING THIS CHAPTER, THE STUDENT MUST BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY, TO DESCRIBE AND TO UNDERSTAND :**

- the elements in the traffic mix.
- Texas laws pertaining to different road users.
- adapting to the needs of different road users.
- driver responsibilities when involved in a crash.

6-A

## Cyclists and Motorcyclists

**B**icyclists are using the HTS in ever-increasing numbers for pleasure, to work, or to commute. They may move into your path or have to swerve to avoid storm drains, puddles, potholes, and debris on the roadway. Some disregard traffic signs, signals, and rules of right-of-way. At times, they ride at excessive

speeds for the riding conditions.

Check for **these vulnerable users** before turning, changing lanes, or opening your door when parked. Make bicyclists aware of your position and your intentions. Tap the horn to communicate (from a distance). Be sure to give







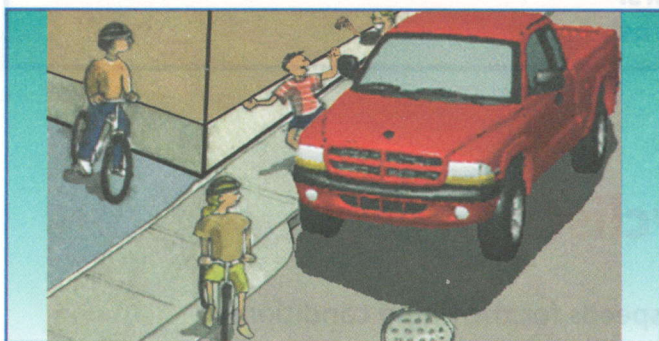
6

them plenty of space when passing in the city, and even more when passing in the country, where the higher speed may cause bicyclists problems due to the air turbulence created by your vehicle moving past them.

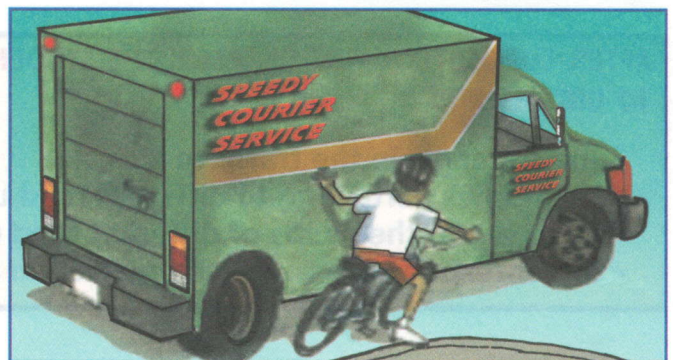
If you ride a bicycle, obey the rules, signs, and signals. Ride with the flow of traffic as far to the right as possible (not more than two abreast), and use hand signals to communicate your intentions. Wear light colored clothing as well as a properly fastened safety helmet and make sure your bicycle is properly equipped with a headlight and reflectors if you ride at night.

**CYCLISTS:**

- Persons riding a bicycle upon a roadway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to a driver of a vehicle.
- A cyclist must ride upon and astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the vehicle.



- A bicycle may not carry more persons than the number for which it was designed and equipped.
- A rider may not attach the bicycle or him/herself to any other vehicle upon the road.
- A cyclist shall ride as near to the right side of the road as practicable, exercising due care for parked vehicles and vehicles moving in the same direction.
- Cyclists shall not ride more than 2 abreast except on a path set aside for bicycles; where a path exists, riders less than 16 years of age must use the path unless accompanied by an adult.
- Cyclists riding on a sidewalk must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing them.
- Cyclists may not transport any package or parcel which prevents keeping both hands on the handlebars.
- Bicycles must be equipped with a front white lamp (visible from 500') and a red reflector on the rear for riding at night, a bell or other audible device (no siren/whistle), a brake mechanism, and reflectors.



**MOPEDS AND MOTOR SCOOTERS**

A moped is a two-wheeled vehicle that can be driven with either a motor or pedals. As with a bicycle, it can be pedaled and can be stopped with

**Statistics**



In 2014, **50 cyclists were killed** and **2,231 were injured** among the **2,255 bicyclists** which were struck in traffic crashes in Texas. On average, a cyclist is killed every week and one is injured every 3 hours and 55 minutes. (2014 Traffic Crash Facts - TXDOT)







a hand brake. Like a motorcycle, it is powered by an engine (not to exceed 30 mph) and controlled by a hand throttle. Mopeds and mobility vehicles must be operated as closely as practicable to the right-hand edge or curb of the road, unless the highway is designated for traffic in one direction and has three or more traffic lanes.

A motor scooter is a low-powered two-wheeled vehicle. It is more powerful than a moped. A motor scooter is similar to a motorcycle, though most do not require any shifting of gears.

**Treat these vulnerable vehicles with the same courtesy as you would a motorcycle.** However, you should be extra vigilant in scanning for these vehicles, because though they are similar in size to a bicycle (and are often mistaken for bicycles from afar), they travel more quickly. When drivers are turning left, they are often surprised by the closing rate of these vehicles because they thought it was a bicycle.

## MOTORCYCLISTS

Motorcyclists are usually well trained and more observant of the HTS regulations, signs and signals. They are very mobile and can stop quickly. If not well trained (novice riders), they may experience difficulty swerving, braking, and handling curves. They may at times exceed the limits of their abilities.

