

The following text outlines rules regarding the right-of-way in various traffic situations. It emphasizes yielding to pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles already in an intersection. It covers scenarios such as four-way stops, uncontrolled intersections, left turns, lane changes, merging, reversing, and yielding to emergency vehicles, maintenance vehicles, snowplows, school buses, transit buses, and vehicles in work/construction zones. It also discusses speed limits in work/construction zones.

RIGHT-OF-WAY Where drivers or pedestrians meet one another, and there are no signs or signals to regulate traffic, there are rules that say who must yield the right-of-way. These rules tell drivers who proceeds first and who must wait in different traffic situations. The law states who must yield the right-of-way, but it does not give anyone the right-of-way, even if your traffic signal is green. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers who are already in an intersection you are approaching. **Pedestrians:** When driving, you must always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Be very watchful for children, seniors and people with disabilities. Do not assume that pedestrians can hear or see you and/or your vehicle or any visual or audible crossing signals as some pedestrians may be deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or blind. Most blind or deaf-blind people are easily recognized by the white cane they carry Roundabout lane 11 Colorado Driver Handbook and/or by their guide dog. Pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections and crosswalks. You must come to a complete stop and let the person pass safely. **Bicycles:** Bicycles on the road are considered vehicles and have many of the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles. Drivers must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists in a designated bike lane when merging with or crossing a bike lane to turn. Bicyclists riding on a sidewalk or crosswalk have the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians. **Four-way stop:** You must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle that reached the intersection first. When more than one vehicle reaches the intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way and allow the vehicle on the right to go first. Regardless of who has the right-of-way, you are always responsible for avoiding a crash. **Uncontrolled intersection:** An uncontrolled intersection is an intersection that does not have control devices such as stop signs or traffic lights. When more than one vehicle reaches an uncontrolled intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right and allow the vehicle on the right to go first. **Turning left:** Before proceeding through a left turn, always be sure to look for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk and other smaller oncoming vehicles such as bicyclists and motorcyclists and take time to properly judge their speed and distance. You must yield to all oncoming traffic, unless you have a green arrow or arrived first at a four-way stop. **Changing lanes and passing:** You must yield the right-of-way to vehicles already occupying the lane you wish to enter or use for passing. Do not change lanes if another vehicle must slow down for you. **Merging:** You must yield to all vehicles on the roadway you are merging with. Do not merge if another vehicle must slow down for you. **Reversing:** You must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles close enough to be a hazard. **Narrow mountain road:** When vehicles meet on a steep, narrow road that is not wide enough for two vehicles, the vehicle going downhill must yield the right-of-way by backing up to a wider place or by stopping, then leaving enough space for the vehicle going uphill, except where it is more practicable for the vehicle going uphill to return to a wider space or turnout. **Emergency vehicles:** You must yield the right-of-way to all emergency vehicles using a siren, air horn and/ or flashing red, blue, white or yellow lights. Where possible, you must pull to the right edge of the road and come to a stop. If you are in an intersection, drive through the intersection, then pull over. If you are approaching an emergency vehicle stopped along the side of the road, try to leave at least one lane between your vehicle and the emergency vehicle. If the road only has one lane on your side or you cannot

change lanes, slow down to a safe speed and use care and caution as you pass. Unless directed otherwise by emergency personnel or conditions prohibit the lane change, you should slow down to: ● 25 MPH if the posted speed limit is 45 MPH or less Or ● 20 MPH under the posted speed limit if the posted speed limit is above 45 MPH Maintenance vehicles: You must yield right of way to service vehicles and maintenance equipment when in use and flashing yellow and blue warning lights. Use extra caution when approaching, overtaking or passing maintenance vehicles. Snow plows: Be especially cautious around snow plows because their size and speed can create clouds of blowing snow that can conceal the plow. It is illegal to pass an authorized snow plow when it is working in a formation in which the plows are staggered diagonally. School bus: You must stop your vehicle at least 20 feet before reaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing, and you must stop until the lights stop flashing. You must stop whether it is on your side of the road, the opposite side of the road or at an intersection you are approaching. You must remain stopped until the flashing red lights are no longer flashing. Carefully watch for children near the school bus and children crossing the roadway before proceeding. You are not required to stop if there is a median or other physical barrier separating the bus from your vehicle. Transit buses: You must yield right-of-way to a transit bus if it is signaling to enter a traffic lane and the yield sign on the rear of the bus is illuminated. Road work/Construction zone: When driving in a work/ construction zone, keep construction crews and fellow road users safe by adjusting your lane position away from workers and slowing down to navigate any obstacles or changes in the flow of traffic with caution. Stay alert and prepared to respond to any unpredictable events. For safety reasons, normal speed limits may be reduced in work/construction zones. Any reduced speed limits will be clearly marked. Failure to follow the speed limit in a work/ construction zone can result in double fines.