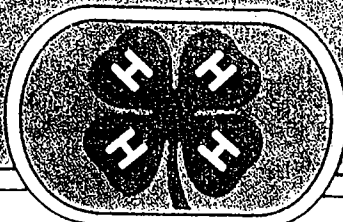


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# 4-H AUTOMOTIVE PROJECT

## KEYS TO HAPPY MOTORING: YOU AND THE DRIVING TASK



# KEYS TO HAPPY MOTORING: YOU AND THE DRIVING TASK

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## Preface

This project is designed to introduce you to the knowledge, skills and defensive driving strategies a driver needs to survive. Actual skills in operating a car cannot be learned in this project. These kinds of skills can better be learned through a high school driver education class or commercial driving school, where you can combine knowledge and understanding with practice, under the supervision of a professional driving instructor.

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## Introduction

There is more to driving than just knowing how to operate a car. Safe and efficient driving involves skill and knowledge. Knowledge of traffic rules, laws, regulations and procedures is probably the first step in preparing to drive. Practicing driving skills is next.

Driving is more complex than just learning how to start, stop and go.

The driving task involves continuous decision making. To become a safe and efficient driver, you must be able to recognize potential hazards and quickly decide how to avoid them. You must possess a high degree of skill not only in the maneuvering of a car but in signal recognition, judgement and decision making. Learn to drive defensively. Know

what to do under a wide variety of conditions and situations.

Attitude is another important aspect of safe and efficient driving. Learn to be courteous on the highway. Do not take unnecessary chances. Use safety precautions. And remember, that drugs, alcohol and driving don't mix.







# The First Step – Learning Rules of the Road



## Traffic Lights, Signs and Symbols

Traffic laws may vary from state to state. If you are considering learning how to drive, you should obtain a current "rules of the road" booklet from your state. They are usually available from the agency that issues drivers licenses (i.e. Motor Vehicle Administration, Department of Transportation, Secretary of State, etc.).

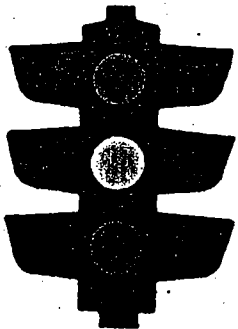
Most states conform to the uniform vehicle code so that most laws concerning traffic signs and signals are the same from state to state.

The following chart summarizes traffic light control signals. They include red, green, yellow and white lights, in the form of lane signal symbols, pedestrian signals, traffic lights, arrows and flashing signals.

Traffic Lights control busy and hazardous intersections. Red means stop at the stop line or behind the crosswalk. Right turn on red is permitted, when safe, after stop and yield in some states. But watch for the NO TURN ON RED signs at some lights.

Yellow is a warning that the light is about to change from green to red. Driver may not enter intersection if he or she can stop.

Green means go, but first check for cars that may not stop. Yield to vehicles and pedestrians within the intersection.

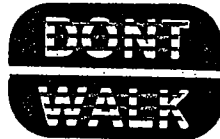


**Pedestrian Signals** are mounted on the same post as the traffic light but below it.

**Go.** Leave the curb to cross the street.



**Flashing.** Do not leave curb, but if you have already started, complete crossing.



**Stop.** Do not leave the curb.



**Flashing Signals** are placed at hazardous intersections. A red flashing signal means exactly the same as a STOP sign. A STOP sign may also be posted at these intersections. A yellow flashing light signals CAUTION, tells you to slow down, look carefully and proceed with caution. Be ready to stop.



**Arrows** indicate direction.

**Go straight ahead only,** after yielding to vehicles and pedestrians within the intersection.



**Go left only.** Be sure to watch for oncoming traffic that may run the red light.



**Go right only.** Yield to pedestrians.