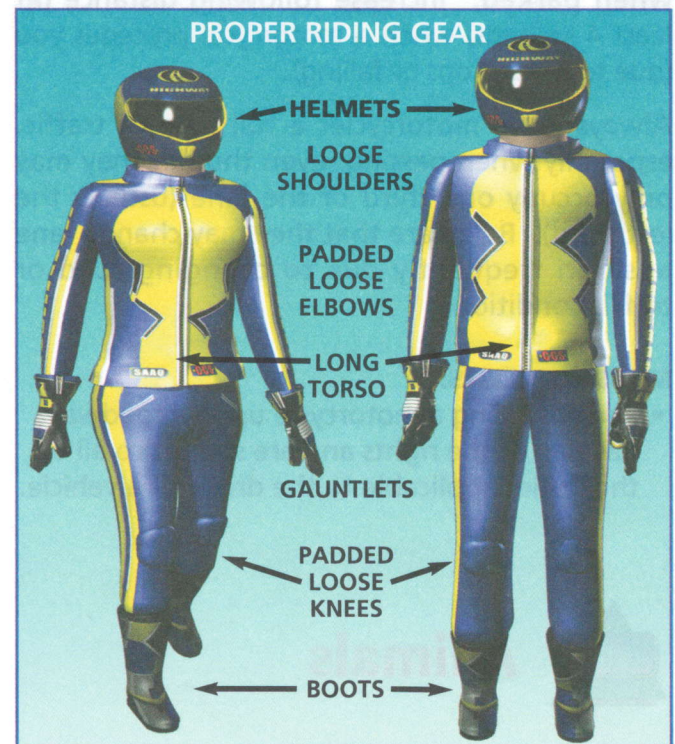
To operate a motorcycle on public roads, you must possess a valid Texas driver license with a motorcycle endorsement. If you wish to ride a

motorcycle, learn properly. Enroll yourself in an approved program - *The Course* - (required by law if you are under 18 years of age; or if buying a new motorcycle). Practice avoidance and emergency braking techniques; learn the riding strategies and correct lane positions in traffic that will keep you out of trouble.

Wear proper riding gear. It must offer warmth and comfort while maintaining proper ventilation. It should be abrasive resistant (to protect you in a spill), offer wind and rain protection (with flaps and fasteners) and most importantly, be brightly colored in order to be more visible (conspicuous).

### Proper riding clothing helps prevent:

- **hypothermia** (reduction of your body temperature), which results in loss of concentration and judgment (this can occur even in warm weather), and
- **dehydration** (loss of body moisture), which causes rapid fatigue, headaches and nausea (in hot weather).



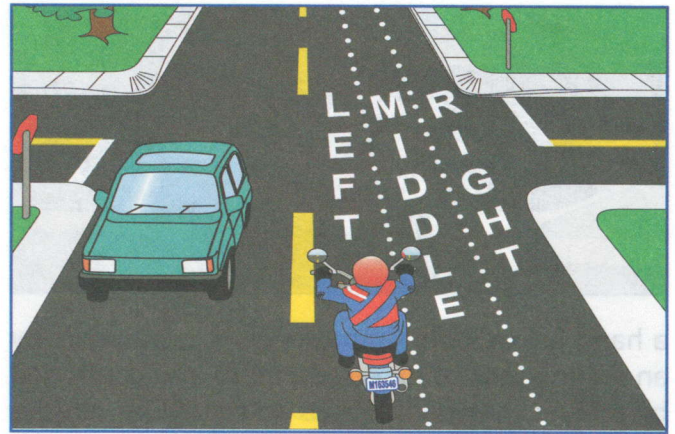
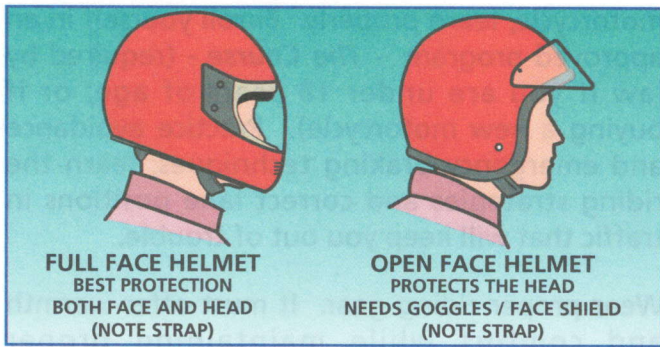
## Statistics



**In 2014, 463 motorcyclists were killed and 5,608 were seriously injured in Texas - 50% were not wearing helmets at the time of the crash. On average, a motorcyclist was killed every 19 hours and one is injured every 94 minutes. (2014 TXDOT)**







6

If you get wet, both of these conditions will be aggravated tremendously. Riding requires fine muscle control. Your head, hands, and feet are of prime importance: wear gloves, boots and an approved helmet (**required by law for riders under 21; also 21 and older if they haven't completed *The Course* or don't have at least \$10,000 in medical coverage to cover injuries in the event of a motorcycle crash.**)

**Motorcycles are smaller, more vulnerable and less visible.** Watch for them when changing lanes, turning (especially left across their path), entering intersections, or when opening a door when parked. Increase following distance (at least 4 seconds) when a motorcycle precedes you (due to quick stops or falling).

Always leave motorcycles a full lane of traffic, especially when passing, even though they may only occupy one third of the lane (usually the left third). Be aware that they may change lane position frequently due to changing road or traffic conditions.

#### MOTORCYCLISTS:

- Persons riding a motorcycle upon a roadway have all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.



## Animals

**S**mall animals, whether a dog or a squirrel, may dart into your path. Swerve or brake sharply if either can be done safely; **never risk a collision or put someone's life in jeopardy to avoid a small animal.**

- A person must ride upon and astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the motorcycle.
- A motorcycle may not carry more persons than the number for which it was designed.
- A person operating or riding on a motorcycle must wear a helmet (under 21; also conditions specified above left).
- A motorcycle must be equipped with adequate seats and securely attached foot rests or pegs for each seating position.
- A rider may not attach the motorcycle or him/herself to a streetcar or other vehicle upon the road.
- A motorcycle is entitled to full use of a lane, and a motor vehicle may not deprive it of same.
- Motorcyclists shall not ride more than 2 abreast except on a path set aside for them.
- Motorcyclists may not transport any package or parcel which prevents them from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

#### LARGE ANIMALS

Never swerve your vehicle to avoid a deer or other larger animal. Rather, brake firmly in a straight line until you are stopped or the speed is reduced as much as possible.





## Statistics



In 2013, there were **6,915 vehicle-animal crashes** reported in Texas - **1,153 people were injured and 191 died (in 180 fatal crashes)**. Texas leads the nation in this type of collision. (2014 DVCIC - Texas Data)



If you are **unable to stop and a crash is imminent**, release the brakes just before impact. Releasing the brakes will cause the front of the vehicle to rise and lessen the likelihood the animal will come onto the hood and crash into the windshield.

