

chapter 10

NEGOTIATING INTERSECTIONS

- 10.1 Searching Intersections
- 10.2 Determining Right of Way and Judging Gaps
- 10.3 Controlled Intersections
- 10.4 Uncontrolled Intersections
- 10.5 Railroad Crossings
- 10.6 Roundabouts

KEY IDEA

What skills do you need to approach, enter, and exit the many different types of intersections safely?



YOU'RE THE DRIVER

Intersections

pose a variety of challenges to drivers. Negotiating intersections requires that drivers are familiar with the kinds of intersections and the various controls used to keep traffic moving safely. If three cars arrived at an intersection at the same time, would you know which driver had the right of way?

lesson 10.1

SEARCHING INTERSECTIONS

OBJECTIVES

- Explain how to identify an intersection.
- Describe the actions to take as you approach an intersection.
- Describe what to do when you have a closed front zone at an intersection.
- Identify the correct way to enter an intersection.

VOCABULARY

- intersection
- point of no return
- safety stop

Intersections are places where roadways meet or cross. Most intersections are simply two roadways crossing in a + or X pattern. Other roads meet to form a T. Where one road divides or two roads join together, intersections form a Y. Sometimes several roadways come together in a circle.

An intersection is one of the most complex situations that drivers encounter. The chance of a collision at an intersection is greater than at any other point on a roadway. Nearly half of all reported crashes and a quarter of all fatal injuries occur at intersections.

One reason for the large number of collisions is the failure of drivers to see and analyze the intersection. You can decrease your chance of collision by searching each intersection and planning a safe path of travel through it. Your IPDE skills and the Zone Control System will give you the tools to approach, enter, and exit safely.

Identifying an Intersection

To identify a safe path of travel, you first need to recognize that you are approaching an intersection. Two clear indicators are traffic lights and crossing traffic. A stationary object in the target area, such as a house or trees, may mean you are coming to a T intersection. Here are some other

clues that an intersection is ahead:

- street lights and signs
- roadway markings, such as STOP AHEAD
- stopping or turning traffic
- pedestrians
- rows of fences and mailboxes
- power lines crossing over the street

FIGURE 1

Identify You are approaching this intersection. List all the clues that alert you that this is an intersection.



Approaching an Intersection

After identifying an intersection, look for line-of-sight restrictions, such as large bushes, buildings, signs, or other vehicles. Line-of-sight restrictions can hide other traffic, pedestrians, or animals. If your line of sight is restricted, search that area carefully for any potential problems.

Your goal is to have a clear path of travel through the intersection. You may need to slow, stop, or change lanes to achieve your goal.

12–15 Seconds Ahead As you approach an intersection, check for traffic controls such as signs or signals. Also look for signs or markings that indicate turn lanes ahead.

Plan a course of action to best solve the restrictions in your line of sight or path of travel. Your decisions should give you the best control of your intended path, which may require you to change lanes. Lane changes are usually not permitted in an intersection. Therefore, you should select the best path of travel before entering the intersection.

Your zone checks should also become more frequent. Search for potential changes that could require you to change speed or direction or to communicate to other users.

4–6 Seconds Ahead Widen your search pattern to include more information from the right and left of your path of travel. If your front zone is clear, you can keep moving. If not, prepare to stop or change your path of travel.

Keep searching and predicting at 45 degrees to either side, as shown in **FIGURE 3**. Evaluate your left and right zones for other drivers, pedestrians, or line-of-sight or path-of-travel restrictions.

You need sufficient time to identify potential hazards, so be sure to pause briefly as you search. If you move your eyes quickly, you could miss objects as large as a car.

2 Seconds Ahead As you approach the intersection, you will reach your **point of no return**. This is the point beyond which you can no longer stop safely without entering the intersection. Under normal conditions, that point is when you are two seconds from the intersection, as shown in **FIGURE 4**.

FIGURE 2

These are the three critical locations at which you must use the IPDE Process.

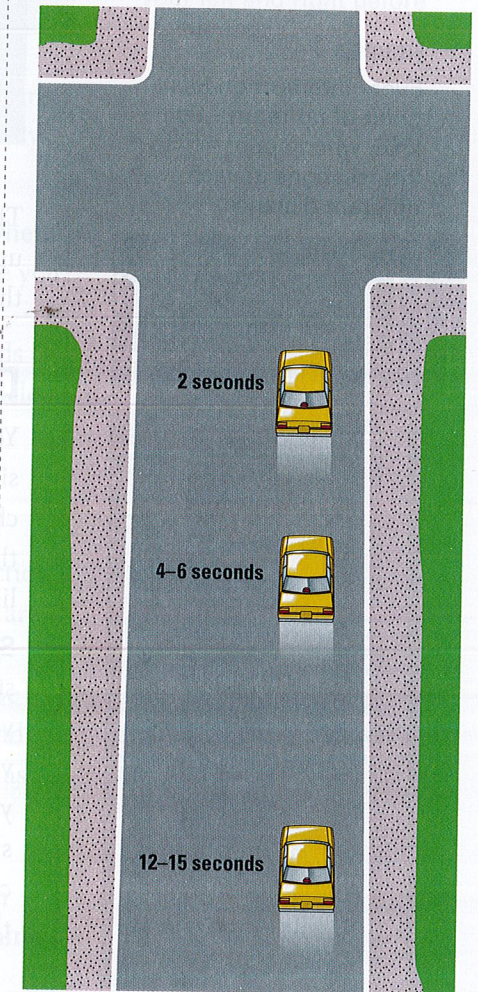
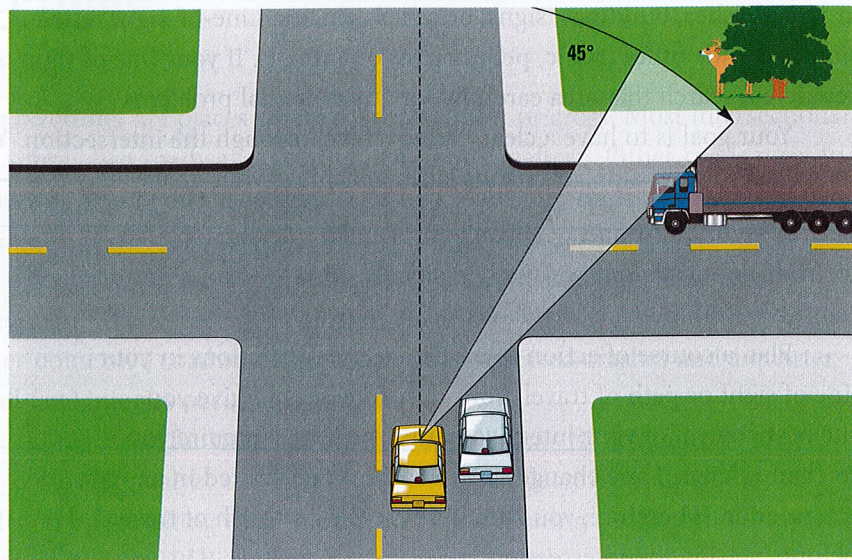


