



# FACT SHEET

## Module 3

## Laws For Stopping Where To Stop At Intersections

Idaho's traffic laws and safe driving practices are the "Rules of the Road" that allow the safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians. They affect many driving activities, such as stopping, driving speed, yielding the right of way, passing other vehicles, and parking.

### Idaho Code 49-807. STOP SIGNS AND YIELD SIGNS

- (1) Preferential right-of-way may be indicated by stop signs or yield signs as authorized in section 49-212, Idaho Code.
- (2) Except when directed to proceed by a peace officer or traffic-control signal, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop:
  - (a) at a clearly marked stop line, or
  - (b) before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or
  - (c) at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering it.

After having stopped, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of highways.

- (3) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign shall, in obedience to such sign, slow down to a speed reasonable for existing conditions and, if required for safety to stop, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, or before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering it.

After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of highways. Provided, however, that if a driver is involved in a collision with a vehicle in the intersection or junction of highways, after driving past a yield sign without stopping, the collision shall be deemed prima facie evidence of his failure to yield right-of-way.

### Idaho Code 49-651. EMERGING FROM ALLEY, DRIVEWAY OR BUILDING

The driver of a vehicle emerging from an alley, building, private road or driveway within a business or residential district shall stop the vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or onto the sidewalk area extending across the alley, building entrance, or driveway, or in the event there is no sidewalk area, shall stop at the point nearest the highway to be entered where the driver has a view of approaching traffic.

### Idaho Code 49-801. OBEDIENCE TO AND REQUIRED TRAFFIC-CONTROL DEVICES

- (1) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any traffic-control device placed or held in accordance with the provisions of this title, unless otherwise directed by a peace officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle by this title.
- (2) No provisions of this title for which traffic-control devices are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation a device is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section does not state that traffic-control devices are required, the section shall be effective even though no devices are erected and in place.
- (3) Whenever traffic-control devices are placed or held in position approximately conforming to the requirements of this title, the devices shall be presumed to have been placed or held by the official act or direction of lawful authority, unless the contrary shall be established by competent evidence.

- (4) Any traffic-control device placed or held pursuant to the provisions of this title and purporting to conform to the lawful requirement pertaining to those devices shall be presumed to comply with the requirements of this title, unless the contrary shall be established by competent evidence.

#### Idaho Code 49-640. VEHICLES APPROACHING OR ENTERING UNMARKED OR UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTION

- (1) When two (2) vehicles approach or enter an unmarked or uncontrolled intersection from different highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.
- (2) The right of way rule declared in subsection (1) of this section is modified as follows:
- At "T" intersections where one (1) highway ends when it meets a second highway not ending at that point of convergence. When two (2) vehicles approach or enter a "T" intersection from different directions at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the highway ending at the intersection shall yield the right of way to the other vehicle;
  - At through highways; and
  - Otherwise as stated in this title.
- or roadway that terminates at the intersection and that is not controlled by an official traffic-control device or controlled as provided by Subsection (b) or (c): (1) shall stop, yield, and grant immediate use of the intersection

#### (14) Idaho Code 49-104. DEFINITIONS -- C

"Crosswalk" means

- That part of a highway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable highway; and in the absence of a sidewalk on one side of the highway, that part of a highway included within the extension of the lateral lines of the existing sidewalk at right angles to the centerline.
- Any portion of a highway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

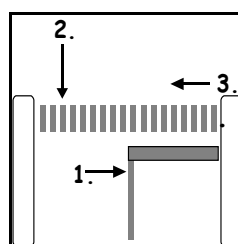
#### Curbline

If there are no identifying pavement markings, and the sign or traffic control device says stop, the stop must be made with the front bumper (car, truck, etc.) or front wheel (bike, motorcycle, etc.) behind an imaginary line called a curbline, which stretches from curb to curb closest to the driver. If there are no curbs present, then it must be imagined where they would be, and the stop completed at that imaginary curb line.

**Remember!** Your vehicle must not slow or impede the flow of traffic. When backing up it is generally into or out of a driveway or alley. Therefore, the rear of your car will stop at the crosswalk (usually unmarked but determined by the sidewalk or at the curb line). Sometimes a driver will be leaving a driveway, alley, or building area such as a gas station or drive-in. It is required that the driver stop just as if there were a stop sign. The stop is made behind the sidewalk, and yielding the right-of-way to all persons approaching from either side on the sidewalk and to all approaching traffic is required. When the way is clear, the driver may turn left or right, unless pavement markings or signs prohibit such a maneuver. If there is a painted **crosswalk**, the vehicle must stop with the front bumper (car, truck, etc.) or front wheels (bike, motorcycle, etc.) **behind** the nearest crosswalk line. Sometimes there is a crosswalk **and** a stop line. If there are both, the stop line must be obeyed first. On streets that have sidewalks but no painted crosswalks, remember that the crosswalks are still considered to be there. Handle these situations just as if the crosswalk **were** painted.

#### Stop before:

- The legal stop line
- The crosswalk
- Before entering the intersection



## Stopping

Idaho law requires you to:

- **STOP** before the stop line or crosswalk at any intersection posted with a stop sign. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection, but close enough to see cross traffic.
- **STOP** for any flashing red signal. It is the same as a stop sign.
- **STOP** for any steady red traffic light and remain stopped behind the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk. You may turn right after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. Similarly, when turning left into a one-way street, you may turn after stopping and yielding to cross traffic except where posted otherwise. In all other cases, wait until the light turns green before proceeding. When a green arrow is shown along with a steady red light, you may proceed only in the direction of the green arrow.

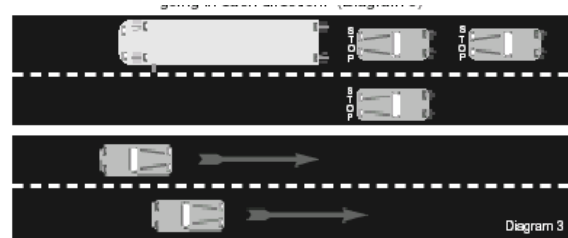


- **STOP** or slow down at an intersection when necessary to yield right of way to a pedestrian crossing within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- **STOP** at a railway crossing when a train is coming or when wigwag or flashing signals, gates, or a watchman indicates the approach of a train.

### Phrase

- **STOP** when entering a street from an alley, building, driveway, or private road. Stop before crossing the sidewalk and yield to pedestrians and traffic.
- **STOP** upon the request of any police officer.
- **STOP** for emergency or police vehicles sounding a siren or flashing red or blue lights. Pull over to the nearest edge of the road where it is legal to park and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed or the police officer has indicated you may proceed.
- **STOP** for a school bus that is loading or unloading students. On a two-lane road, both following and oncoming traffic must stop and remain stopped as long as the red lights near the top of the bus are flashing and/or the stop arm on the left side of the bus is extended. On a highway with two or more lanes going each direction, oncoming traffic is not required to stop when meeting a school bus.

**You must stop** when approaching a school bus that is displaying flashing signals while stopped to pick up or drop off children. You must remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again. (Diagrams 1 and 2)



You do not have to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction on roadways with **four or more lanes** if two lanes are going in each direction. (Diagram 3)

- **STOP** when you are involved in a crash.