If you maintain braking upon impact, the bumper strikes lower on the legs of the animal which increases the likelihood of it coming onto the hood and into the windshield. Large animals crashing through the windshield will likely cause serious injury and sometimes death.

In either situation, you can minimize the hazard by watching for animals, reducing your speed, and leaving as wide a margin of safety as possible. Be especially vigilant at dusk, at night, in fog, and in adverse visibility conditions when signs are posted to warn of animal crossings.

### EQUESTRIANS (HORSEBACK RIDERS)

When meeting a horseback rider or someone driving a horse-drawn wagon, remember that



they have the same rights to the road as any motor vehicle - occupying one lane. Use caution when approaching or passing a horse, allowing as much room as possible. Proceed slowly and steadily. Pass only when legal and safe; only one vehicle should pass at a time.

Although a horse appears to be totally under control, motor vehicles should approach them unhurriedly, pass quietly, and be prepared to stop suddenly. Even a highly trained horse under an experienced person's control may react to something and try to dart out into traffic.

If someone is leading, driving or riding a frightened or distressed animal, stop until the animal is under control.

### DO NOT:

- honk your vehicle's horn.
- let people hang out of the vehicle waving their arms and making noise.
- let your dogs bark when passing horses.
- chase loose horses from a vehicle.

## SAFETY TIPS



In an area at risk for animals, signs will be posted, you should:

- search the sides of the roadway for animals or movement.
- be especially careful when your line of sight is reduced (hill, curve...).
- be extra vigilant early in the morning, at dusk and in the evening, especially during the months of October, November and December.
- if you see a deer, pump the brake pedal to alert drivers behind you.
- honk the horn, which may cause it to leave the road.





- accelerate when beside the horse.
- accelerate quickly after passing.

**WHAT TO DO:**

- Slow down when passing near horses.
- Leave at least 2 car widths when passing.
- Keep at least 2 car lengths between you and the horse.
- If a rider comes off, stop and see if you can be of assistance.

6

The best advice is to slow down and keep an eye on what the horse is doing at all times. Rural roads are often narrower and may vary in width more than city streets. A narrow road gives you less room to maneuver and can be dangerous when passing horses or horse-drawn vehicles. Loose gravel or grass shoulders can be hazardous, so caution should be exercised.



## Sport Utility Vehicles

The automobile manufacturing industry has long acknowledged that sport utility vehicles (SUVs) handle differently than cars. Most teens learn to drive in sedans and are unprepared to handle higher and heavier SUVs, especially in emergencies.

National research shows that crash rates, per-mile driven, are higher for drivers 16 to 19 than for all other age groups. **The crash risk for 16 to 17-year-olds is almost three times as high as for 18 to 19-year-olds.** In other words, the majority of teens are likely to get into some kind of a collision. It's a question of how bad.

A study by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute looked at SUV crashes and fatalities occurring from 1999 through 2001 and found that about 37 percent of SUV drivers younger than 25 in single-vehicle crashes rolled over. Rollovers account for 3 percent of U.S. crashes but a third of the driving deaths, according to the NHTSA.



Reckless teen behavior contributes to many of the crashes. More than half of the 3,660 teen drivers killed in 2003 weren't wearing seat belts, and a third had been drinking.

Such risk factors, coupled with crash statistics, suggest that teens should be driving the safest vehicles possible. Teens need vehicles that are easy-to-maneuver, not a challenge to handle in an emergency.

### Statistics

In Texas, **15,654 crashes** in 2008 were rollovers which resulted in:

- **495 fatalities,**
- **7,874 serious injuries and 4,460 other injuries** (Traffic Crash Facts TXDOT).





6-D

## Other Road Users

**L**arge vans, trucks, trailer-trucks, and buses are usually driven by professional drivers. They have an excellent view of the road ahead because of the raised position of the driver's seat, but this is offset by their lack of maneuverability, longer braking distances, much slower acceleration, and extra blind spots

### TRUCKS

Trucks transport nearly everything we eat, wear, and use in our daily lives. They are an essential part of Texas' economy. Because of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), studies indicate that the transportation industry will require more than a million more truckers over the next decade. The need to understand and cooperate with truckers will become more vital as they use the HTS in ever-increasing numbers.

Despite the fact that truck drivers are professionals and are governed by strict rules (e.g., a log book controlling the number of hours of driving), they are under tremendous pressure to meet tight scheduling requirements to deliver the goods, and then pick up their next load. They may drive over long periods of time with a minimum of rest, which may lead to fatigue and/or inattention to the driving task.

### OFF-TRACKING

The motion of a vehicle in a curve or turn is characterized by the deviation of the path of each intermediate axle from that of the leading axle (the off-tracking phenomenon). This means that the back wheels of a vehicle follow a path that is slightly inside the path generated by the front wheels. The longer the vehicle (the greater the distance between the axles); the greater the amount of off-tracking.

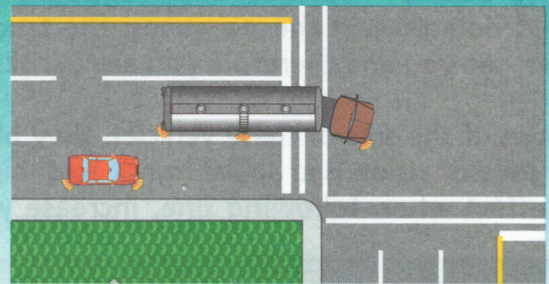
As a result of this, large trucks, for example tractor-trailers, often move to the left (partly or completely into the second lane) when preparing to make a right turn. This helps prevent the rear wheels from riding over the

situations, you should slow down early and be prepared to stop before the intersection (this is where a staggered stop would help control the front space area if such a vehicle were to turn right). The sharper the turn, the narrower the intersection, and the longer the truck, the wider the driver must go.

### RIGHT TURN LANE SQUEEZE

Always check the turn signals on a truck before moving into the lane beside the sidewalk (to the right of the truck - see below). Not being aware of this problem can lead to being caught in a **right turn lane squeeze** (sandwiched between the truck and the curb), which can result in vehicle damage. Always keep out of the open space to the right of a tractor-trailer signalling a right turn. Leave the space open, follow behind the truck (in the lane near the curb), and then make your right turn after the truck has finished the turn.