FIGURE 3

Move your head to see beyond line-of-sight restrictions. Use your searching skills to identify potential hazards in your path of travel.



The distance from the point of no return to the intersection depends upon the speed you are going: The faster you are going, the greater the distance.

Deciding to Stop

You may have to stop because there is a red traffic light, a YIELD or STOP sign, or something moving into your intended path. Before braking, check your rear zone. If it is open, cover your brake to be ready in case the condition changes to a closed zone. If it is closed, tap your brake lights to communicate to the driver behind you that you are stopping.

Searching While Stopped Stop at the legal stop, which could be at a stop line, before the pedestrian crosswalk, or before the intersection. If you do not have a clear line of sight to the right and left, improve your view by moving up to the intersection for a safety stop. In a **safety stop**, your front bumper is even with the curb line or cars parked on the cross street, allowing you to search 90 degrees to the right and left. As you can see in **FIGURE 5**, this position should give you a clear line of sight through the intersection.

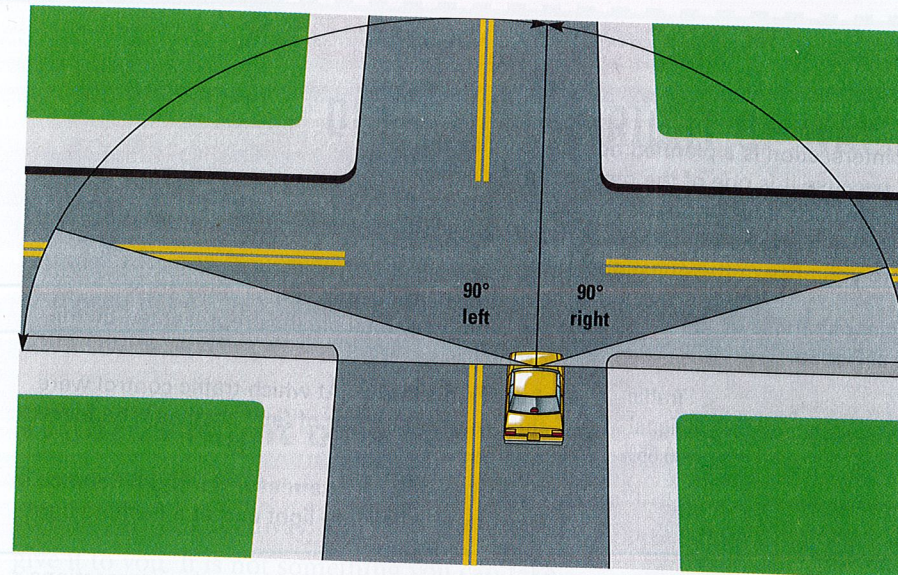


FIGURE 5

After you have stopped, search 90 degrees to your left and right before continuing.

Use your time wisely while stopped. Search for vehicles turning left in front of you and pedestrians entering the street. Remember to pause briefly during your search for time to identify possible conflicts.

Stopping Behind a Vehicle If there is a vehicle ahead of you, stop where you can see its rear tires touching the pavement. This position will give you sufficient space if you need to drive around the vehicle.

If you have been stopped behind another vehicle, wait two seconds before moving. Use this time to search for red light runners. If the vehicle in front stops suddenly, you will have time to respond.

Entering an Intersection

You may enter an intersection if the traffic light is green. If the intersection has no traffic signals or signs, you may continue if all your front zones are open.

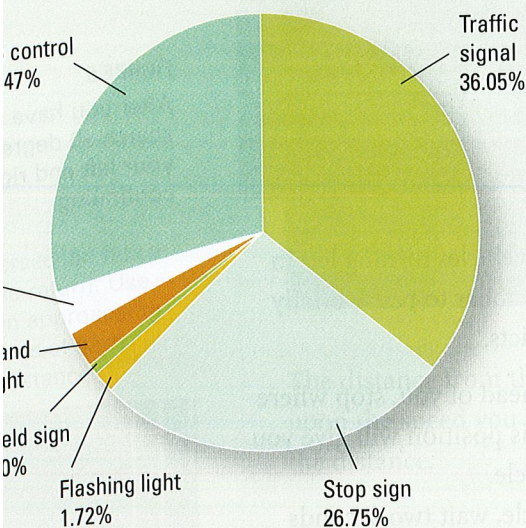
If you have a line-of-sight restriction, make numerous checks to be sure your path is open. You may decide to change your lane position and reduce your speed. This will give you more time to see what is hidden, as well as help others see you.

