

The following text discusses speed limits, reduced speed zones, and stopping distances, emphasizing the importance of adjusting speed for safety. It provides specific speed limits for various road types and conditions. It also explains the concept of stopping distance and factors affecting it. Additionally, the text covers turning maneuvers, including signaling, turning from the proper lane, and completing turns in a correct path. It addresses left turns, U-turns, two-point turnabouts (both reverse and forward), and three-point turnabouts, providing detailed instructions for each maneuver.

SPEED Speed is the greatest factor influencing the severity of a crash. Many fatal collisions on Colorado highways involve motorists driving too fast. **Limits:** Speed limit signs show the maximum speed allowed in ideal conditions. Some roads, such as freeways, have minimum speed limits posted. Driving slower than the minimum speed limit is a traffic violation, unless due to road or weather conditions. It is important to slow down in certain conditions, for example, during poor weather, or near railroad tracks, pedestrians or bicyclists, animals, and school buses. However, driving much slower than the posted speed in normal conditions can affect the flow of traffic and create unpredictable, potentially unsafe, situations. **Colorado Driver Handbook 12 Reduced speed zones:** Regardless of the posted speed limit, it may be necessary to reduce your speed to keep yourself and others safe. Signs will show when a reduced speed limit is in effect. Unless otherwise posted, Colorado speed limits are as follows: ● 20 mph on narrow, winding mountain highways and blind curves ● 25 mph in any business district ● 30 mph in any residence district ● 40 mph on open mountain highways ● 45 mph for vehicles in the business of hauling trash ● 55 mph on urban interstate and highways ● 65-75 mph on designated rural interstate and highways ● City or towns may by ordinance adopt lower speed limits in their jurisdictions. **Stopping distance:** Stopping distance is the distance your vehicle travels from the time you realize you must stop until your vehicle actually comes to a stop. Many factors affect your stopping distance including speed, the time it takes you to recognize you need to stop, how quickly you react and the time it takes for your brakes to slow and stop your vehicle. Be alert and give yourself space behind other motorists so you can assess well ahead of time when you will need to stop. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, it can be a more gradual and safer stop. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and is often the result of a driver who was not paying attention or trailing another motorist too closely. If you brake too quickly, you could skid, lose control of your vehicle, and/or make it difficult for drivers behind you to stop without hitting you. According to the National Safety Council, a lightweight passenger car traveling 55 mph can stop in about 200 feet. Other vehicles require different stopping distances. The chart below shows stopping distances, under ideal conditions. **TURNING** Completing a turn properly requires you to signal for an appropriate amount of time before to the turn, search for hazards or other road users crossing your path, turn into and from the correct lane, and turn in a correct path. Accelerate out of turns until you reach the speed limit or flow of traffic. **Signaling:** Failure to signal is a traffic violation. Before making any turn, whether onto another roadway, into a parking lot, into another lane of traffic, or leaving a parked position, it is extremely important that you signal. Your signal lets other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians know your intentions. In urban areas, you must signal continuously for 100 feet before making a turn or lane change. On four lane highways where the posted speed limit is faster than 40 mph, you must signal for 200 feet before making a turn or lane change. A typical rule of thumb is to have your turn signal on for at least 3 seconds before making a turn or changing lanes. If your vehicle's turn signals do not work, you must use hand signals. End your hand signal before starting to turn so that you can complete the turn with both hands on the wheel. **Turning from the proper lane:** When turning right you should turn from

the right most part of your lane and as close to the curb as possible. When turning left you should be in the left side of your lane. To make a right turn, you must begin in the right most lane. In locations where turning from more than one lane is permitted, traffic signs, signals and/or lane markings will clearly indicate correct turning lanes. Turning in a correct path: Complete your turn in the center of the correct lane on the new roadway — usually the lane closest to you on your side of the street. In intersections with multiple turn lanes, use the white lines in the intersection to identify the correct path. Avoid short turns (cutting corners), wide turns, late turns and straddling lanes. Left turns: Crashes are very common during left turns as drivers must see, judge and navigate oncoming traffic and pedestrians also navigating the intersection. When turning left, you should wait at the stop line or crosswalk until there is enough of a gap in oncoming traffic large enough to allow you to complete your turn safely. Always look for pedestrians and other smaller oncoming vehicles such as bicyclists and motorcyclists and take time to properly judge their speed and distance before turning left. Pulling into the intersection while waiting to turn left blocks the intersection for emergency vehicles, limits visibility for oncoming traffic and puts you in a position to get in a collision if the light changes and oncoming traffic runs the red light while you turn. Never turn the front wheels toward the left while you are waiting to turn. If you are rear ended, you would be pushed into oncoming traffic.

13 Colorado Driver Handbook U-turns: A U-turn is a turn made in a U shape so as to face in the opposite direction on the same roadway. U-turns are forbidden unless they can be made without endangering other motorists and their passengers, and are not allowed in locations marked by No U-turn signs. If you cannot safely make a U-turn, continue to the next street or turn around area. Never try to make a sudden U-turn in front of traffic traveling in either direction. Two-point turnabout: In this type of turn, a street, alley or driveway is used to reverse the direction you are traveling when it is not practical or possible to drive around a block. Reverse two-point turnabout: Signal your intention to turn right. Stop and check traffic to the sides and rear of your vehicle. Move back until the rear bumper of your vehicle reaches the near edge of the driveway. While backing slowly, steer rapidly all the way to the right. As your vehicle centers in the driveway, straighten the wheels and stop. Shift to drive and check in both directions; if clear, signal and turn left into the proper lane and accelerate. Forward two-point turnabout: Check your mirrors and signal your intention to turn left. Move close to the center of the road and turn into the driveway or alley as near as possible to the right side. Stop as the rear of your vehicle clears the curb or the driveway's edge. Check in all directions for traffic, signal a right turn and shift to reverse. When clear, move back slowly while turning the steering wheel quickly all the way to the right. As your vehicle centers in the nearest lane, straighten the wheels and stop. Then, shift to drive, cancel the right signal and move forward. Three-point turnabout: This type of turnabout is used to reverse direction on a roadway that is too narrow to allow completion of a U-turn and where there is no way to go around the block or utilize a two-point turn. Only use a three-point turnabout on a two-lane roadway. To perform a three-point turnabout: Check the mirrors and activate the right turn signal to communicate your intention to pull off to the right side of the road. Stop on the right side of the road. Activate your left turn signal at least 200 feet before the turn, or a minimum of three seconds, and check traffic and any blind spots. When traffic is clear, turn hard left toward the other side of the road. Stop when you have reached the other side. Check traffic and blind spots on both sides, then turn the wheel sharply to the right and reverse to the other side of the road. When traffic is clear, turn hard right to the other side of the road and stop. Place your vehicle in drive, activate the left turn signal and check traffic and blind spots. When traffic is clear, turn sharply to the left and drive forward into the right lane of traffic heading in the new direction. Make sure your turn signal has canceled. Continue driving straight in the new direction.