#### RIGHT TURN LANE SQUEEZE



### WIDE RIGHT OR LEFT TURNS

For this same reason (off-tracking), drivers of tractor-trailers, buses or articulated vehicles (see below) will often turn very wide when turning right or left at an intersection. In doing so, they will occupy the wrong side of the roadway for a short distance.

When approaching an intersection in these

#### WIDE RIGHT TURN





situations, you should slow down early and be prepared to stop before the intersection (this is where a staggered stop would help control the front space area if such a vehicle were to turn left across your path). In the diagram on Page 6.7, you should stop your vehicle in a position (far enough away) that would allow the articulated bus to complete the right turn using your side of the roadway. Once the bus is out of the way, you can then advance to the stop line.

6

**NO ZONES**

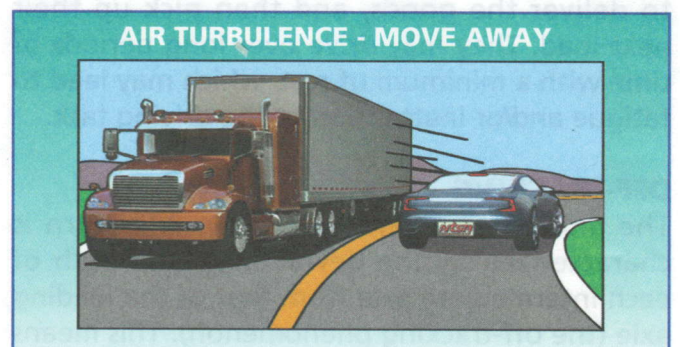
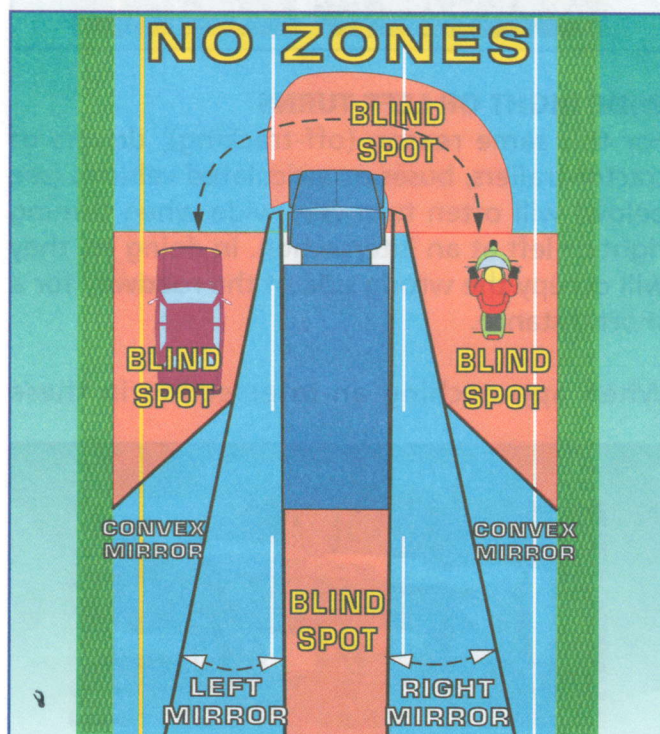
Drivers of large trucks sit high above the roadway and have an excellent view of the road ahead. This is offset by their view of the space areas immediately surrounding their vehicle. Their view to the sides and to the rear is restricted; they have an additional blind spot to the rear. Around the front of the truck, there are areas that are not visible. These large areas where the trucker cannot see other vehicles, and where most collisions occur, are referred to as "no zones". As the name suggests, you should not drive in the no zones; the trucker cannot see you and therefore you are at risk.

Because of the size of these vehicles, they block your field of vision (see above right). To diminish this effect when following one, increase your



time interval to diminish this effect to the point that you can see the side-view mirrors, then the driver can see you. Your field of vision has also been improved. If it is safe, legal and possible, you should pass the large vehicle (realize the maneuver will take longer); this will resolve the problem completely.

**When passing or meeting these vehicles,** beware of the air turbulence they produce; leave extra space by moving to the side of your lane away from them. **In adverse weather, activate the wipers before meeting or passing.** Leave extra space when moving back in front of the truck, remember that these vehicles with air brakes take longer for the brakes to start working. Their total stopping distance is also much longer when fully loaded (almost 50% longer); keep extra space behind you.



When driving on the highway, large vehicles climb hills more slowly and tend to increase speed on downhill grades. Be patient if you are following one on an uphill grade. The trucker is not blocking your path on purpose.

On a downhill grade, be alert and check your rear-view mirror regularly. Be on the lookout for trucks approaching rapidly from the rear, especially if white smoke is billowing out from





under the vehicle. The trucker may have overheated the brakes and is no longer able to slow down.

In this situation, move out of the trucker's path of travel. Do not try to outrun the truck, you will be placing yourself at greater risk if you do. Move onto the shoulder (out of the trucker's path) as far as possible and allow the truck to pass. Once the truck has passed and is a good distance ahead of you, you may proceed on your way.

The problem of runaway trucks has resulted in the construction of **Truck Escape Ramps** in areas where problems have occurred in the past. These gravel off-road paths are usually found on long mountain grades in rural areas or steep hills in dense traffic areas.

## BUSES

Transit buses transport passengers over fixed routes. They do not necessarily stop at every bus stop, so don't assume that they will.

A decal on the rear of the bus reminds drivers that they should yield and cooperate with the bus as it moves out of and back into the flow of traffic. Be aware of their movement and maintain a safe following distance. Give them space; do not perform any sudden maneuvers in front of them (passengers may be standing), nor turn across their path while they are stopped at an intersection (they may move unexpectedly).