When turning, your last check should be in the direction of your intended path of travel. You need to know if your intended path is open before you enter an intersection. Looking to your target area while turning will ensure a smooth, controlled turn.

izing data at Intersections

To one civil engineer, an intersection is a planned point of conflict on any transportation system because it is one of the most complex traffic. To control the flow of vehicles and pedestrians, intersections use different types of traffic controls. Study the graph before you answer the questions.

Fatal Crashes at Intersections by Traffic Control (for the state of Florida)



- 1. Reading the Graph** What is the total percentage of fatal crashes represented by the graph?
- 2. Analyzing Data** At which traffic control were the greatest number of fatal crashes? The fewest number of crashes?
- 3. Inferring** Suggest a reason for the difference in crashes at a flashing light and at a flashing light with a STOP sign.
- 4. Inferring** Suggest a reason why intersections with STOP signs and intersections with no control had about the same percentage of fatal crashes.
- 5. Execute** As a driver, what actions can you take to prevent crashes at intersections?

Review it 10.1

List six clues that indicate that you are approaching an intersection.

Which zones should you search when approaching an intersection?

Describe what to do when you have a closed front zone at an intersection.

What actions should you take when entering an intersection with a line-of-sight restriction?

Critical Thinking

Relate Cause and Effect Intersections are some of the most dangerous parts of the roadway. What factors cause them to be unsafe? How can driver actions reduce the dangers of intersections?

- 6. Predict** You are approaching an intersection on a green light. Your left-front and right-front zones are restricted. Will you be safe using a two-second point of no return? Explain your answer.

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

Name the Controls For the next week, with an adult licensed driver, make a list of all the controls at each intersection that you enter. Then note the actions of the other drivers. Did they ignore or obey the controls? Share your observations with the class.



Lesson 10.2

DETERMINING RIGHT OF WAY AND JUDGING GAPS

Intersections naturally cause conflict because vehicles are traveling in different directions. You need to know when to yield the right of way. You also need to be able to judge the amount of space and time you will need to enter traffic safely.

What is Right of Way?

The term **right of way** describes the privilege of having immediate use of a certain part of a roadway. You have the right of way only when other drivers give it to you. It is not something you can take.

You will often have to yield, or let others go first. Sometimes you must yield to prevent a collision. At other times, yielding is an act of courtesy. Most of the time, laws determine who should yield the right of way.

Knowing the right-of-way laws will help you make safe decisions. The diagrams in **FIGURES 6 AND 7** show the most common situations. In each situation, the driver in the yellow car is required to yield.

When deciding whether or not to yield, remember:

- Your action should not cause those to whom you should yield to slow, stop, or change their path of travel.
- Traffic signs only show who should yield the right of way. They do not stop traffic for you.
- Do not assume others will always yield to you.
- Many times it is better to yield the right of way even when the law requires the other driver to yield.



OBJECTIVES

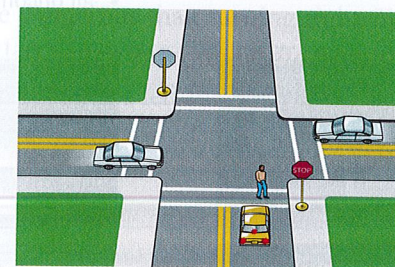
- Define right of way.
- Describe situations in which the driver must yield the right of way.
- Predict how long it takes to cross and join traffic.



VOCABULARY

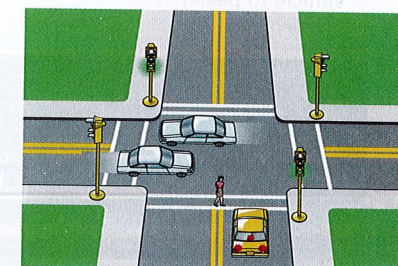
- right of way
- gap
- joining traffic

FIGURE 6 YIELDING THE RIGHT OF WAY



Yield at stop signs to

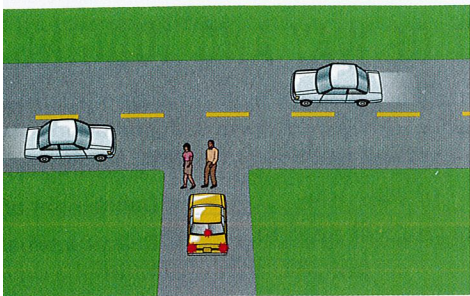
- pedestrians in or near the crosswalk
- all traffic on the through street



Yield at fresh green lights to

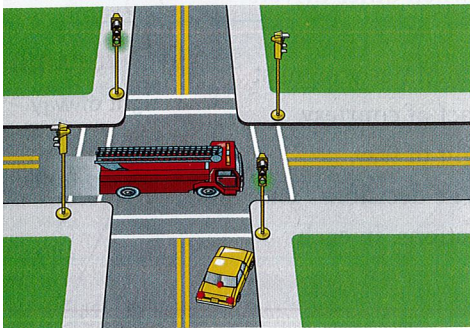
- pedestrians still in the crosswalk
- vehicles still in the intersection

YIELDING THE RIGHT OF WAY



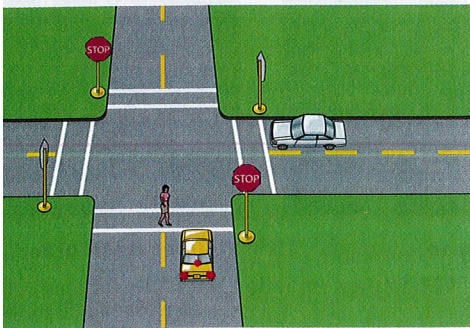
Yield from an alley, driveway, or private to

ans before reaching the sidewalk
les on the street (Make two stops.)



