

NORTH CAROLINA DRIVER'S HANDBOOK



Division of Motor Vehicles
North Carolina Department of Transportation



**State of North Carolina
Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles**

Dear Fellow Motorist:

As you earn your North Carolina driver license, you will be joining six million drivers across the state. Your preparation and practice will enable you to travel to places of uncommon beauty and diversity across this state.

Remember, please, that you also are responsible for driving by the rules of the road and for keeping vigil over other drivers and dangers around you. By obeying the traffic laws and looking out for your fellow traveler, you can help prevent the 214,000 crashes and 1,400 fatalities we have on our highways each year.

This handbook was written to help prepare you for the driver license examination. It offers valuable safe driving techniques which will help keep you out of harm's way. If you need additional assistance, contact your nearest driver license office or go online to www.ncdot.gov/dmv.

Safe driving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bev Perdue".

Bev Perdue
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene A. Conti, Jr."

Eugene A. Conti, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation

Motor vehicle laws are subject to change by the North Carolina General Assembly. Revised January 2012.

The North Carolina Driver's Handbook is available online at www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver_services/driverhandbook/.

If you are about to be hit from the side:

- Keep a tight grip on the steering wheel; and
- Prepare to turn fast so that you can try to control the vehicle.

If you are about to be hit from the front:

- Use your arms and hands to protect your face from breaking glass.

In the event you are involved in a crash:

- You must stop the vehicle immediately. If you do not stop, you have violated the law;
- Take precautions to prevent further crashes at the scene;
- Do whatever you can to help those who have been injured;
- Try to ensure that someone informs a law enforcement officer immediately; and
- If the crash occurred on a main lane, ramp, shoulder, median or adjacent area of the highway and there are no injuries or fatalities, each vehicle should be moved out of the travel lane onto the shoulder of the road provided it can be driven safely under its own power and without causing further damage to the vehicle, other traffic or the roadway.

The law protects persons who stop and render aid at the scene of an accident from civil liability except for intentional wrongdoing or unruly conduct.

You are required by law to make an immediate report to the nearest law enforcement officer or agency of any crash when any person is killed or injured or the total damage to vehicles and other property appears to amount to \$1,000 or more. Failure to make the report may result in prosecution, and your driver license could be suspended. You should also report any crash to your insurance company. In certain cases, North Carolina law also requires the driver of a vehicle involved in a reportable crash to provide proof of financial responsibility (liability insurance) on forms provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles. These forms must be completed and filed with DMV.

Three things you must do if involved in a crash:

- Provide your name, address, driver license number, vehicle registration number and the name of your vehicle insurance company;
- Be sure to obtain the same information from others who were involved in the crash; and
- If you do not know the occupants of the other vehicle or the owner of damaged property, write down all the information you can gather and give it to the nearest law enforcement officer.

Chapter 5

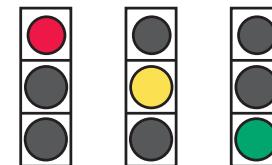
Signals, Signs and Pavement Markings

Traffic signals, signs and pavement markings are used for traffic control to provide a smooth, orderly flow of traffic. It is important to understand their meanings.

Traffic Signals

The traffic signal is used to control traffic and pedestrians at some intersections and mid-block crosswalks.

- A circular green signal means “go,” but left turning traffic is “unprotected” and must yield the right of way to oncoming traffic.
- A circular yellow signal means “caution” and indicates that the signal is about to turn red. Stop for a yellow signal unless you are too close to the intersection to stop safely — in that case, drive cautiously through the intersection. Never speed up for a yellow signal to “beat” the red signal.
- A steady red circular signal means “STOP.” Unless there is a sign indicating “NO TURN ON RED,” a right turn can be made after coming to a complete stop. All vehicles turning right shall yield the right of way to other traffic and pedestrians using the intersection and to pedestrians in reasonably close proximity to the intersection and who are starting to cross in front of the traffic that is required to stop at the red light. Failure to yield to a pedestrian under these circumstances will result in a penalty of not more than \$500 and not less than \$100.



Arrow signals are also important traffic signals.

- A green arrow means that you have a “protected” turning movement with no other conflicting traffic in the intersection except U-turn traffic that should yield to all other traffic entering the intersection.
- A red arrow means turning traffic must stop.
- A yellow arrow indicates that the “protected” green arrow signal is about to turn to a regular circular green signal, circular red signal or red arrow signal.