Transit buses are given special turning privileges at certain intersections (clearly identified) and are permitted to proceed before other traffic

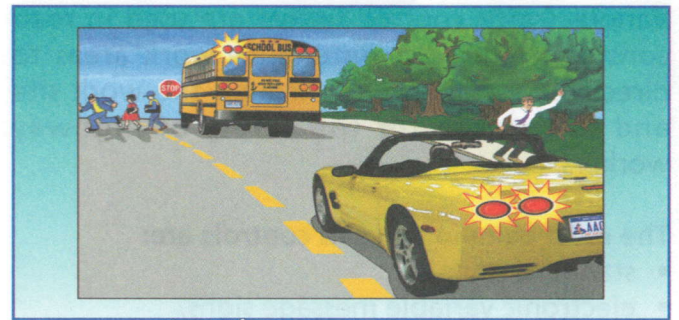


(transit priority signal) at other locations. Be aware of these special situations and watch for buses that may turn beside your vehicle or move before you. On occasion, you may be required to stop prior to the corner to leave space for them to turn.

## SCHOOL BUSES

Whenever you approach a stopped school bus with red lights flashing, whether you are approaching it from the front or rear, you must stop at least 20 feet away from the bus and remain stopped until the signal is turned off or the bus starts moving again or you are signalled by the driver to proceed.

A school bus with flashing yellow (amber) lights (hazard signals) means it is about to stop. You must prepare to stop.



You need not stop when approaching a school bus from the opposite direction of a divided highway, providing there is a physical separation such as a median between the two roads. **However, you must slow down and watch out for children. A double solid line is not a physical separation.**

## SPECIAL STOPS

All vehicles transporting hazardous cargo, school buses, and buses transporting passengers for hire must stop at a railroad crossing whether or not a train is approaching. **Be prepared to do likewise when following these vehicles.**

## CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES

Construction vehicles are usually found at or near work sites on the roadway. They are usually very large, lumbering vehicles and often very loud as well.





Many construction vehicles move very slowly starting out, and, because of the heavy loads they haul, acceleration takes much longer. The driver, because of the loud noise, is less aware of traffic.

### To adapt to construction vehicles:

6

- Do not tailgate.
- Like large trucks (**no zones**), the driver may not see you in the side mirrors. Leave a longer interval.
- Keep a safe distance (side space) between your vehicle and any construction vehicles.

When a construction vehicle is behind you, check your rear-view mirror more frequently. Do not stop quickly unless absolutely necessary; many vehicles require a much longer braking distance.

Various traffic control devices are used in road construction and maintenance work areas to direct road users safely through the work site and to provide for the safety of highway workers.

### The most commonly used controls are:

- standard signs,
- electronic variable message signs,
- cones and drums,
- barricades,
- flashing arrow panels, and
- flagpersons.

Highway work zones must be approached with caution. Watch for flag persons directing traffic and reduced speed limit signs. Speeds will normally be 45 mph in zones on the highway system and 20 mph in urban areas. Traffic fines double in work zones.



Don't be caught unawares. The extra caution exercised when driving in work zones is for worker safety and your own.

### Watch for the barricades

Don't crowd the barricades and lane markers set up at construction sites. Knocking them over creates a hazard for other drivers and for the workers.

### Watch for lane closures

Sometimes a large flashing sign will indicate in advance that a lane is closed ahead. Merge into the remaining lane in advance of the sign. Don't try to get ahead by driving in the lane that's ending and then pull into the remaining lane at the last moment.

### Stay off the shoulder

If vehicles are stopped for construction, don't try to pass by driving on the shoulder. It's illegal, discourteous, and unsafe. Drive on the shoulder only when directed to do so.

### Turn off the distractions

Turn down the radio and avoid distractions when in construction zones. You need to be able to see and hear what's happening outside your vehicle.

## SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES

Slow-moving vehicles present a special hazard in the HTS. When a large divergence of speed exists between road users on the same roadway, this creates a high-risk situation.

The possibility of misjudging speed and distance, the bottleneck that may be created by the slow-moving vehicle, and road users reacting at the last second, etc., are all factors that increase the risk.





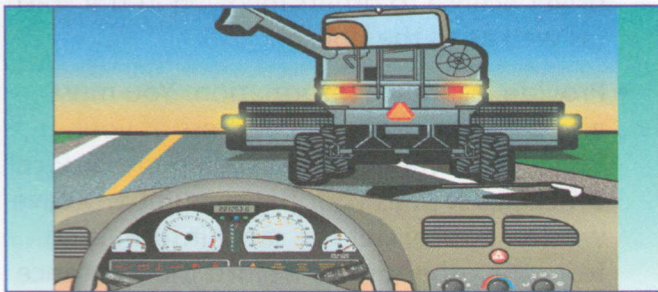
In Texas, all slow-moving vehicles must display a special emblem - an orange triangle with a red stripe on each side - in order to warn other road users.

### FARM MACHINERY

When driving outside of cities, you must be on the lookout for farm equipment that might be moving between fields. Many farm implements are very large, and oddly shaped.

Farm tractors, combines and other equipment move very slowly, with a maximum speed of 25 mph. Drivers need to be aware that at highway speeds, you will approach a piece of farm equipment more quickly than you might expect. As well, farm implements can sometimes take up more than half of the roadway, or crossing a bridge, can take up the full width of the bridge.

The most important thing to remember when approaching farm equipment on the road is to slow down well ahead of time. Then, while following behind the farm implement at a longer than normal following distance, take your time and evaluate the size, the speed of the machinery, the width of the road available, and the situation ahead. Only then can you make an informed, risk-reducing decision to pass, or not to pass.



### PILOT VEHICLES

Pilot vehicles (oversize load escorts - see illustration below) are used to warn drivers they are approaching an oversize vehicle or load that is in transit. A pilot vehicle precedes the oversize vehicle by a specified distance; another escort vehicle should follow the load at a smaller distance. In urban areas, these distances



are shorter, depending on conditions. These loads require special permits and are highly regulated.

Drivers should be aware that the oversize vehicle or load may pose a threat to normal traffic patterns, particularly when passing the oversize vehicle or load on a two-way highway.

### ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV)

Riding an all-terrain vehicle can be a very exciting, exhilarating experience, but in the hands of an untrained operator an ATV can also be very dangerous. They handle very differently than other vehicles. Crashes happen very fast, even during routine exercises like turning, riding over obstacles, or on hills.

ATVs have become popular for work and recreation on many farms. Unfortunately, reported cases of serious injury and death have increased along with their increased use. Most of these deaths and the many injuries can be attributed to improper and careless use.