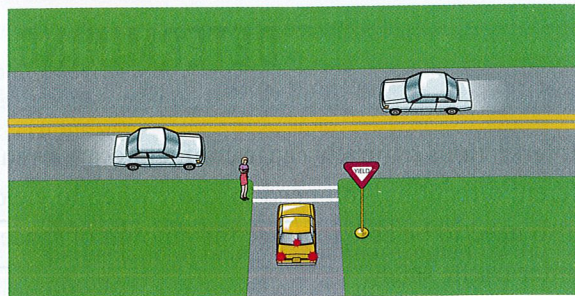
Emergency vehicles

g a siren or using a flashing light (Stop clear
tersection close to curb. Wait for emergency
o pass.)



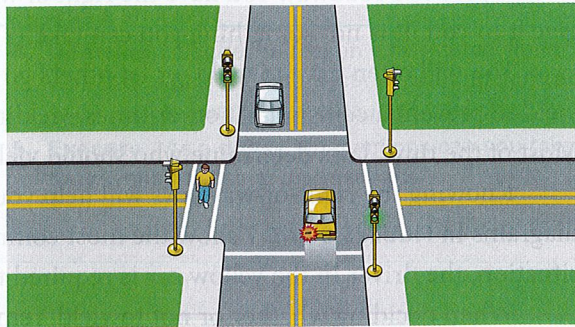
Four-way stops to

strians in or near crosswalks
that arrive first
a from the right if you arrive at the same time



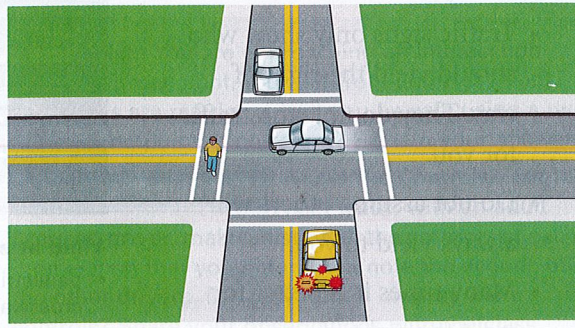
Yield at all YIELD signs to

- all pedestrians in or near crosswalks
- all vehicles on the cross street



Yield when turning left at any intersection to

- all pedestrians in your turn path
- all oncoming vehicles that are at all close



Yield at uncontrolled intersections to

- pedestrians in or near the crosswalk
- any vehicle that has entered the intersection
- a vehicle from the right if you both arrive at the same time

Judging the Size of a Gap

Before entering a street after stopping, you must find a large enough gap in traffic. A **gap** is the distance between two vehicles. You must judge the gap between your vehicle and any approaching vehicles and predict how much time you have to enter or pass through traffic safely.

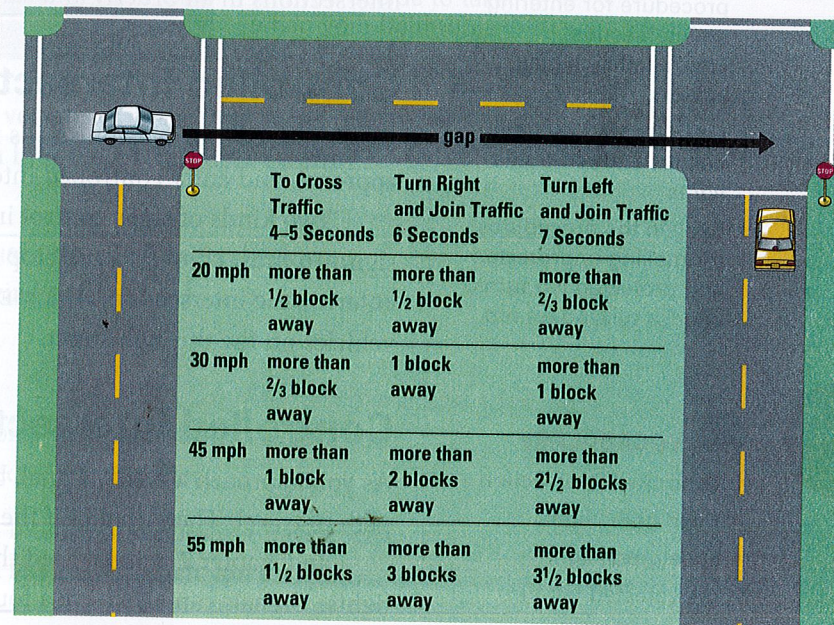
The size of gap that you need depends on the maneuver you plan to make and the speed of oncoming traffic. As you can see in **FIGURE 8**, it takes more time to turn left or right than to pass through traffic.

Joining Traffic Turning right or left into lanes of other traffic is called **joining traffic**. To join traffic, you must accelerate to the speed of the through traffic without interfering with the flow of traffic. The faster traffic is moving, the larger your gap must be.