**An ATV is not a toy.** Children should not be permitted to operate ATVs without specialized training, and even then only an ATV of an appropriate size. ATVs are designed to be used OFF-ROAD ONLY. A leading cause of crashes is riding on or crossing a road illegally or improperly.

As a driver, look for ATVs at the sides of the roadway and be prepared to yield to them when they cross the road.







## Involved in a Crash

**D**espite your best intentions, you may be involved in a collision at some point. Loss of time, human suffering, damage to your vehicle, and civil lawsuits resulting in great expense can be the result. Remain calm.

### 6

#### STOPPING REQUIREMENTS

After a collision, the law requires that you stop immediately (**failure to do is a serious offense**) at the side of the road (unless the vehicle is so damaged it cannot be moved). When a collision occurs on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median, or adjacent area of a freeway in a metropolitan area, and the vehicles can be safely driven, each driver shall move his/her vehicle from the crash site to a designated investigation site, if available, or other suitable location to minimize interference with traffic.

Turn off the ignition. Prevent further damage by placing flares or reflectors at least 100 feet ahead of and behind the collision site (500 feet in high speed traffic). If you do not have such devices, another person might direct traffic (do not put yourself or others in danger while directing traffic). Notify the police. Present your license, vehicle registration, and proof of financial responsibility to the driver or occupants of the other vehicle, as well as to the police. Texas law does not require a crash report when there is only property damage (less than \$1,000). You must, however, report the collision to your insurance company.

You should also make note of all damage and injuries. If you have a camera, a picture of the scene and the vehicles will help your insurance to establish both fault and the extent of damage claims.

**Under Texas Vehicle Law, Sections 20-101 to 20-113**, there are certain additional duties to be performed when a driver is **involved in a collision involving bodily injury or death to any person**:

- You must stop as close to the scene as possible, and remain until you have aided any injured person and identified yourself.
- If possible, move your vehicle away from the line of traffic.
- You must render assistance to any person injured in the crash. Depending on the extent of the injury, such assistance, in most instances, is accomplished by calling for an ambulance or paramedics. Make sure that you identify the place of the collision clearly and correctly. Normally, you should not attempt to move a person who is unconscious or seriously hurt. Administer basic first aid only if you have completed a certified first aid course.
- You must identify yourself. Drivers involved must give their name, address, and registration number of the vehicle they are driving and, upon request, show their driver license to others involved in the crash (as well as to the police).
- Provide insurance information. You must also give the name and address of your insurance company and local agent, or local office., as well as your policy number. Leave written notice. Get the same information from the other driver. Record the insurance company name and policy number as it appears on the proof-of-insurance card (similar company names can cause confusion). With the correct company name, you can call the Texas Department of

#### SAFETY TIPS



*Texas Good Samaritan Law states: "A person who in good faith administers emergency care... ..at the scene of an emergency... ..is not liable in civil damages for an act performed during the emergency unless the act is willfully or wantonly negligent."*







## SAFETY TIPS

*If you are involved in a hit-and-run, report this to a law enforcement agency for investigation. The Texas Department of Insurance advises that your uninsured motorist coverage will pay for damages only if the crash is reported to the police!*

Insurance toll-free at 1-800-252-3439 to acquire the company address and telephone number.

- You must notify the nearest police station, sheriff's office, or state trooper immediately.
- You must report the collision to your insurance company.

Texas law requires that a **written report be filed within 15 days with the Department of Public Safety** unless the crash is investigated by a law enforcement officer; the officer's report will fulfill this requirement.

If someone suffered aggravated injury or death, the penalty for a "hit and run" is increased (felony, up to 5 years jail time and up to \$5,000 fine, as well as a suspension of the license).

### VICTIMS AT SCENE

The driver shall also render reasonable assistance to any person injured in the collision, including transporting, or making arrangements for transporting that person for medical treatment, if it is apparent that treatment is necessary, or the person requests it. Do not assume that a person is not injured simply because he/she says so.

The usual first step would be to summon



professional aid; let them decide. Give aid to the injured within your abilities (stop profuse bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, using pressure by hand or by bandaging). Avoid moving the injured, unless circumstances require it (fire, traffic, etc.). If he/she must be moved, get help and try not to change the position in which he/she was found. Keep any victims warm by covering them with blankets or coats, if necessary.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE (UNATTENDED VEHICLE)

You must stop, try to find the owner, and identify yourself before leaving the scene of the collision.

If not possible, leave a note (in a conspicuous place) giving the name, address and phone number of the driver and owner of your vehicle, as well as a statement of the circumstances. (A third party number, attorney or work address and phone number, are suggested alternatives to prevent any possible personal repercussions.) Immediately contact local or state law enforcement to report the collision.

When you leave your vehicle parked, if it should become a runaway vehicle, and be involved in a collision resulting in damage or injury, all of the conditions mentioned concerning a collision apply to you; failure to comply will result in being charged with a hit and run.

### PREVENTING FURTHER DAMAGE

Try to warn traffic using reflectors (flares, unless there is a gas spill) or other warning devices. Enlist the assistance of others to help prevent any further damage and/or to direct traffic until professional aid arrives on the scene. Turn off the ignition switches of all vehicles, create a safe zone around the vehicles, and advise everyone





not to smoke, as there is always the danger of fire (this is especially true for a gas spill).

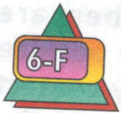
### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

After a collision (property damage of \$1,000 or more, injury or death), as mentioned earlier, a written report to the Department of Public Safety is required. A law enforcement officer's report will meet this requirement.

6

When no peace officer is on the scene, the driver "shall immediately" report the information to the nearest police station, sheriff's office, or state trooper. If the driver is incapable, a passenger must file. The Department of Public Safety may request further reports by drivers and/or witnesses.

Garage keepers or repairmen in charge of any garage or repair shop, where a motor vehicle arrives showing evidence of a collision, must report the vehicle to the nearest police station or sheriff's office.



### Special Concerns

**T**o avoid collisions, the defensive driver should stay alert and search the environment all around his/her vehicle, look for trouble spots, and have a plan of action ready.

You must know that the law requires drivers to protect each other. So, here is a reminder of the some of the laws that you must be aware of, understand, and be prepared to obey.