To turn right into traffic, you need a larger gap than you do to cross traffic. Turning right and accelerating to 30 mph takes about six seconds.

Turning left to join traffic is more dangerous than turning right. You must cross the path of traffic from the left before entering traffic from the right. Therefore, you need a greater gap to make a left turn.

FIGURE 8 GAP SELECTION FOR CROSSING OR JOINING TRAFFIC



review it 10.2

1. What is meant by yielding the right of way?
2. Give six examples of situations in which you must yield the right of way.
3. List two factors that determine how big a gap must be before entering an intersection.

Critical Thinking

4. **Relate Cause and Effect** At an intersection, you see drivers that do not yield the right of way. How can this behavior affect other drivers?

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

Yield Situations While riding with a licensed adult driver, make a note each time you find yourself in a yield situation, then describe what actions each driver took. Report your findings to the class.



Lesson 10.3

CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

OBJECTIVES

Identify the correct procedure for entering an intersection controlled by signs. Identify the correct procedure to take at green, yellow, and red traffic signals.

Describe the procedures for making unprotected and protected left turns when turning on red.

VOCABULARY

Controlled intersection
Fresh green light
Stale green light
Unprotected left turn
Protected left turn
Green light



A **controlled intersection** is one that has traffic signs or signals to determine the right of way. Obeying signs and signals helps drivers navigate intersections in an orderly and safe manner.

Controlled Intersections with Signs

You will need to apply your skills for searching and gap selection as you approach and enter controlled intersections.

Two kinds of signs control intersections: STOP and YIELD. At a STOP sign you must come to a full stop at the stop line, crosswalk, or before entering the intersection. At a YIELD sign, slow and yield the right of way to vehicles on the through street.

Controlled Intersections with Signals

As you approach a traffic signal, be sure you are in the correct lane for your path of travel. Then predict if the light is about to change.

In Chapter 2, you learned the meanings of red, yellow, and green lights. Signals can also have a fourth or fifth light, such as a green arrow to allow drivers to turn left.

Fresh Green Light A light that has just turned green is a **fresh green light**. If you are stopped, don't move until you have checked to be sure that a driver on the cross street is not running a red light.

Stale Green Light A **stale green light** is a light that has been green for a long time. If a light remains green after you first identify it, be prepared to slow. Check the status of the pedestrian crossing light. If the light is flashing, this is an indication that the light is about to turn yellow, then red.

Yellow Light When you approach an intersection as the light turns yellow, you must decide whether to stop or proceed. If the light turns yellow before you reach the point of no return, check your rear zone. If it is safe to stop, do so. Otherwise, go through the intersection.

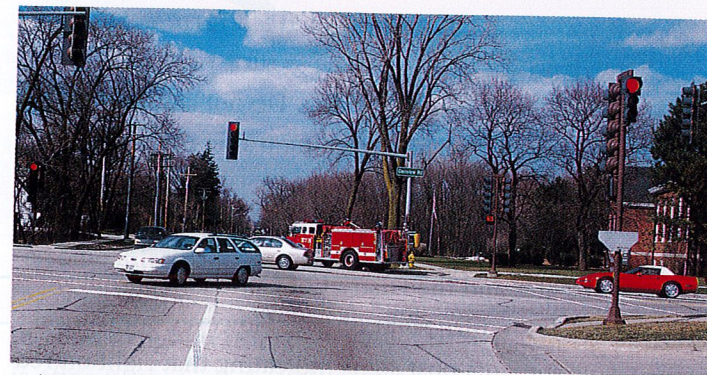


FIGURE 9
Your traffic light is red. **Decide** What actions will you decide to take when your light turns green?

Turning left on a yellow light can be very risky. If the light turns red during your turn, waiting drivers can rush into the intersection, creating serious conflicts.

Red Light When the light is red, you must stop. Be sure to check your rear zone to ensure following cars are slowing too.

Turning Left at Signals

It is often difficult to turn left at intersections with heavy traffic. Before you turn, check to see if the left turn is unprotected or protected.

Unprotected Turns If a signal-controlled intersection does not have a left-turn light, you must make an **unprotected left turn**. When you turn left, you must yield to oncoming traffic.

Protected Turns You can make a **protected left turn** when a left-turn signal lets you turn left while oncoming traffic is stopped. A left-turn signal may be a green light or arrow. When the left-turn signal ends, you may be prohibited from making a left turn. If the turn is allowed, respond as you would to an unprotected left turn.

At heavily traveled intersections, a doghouse signal may be used to improve traffic. As you can see in **FIGURE 10**, this signal has five lights, including both a green and yellow left-turn arrow for protected left turns. After the green arrow turns yellow, a solid green light remains, allowing unprotected left turns if there is a safe gap.

A **delayed green light** indicates that one side of an intersection has a green light while the light for the oncoming traffic remains red. A delayed green light allows traffic from one side to turn or go straight before the light for oncoming traffic turns green. Be careful to obey your signal only.

FIGURE 10
This traffic signal is called a "doghouse." The green arrow permits you to make a protected left turn.



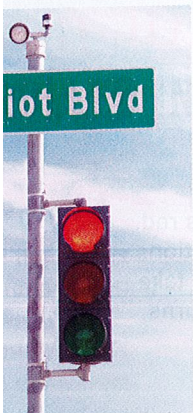


FIGURE 11
The opticon camera above this traffic light permits emergency vehicles such as fire trucks to change red lights to green so they can move through traffic quickly.