### OCCUPANT PROTECTION

**Texas law (SB 61)** requires that children younger than 8 years of age (or less than 4 feet 9 inches in height) be secured in child passenger safety seats, according to the instructions of the seat system manufacturer. Children between 2 and 8 years of age must be secured in safety

Reports are confidential; however, they are available to all involved parties. They cannot be used as evidence in civil cases other than to prove they were filed. They are kept on file and indicate involvement in a collision, not fault; unless the driver admits fault on the original report.

### ADDITIONAL STEPS

**For your potential civil liability and health, it is an excellent idea to:**

- write down the names and addresses of any witnesses;
- give accurate facts to the police (you will be more credible);
- do not admit fault nor sign documents other than the police report;
- have a medical check-up just in case you may be injured (shock, trauma); and
- be prepared to file other reports and cooperate with any investigation.

seats. Children between eight and fifteen years of age must be secured by a safety belt (provided the seat is equipped with safety belts).

**HB 537**, requires all occupants of a passenger vehicle, no matter their age or where they are seated, to use safety belts. **TRC 545.413** assigns the driver the responsibility to secure each passenger (less than 16 years of age) in an appropriate occupant restraint.

### VEHICLES WITH OPEN BEDS

Due to the many recent incidents involving injuries/fatalities of passengers occupying open beds of vehicles, Texas has passed laws against this practice.







## SAFETY TIPS

The law requires that everyone must cooperate with all levels of law enforcement. Their job is to serve and to protect! Help make their job easier, and, at the same time, avoid any potential conflicts.

A person commits an offense if the person operates an open-bed pickup truck or an open flatbed truck or draws an open flatbed trailer when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying the bed of the truck or trailer.

An offense under this section is a **misdemeanor** punishable by a **fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$200**.

### Certain exceptions to this rule are:

- operating or towing the vehicle in a parade or in an emergency,
- operating the vehicle to transport farmworkers from one field to another on specified roads,
- operating the vehicle on a beach,
- operating a vehicle that is the only vehicle owned or operated by the members of a household, or
- operating the vehicle in an "approved" hayride.

### WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE

You must move your vehicle safely to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection as soon as possible and then stop. Set the emergency brake, place the gear selector lever in a parking position, turn off the engine, and activate the hazard lights.

Failure to stop is against the Penal Code. **Sec. 38.04. EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION.**

- (a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally flees from a person he knows is a peace officer attempting lawfully to arrest or detain him.
- (b) An offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

The punishment for this Class A misdemeanor is a **fine not to exceed \$4,000** and/or **confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year**.

Once you are stopped, remain in the vehicle,



lower the driver's window, and wait for the officer to issue further instructions. Follow the instructions of the officer. Require all occupants to do likewise.

Due to the fact that many officers have been seriously injured/killed during traffic stops, the officer is most likely going to be suspicious and apprehensive. Respond politely to all instructions and questions. If you must reach into the glove compartment or other area for your documents (license, registration, insurance, etc.), inform the officer of what you intend to do and why, prior to doing so.

**When released by the officer**, give the appropriate signals, check traffic carefully, and safely return to the proper lane of traffic.

### ROAD RAGE

Each year road rage or aggressive driving causes hundreds of deaths and injuries across the United States. Aggressive driving occurs when a driver "loses his/her cool" and fails to obey the rules of the road. He/she will intentionally aggravate or attempt to aggravate other drivers. In some cases will even cause bodily injury, property damage, or death.





## SAFETY TIPS



You cannot control the environment or other road users. You do, however, have control of yourself and your actions. This is where you must start to protect yourself from possible road rage involvement. **Remember, IT TAKES TWO TO TANGLE.**

6

### Some tips for avoiding road rage:

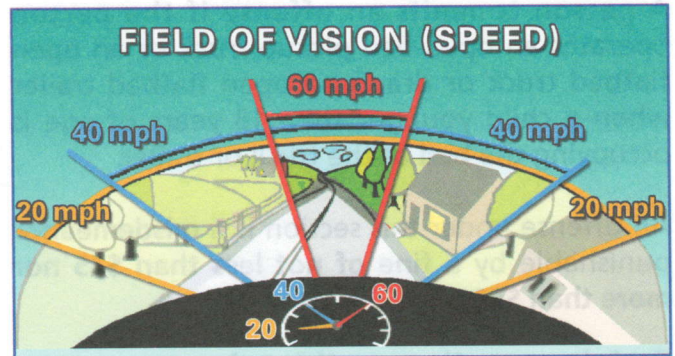
- Plan your trip or schedule in advance. Allow extra time in case your vehicle breaks down, or in case of traffic congestion due to a collision, road construction, or rush-hour traffic.
- When caught in traffic, do not get angry. Try to relax. Listen to music you enjoy. Most traffic congestion is temporary and you will soon be on your way.
- Should you need to use the horn, tap the horn.
- Do not confront other drivers or make obscene gestures.
- Do not cut into other lanes of traffic. Signal your intentions properly and change lanes when safe to do so. Remember to cancel the turn signal.
- Do not intentionally slow down, slam on your brakes, or speed up to keep someone from passing or from entering your lane of travel.
- Always remember to drive friendly and report aggressive driving to the local authorities.

### SPEED REDUCES YOUR FIELD OF VISION

Speed affects your vision. The faster you drive, the narrower your field of vision becomes. When stationary, your normal field of vision covers an area of about 180 degrees or more (see Chapter 13).

At 20 m.p.h., the field of vision will be reduced by approximately one third. When your speed increases to 40 m.p.h., this area is reduced to approximately 40%. At 60 m.p.h., it is reduced to 20% (see above right).

To adapt to this situation, you must keep your



eyes moving and scan the driving environment farther ahead more actively.

### KEYS TO SAFE DRIVING

The Texas Department of Public Safety suggests six concepts as the basis for safe driving.

#### They are:

- **Good vision** - look with your eyes but see with your mind. Apply the SIPDE system (see Chapter 13).
- **Obey traffic laws** - you will drive properly and other road users will know what to expect from you.
- **Take proper care of your vehicle** - don't depend on yearly inspections. Follow the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual and have it checked when symptoms appear.
- **Be courteous** - safety comes before right-of-way. Courtesy is contagious and can improve the situation for all road users.
- **Signal properly** - failure to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate. Use the communication tools at your disposal to let other road users know your intentions.
- **Physical fitness** - let someone else take the wheel if you are not physically and mentally alert. Never drive after drinking alcohol.