If you are making a protected left turn, watch for the left turn light or arrow to turn yellow, then red, which is your signal to stop. Do not assume you can proceed when oncoming traffic proceeds.

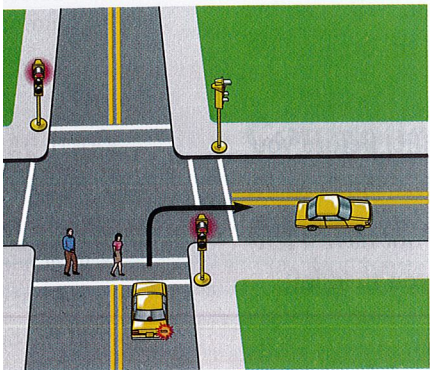
Turns on Red

All states and the District of Columbia permit vehicles to turn right on red. However, some local governments post signs indicating that right on red is not permitted.

Before turning right on red, come to a full legal stop. You must yield the right of way to any approaching vehicle. Also give pedestrians the right of way if they are in the crosswalk or just approaching the crosswalk. Turn into the right lane nearest you.

In some jurisdictions, a left turn on red onto a one-way street may be permitted. Such turns should be made cautiously. Always yield to through traffic and pedestrians before turning.

Turn on red at this intersection. Where should you search for oncoming traffic and pedestrians?



Review it 10.3

What two signs are used to control intersections? Briefly describe the correct action to take at each intersection.
What is the difference between a fresh green light and a stale green light?
How does an unprotected left turn differ from a protected left turn?

Critical Thinking

Scenario You are traveling on a two-way street and want to turn left onto a one-way street. Your

light is red, but there is no traffic on the one-way street. What action will you take and why?

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT **Right Turn on Red** Search for NO TURN ON RED signs in your community. If you see one, analyze the intersection conditions and decide why the turn is restricted. Compare this intersection to some that permit turns on red. Prepare a report and discuss your findings with your classmates.

Lesson 10.4

UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how to identify an uncontrolled intersection.
- Identify the actions to take as you approach an uncontrolled intersection.
- Describe some line-of-sight or path-of-travel restrictions you may encounter at intersections.
- Identify who has the right of way at uncontrolled intersections.

VOCABULARY

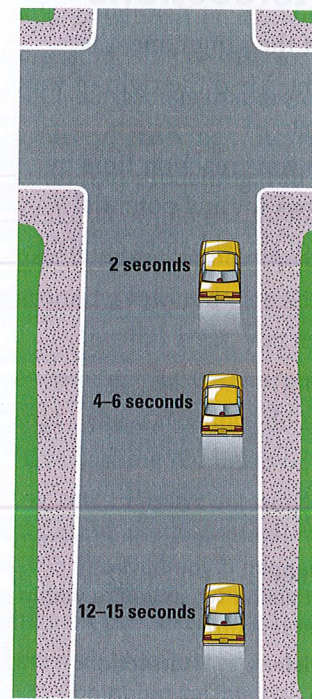
- uncontrolled intersection

An **uncontrolled intersection** has no signs or signals to regulate traffic. In some intersections, one road is controlled by signs or signals, but the crossing road is uncontrolled. Most uncontrolled intersections are located in areas of light traffic, such as residential areas. In cities, traffic from alleys is often uncontrolled. Although these streets are usually quiet, they can be dangerous because drivers may not be expecting cross traffic or pedestrians.

Sometimes a driver fails to identify that an intersection is uncontrolled. The driver assumes that the other drivers will stop or, on a quiet street, assumes that no one is there. If you do not see a traffic sign or signal, assume that the intersection is uncontrolled.

Predict that other traffic will not stop and pedestrians will not see you. Reduce speed and search aggressively. Always be prepared to stop.

FIGURE 13



You should perform a series of steps at each of these three locations before uncontrolled intersections.

Using IPDE to Approach an Uncontrolled Intersection

As soon as you identify an intersection, use your search skills to determine if you will have a safe path of travel through the intersection. Refer to **FIGURE 13** as you read how to approach an uncontrolled intersection.

Searching 12–15 seconds ahead will help you identify the uncontrolled intersection early. This is the time to identify if you will have an open or closed path of travel. Predict if you will need to reduce speed or change lane positions. Identify blocked lines of sight and predict if the blockage will remain or change.

DRIVING TIP

When driving with a friend and are approaching an intersection, your speeds up to the light before it turns red. What do you say to your friend?

By the time you are within 4–6 seconds of the intersection, you should have decided your course of action. Get an update on your rear zone.

When you are 2 seconds from the intersection, you are at your point of no return. Will you continue through the intersection or stop?

Identifying Restrictions

Residential areas typically have parked cars, bushes, trees, or fences that create line-of-sight problems. A tree trunk can be large enough to hide a car, truck, or children playing near the street. If you have a line-of-sight restriction, reduce speed and adjust your lane position to get a better line of sight.

Also watch for path-of-travel restrictions. Search for vehicles intending to make a U-turn in the intersection. Also search for vehicles parked on the street close to the intersection. They create line-of-sight restrictions and path-of-travel restrictions.

Procedures at Uncontrolled Intersections

When two or more vehicles reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right. Yield the right of way to oncoming traffic that reached the intersection first.

When approaching blind intersections, reduce your reaction time by covering your brake. Carefully search your front zones for any potential hazards. Be absolutely sure you have an open path of travel before committing to entering the intersection.

View it 10.4

What is an uncontrolled intersection? Why can these intersections be particularly dangerous? What are three actions a driver can take when approaching an uncontrolled intersection? Name four line-of-sight and two path-of-travel restrictions you may encounter at an uncontrolled intersection. Who has the right of way at an uncontrolled intersection?

Critical Thinking

- Predict** What might happen if you haven't decided on a course of action when you're within 4–6 seconds of the intersection?

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Collisions at Intersections Clip two articles reporting intersection collisions from your local newspaper. Analyze each report to determine which vehicle should have yielded the right of way. Write a summary of your findings. Share your analysis with your classmates.



Lesson 10.5

RAILROAD CROSSINGS



OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish between passive and active railroad crossings.
- Identify the correct actions to be taken at railroad crossings.



VOCABULARY

- crossbuck
- active railroad crossing
- passive railroad crossing

Where a roadway crosses railway tracks, there is always a danger of collision. Because trains are so massive, their stopping distances will always be longer than those of other vehicles. Trains warn others of their approach, but the driver has the primary responsibility to avoid a conflict. Remember: A moving train always has the right of way.

Active and Passive Crossings

Warning signs and signals are placed near railroad tracks to alert drivers to the possibility of an approaching train. In towns and cities, a round, yellow railroad-crossing sign is posted about 250 feet from the actual crossing. In rural areas, this warning sign is about 750 feet from the crossing. Often a large white X is painted on the roadway before the crossing. Next to the crossing is a **crossbuck**, a large white X-shaped sign, as shown in **FIGURE 14**.

Crossings that are controlled with electric signals are called **active railroad crossings**. Active crossings often have a crossing gate. When a train is approaching, red lights flash, bells ring, and the crossing gate closes. Make a complete stop. Remain stopped until the lights stop flashing and the gate is raised. When the crossing is clear, proceed cautiously. Never drive around a lowered gate—it is illegal and deadly.

In rural areas, you may encounter **passive railroad crossings**. These crossings do not have flashing red lights or crossing gates. Passive crossings are marked with a crossbuck, a YIELD or STOP sign, and possibly markings on the pavement. You are not warned when a train is coming.

Crossing Railroad

Tracks When you approach railroad tracks, always stop, look, and listen. Expect a train

FIGURE 14

Slow and be prepared to stop at uncontrolled railroad crossings.

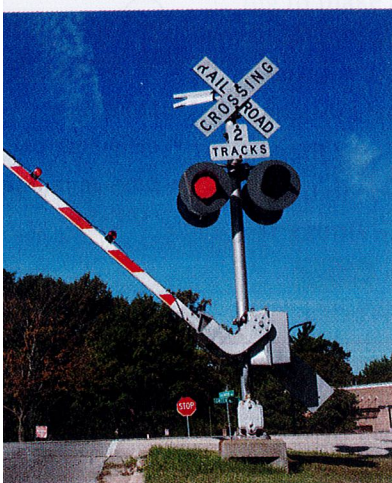


to appear at any time. Passenger trains can run early or late, and freight trains do not follow set schedules. A fully loaded freight train may seem far away. Don't be fooled. If you can see the train, it is closer than you think.

Be prepared to stop if you are following a bus or a truck carrying hazardous materials. In most areas, they are required to stop at railroad crossings. Take these precautions when approaching railroad crossings:

- Slow down and be ready to stop. Check traffic to your rear.
- Look both ways as you approach, even if the light is not flashing. The flasher may be broken.
- Listen for train sounds. Turn off the radio, air conditioner, or heater. Roll down your window if the area is noisy.
- If a train is approaching, stop at least 15 feet from the tracks.
- Wait for the train to pass. Then carefully check for another train approaching. If there are multiple tracks, the number of tracks will be shown on the crossing. Trains may approach from either direction on any set of tracks.
- Drive onto the tracks only when you are sure you have enough space to clear the tracks. Never stop on railroad tracks while waiting for traffic ahead to move.
- Do not shift gears on railroad tracks; your vehicle may stall.

multiple-track signs at all crossings.



view it 10.5

How can you distinguish between an active and a passive railroad crossing?

Describe how to search as you approach a highway crossing.

Critical Thinking

Compare and Contrast Compare the procedures for going through an active railroad crossing with the procedures for going through a passive crossing. Which situation has greater risk? Why?

Apply Concepts You are preparing to cross a railroad track. The light is flashing but the

crossing gate has not come down. Is it legal to cross the tracks now? Is it safe?

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

Observing Railroad Tracks

When traveling as a passenger, keep a record of all the railroad tracks you cross during one week. Note whether (1) the crossing was actively or passively controlled, (2) a train was approaching or proceeding down the track, and (3) the driver took the appropriate actions when approaching the tracks. Discuss your findings with your class.

Some intersections are designed as circles called **roundabouts**, also called traffic circles or rotaries. Roundabouts do not have traffic signals; instead all vehicles move around a circular pathway in the same direction. Drivers entering the circle are required to yield to circulating traffic. Drivers may use roundabouts to turn right or left, to go straight, or to make a U-turn.

Benefits of Roundabouts

Roundabouts are safer and more efficient than intersections with traffic signals. For this reason, traffic engineers are developing more roundabouts throughout the country.

Why are roundabouts safer? Since all traffic is moving in the same direction, head-on collisions are eliminated. There are no left turns across intersections, so dangerous conflicts are reduced. YIELD signs in roundabouts reduce delays and decrease the level of driver frustration and aggression. Roundabouts are also safer for pedestrians, because pedestrians have to look in only one direction to cross.