### TRANSPORTING CARGO & MATERIALS

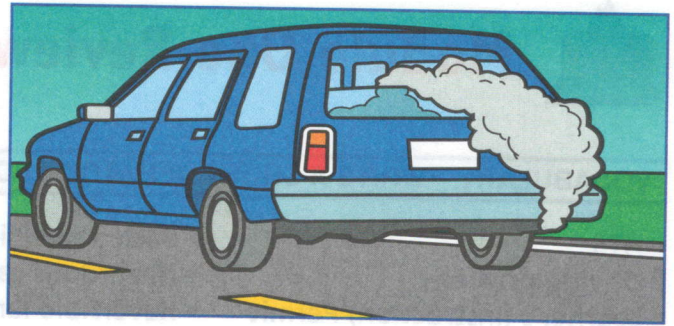
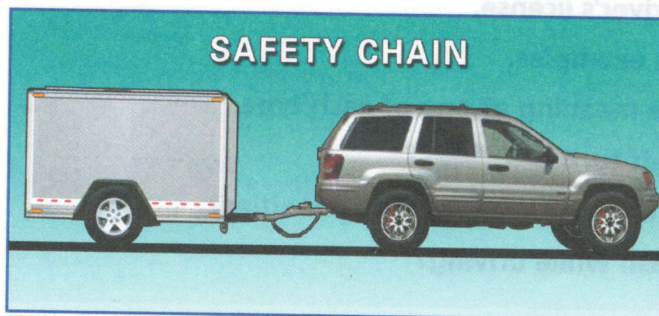
In order to prevent cargo or loose materials (dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, etc., except for agricultural products in their natural state) from falling or spilling from a vehicle (car, truck, trailer, etc.), and possibly causing collisions or damage to the roadway, Texas law mandates that these loads must be properly enclosed and covered "to prevent loose material from escaping by blowing or spilling" Transportation Code § 725.021.

Furthermore, "loose material on the vehicle because of loading...shall be removed before" driving on a public highway § 725.022.

### TOWING AND SAFETY CHAINS

To prevent a trailer from breaking loose and causing a crash, state law mandates that a person may not operate a car or light truck while towing a trailer, semi-trailer, or house trailer on a public highway **unless approved safety chains are properly attached.**

The drawbar, chain, rope, or cable must not be longer than 15 feet. A white flag (at least 12 inches square) must be mounted on the trailer when a chain, rope, or cable are used as a connection.



### CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is a by-product of the internal combustion engine. It is a deadly poison. The bloodstream absorbs it faster than oxygen, and it sedates the person without warning. It can cause headaches, drowsiness, dizziness, unconsciousness, and, in a large enough quantity, death.

To protect yourself and your passengers, check your exhaust system periodically and repair any leaks. Always drive with fresh air circulating in the passenger compartment. In station wagons and minivans, the gas can enter through an open rear window.

Never run an engine in an enclosed space such as a garage or underground parking lot for an extended period of time. In heavy traffic or tunnels, be aware of the danger, and limit outside air by turning off the heater or ventilation system.

Should anyone succumb to carbon monoxide gas by falling asleep, move them out into fresh air immediately, lay them down, and apply artificial respiration, if necessary. Call for emergency medical services, even if they seem to revive.



### DRIVING PLAN

The student formulates a Driving Plan incorporating the knowledge and skills of **Module One (Traffic Laws)** to endorse and promote lifelong legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices in the HTS.







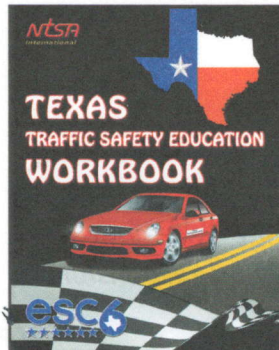
# Module One Review

## VOCABULARY - WRITE A SHORT DEFINITION FOR THE FOLLOWING :

- HTS
- Driving privilege
- Learner's (Instruction) Permit
- Under 21 License
- Student Driving Experience Log
- Certificate of title
- Vehicle inspection
- Safety Responsibility Act
- Minimum Coverage
- Proof of responsibility
- Right-of-way
- Controlled intersection
- Uncontrolled intersection
- T-intersection
- LCM crash
- Frontage road
- Traffic circle
- Emergency vehicle
- School bus
- Crossbuck
- Yield
- Basic speed limit
- Hazardous cargo
- Reversible lane
- Reserved lane
- Flagperson
- Regulatory sign
- Warning sign
- Construction sign
- Guide sign
- Recreation sign
- Hand signals
- Traffic control person
- Running start
- Space cushion
- Visual reference
- Hand-over-hand
- Left turn bay
- Sightline
- Safety zone
- Disabled parking
- Runaway
- Speed limit
- Acceleration lane
- Snow tires
- Interval
- Zero Tolerance
- Minor Attempting to Purchase
- Minor Purchase of Alcohol
- Minor in Possession
- DUIA
- DWI
- Implied Consent
- ALR
- NHTSA
- Riding gear
- Dehydration
- Hypothermia
- No zones
- Child safety seats
- Open bed vehicles
- Transporting cargo
- Safety chains
- Carbon monoxide

## TEST A- ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. Describe the procedures for acquiring your first driver's license.
2. Explain what is meant by right-of-way. Give three examples.
3. What are the four types of road signs? Explain the meaning of one of each type.
4. List the steps for performing a correct right and left turn.
5. What is the law in Texas for drinking alcohol and driving? What are the penalties?
6. What must you do when you are involved in a crash while driving?



## TEXAS TSE STUDENT WORKBOOK

Check your comprehension and mastery of the contents of this Module by completing the corresponding exercises that are found in the complement to the **TEXAS TSE STUDENT MANUAL:**

### TEXAS TSE STUDENT WORKBOOK

Complete the assigned questions in the workbook. If necessary, review the chapters when uncertain of an answer and refer to your instructor for further guidance.