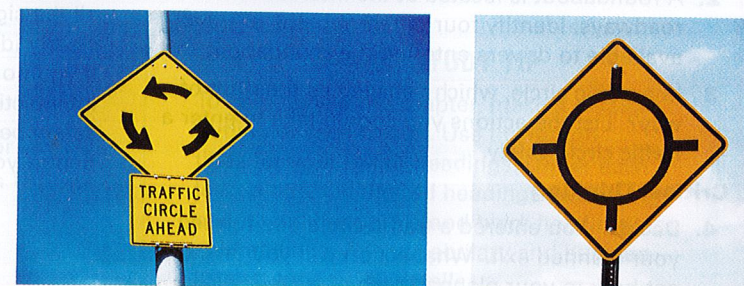
Traffic with a high volume of left turns can move through a roundabout more quickly than through a traffic signal. As a result, roundabouts increase the capacity of busy roadways and reduce congestion.

Procedures at Roundabouts

Signs will alert you that there is a circular intersection ahead, as shown in **FIGURE 16**. As you approach, reduce your speed and search for circulating traffic.

Traffic circles are controlled by YIELD and ONE WAY signs. Vehicles traveling in the circle have the right of way. When entering, you must yield to traffic already in the circle.

FIGURE 16 TRAFFIC CIRCLE SIGNS



Lesson 10.6 ROUNDABOUTS

OBJECTIVES

- Identify how roundabouts benefit drivers and pedestrians.
- Compare the flow of traffic through a traffic circle to that of an intersection with a signal.
- Describe the correct procedures for driving through roundabouts.

VOCABULARY

- roundabout

All traffic moves counter-clockwise, so vehicles will be coming from your left. Also watch for pedestrians in crosswalks. If there is a vehicle ahead of you, do not stop in the crosswalk.

- If necessary, stop before entering. If the way is clear, you do not need to stop at the entry.
- Select a safe gap and turn right to enter.
- Once you are in the circle, you have the right of way. Even so, be alert to vehicles entering in your right-front zone. Be sure to give large trucks and trailers adequate room to circulate and exit.
- In multiple lane circles, get into the correct lane early. Your lane choice should be based upon your desired exit. Drivers in the right lane may make an immediate exit or travel straight ahead. Drivers in the left and middle lanes can go straight, turn left, or make a U-turn.
- Do not pass or change lanes except to merge into the right lane to exit.
- Signal prior to your desired exit. If you are taking the first right, signal immediately upon entering.
- Never stop in a traffic circle. Continue around the circle until you reach your exit. If you miss your exit, just drive around the circle again until you are able to exit safely.
- When exiting from an inside lane, check the lane next to you and check your blind spot to be sure the outside lane is clear.

Points Save

By reducing traffic lights, points reduce fuel consumption and the amount of pollutants. They also eliminate the need for the electricity that has been used by a traffic light.

Review it 10.6

State three reasons why roundabouts are safer than intersections with traffic signals.

A roundabout is located at the intersection of two roadways. Identify four different paths of travel available to drivers entering the roundabout.

At a traffic circle, which vehicle has the right of way? List the actions you should take to enter a traffic circle safely.

Critical Thinking

Scenario You entered a traffic circle and missed your planned exit. What action will you take to get back to your planned path of travel?

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

Observe Intersections

When riding as a passenger, make a list of any traffic circles in your area. Identify all the signs and lane markings and decide if they clearly identify how to drive through the circle. If you do not find any traffic circles, identify an intersection that you believe would have the greatest safety benefit if it were changed to a roundabout. Report your findings to your class.

CHAPTER 10 REVIEW

Lesson Summaries

10.1 SEARCHING INTERSECTIONS

- Identifying intersections early will prepare you to merge with traffic or go straight through safely.

10.2 DETERMINING RIGHT OF WAY AND JUDGING GAPS

- You must yield the right of way at STOP and YIELD signs, at uncontrolled intersections, and as you enter roadways from alleys and driveways. Emergency vehicles always have the right of way.

10.3 CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

- Controlled intersections are regulated by traffic lights or STOP or YIELD signs.

10.4 UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

- Uncontrolled intersections do not have traffic signs, signals, or markings to manage traffic.
- As you approach an uncontrolled intersection, use the IPDE Process.

10.5 RAILROAD CROSSINGS

- Expect a train at all crossings; check for multiple track signs. If a train is approaching, obey all active crossing controls. At passive crossings, look carefully, listen, and be prepared to stop. Always wait for the train to clear.

10.6 ROUNDABOUTS

- At a roundabout, drivers can make a right or left turn, continue straight ahead, or complete a U-turn.

Chapter Vocabulary

- active railroad crossing
- controlled intersection
- crossbuck
- delayed green light
- fresh green light
- gap
- intersection
- joining traffic
- passive railroad crossing
- point of no return
- protected left turn
- right of way
- roundabout
- safety stop
- stale green light
- uncontrolled intersection
- unprotected left turn

Write the word or phrase from the list above that completes the sentence correctly.

1. An intersection at which traffic signals or signs determine the right of way is called a(n) _____.
2. The _____ is the privilege of having immediate use of a certain part of the roadway.
3. A(n) _____ is the distance between vehicles.
4. An intersection where roads meet in a circle is called a(n) _____.
5. A(n) _____ has no signs or signals to regulate traffic.
6. A traffic light that has been green for a long time is called a(n) _____.
7. A(n) _____ is a sign indicating a passive railroad crossing.



STUDY TIP

To help review the chapter, make a detailed outline of each lesson. Use the lesson titles for your major headings. Under each lesson title, list the red headings as key points and the purple and black headings as subheadings. Add vocabulary and bulleted lists as supporting details.