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New Jersey

Study Guide

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CHAPTER 1

Chapter 1: The New Jersey Driver License System

1.1 Required Documents for New Jersey Motorists

In New Jersey, any person operating a motor vehicle must carry three specific documents at all times: a valid driver license (or permit/probationary license), a valid vehicle registration card, and a valid insurance card. Failure to present these documents to law enforcement upon request can result in penalties.

- ✓ A motorist must carry a valid driver license, probationary license, or validated New Jersey permit.
- ✓ The motorist must also carry valid insurance and vehicle registration cards.

1.2 Supervising Driver Requirement for Permit Holders

A motorist holding a validated New Jersey driver permit is not allowed to drive alone. They must be accompanied by an appropriately licensed driver who meets the state's requirements for a supervising driver. This is a fundamental rule of the Graduated Driver License (GDL) program.

- ✓ A motorist with a validated New Jersey driver permit must be accompanied by an appropriately licensed driver.
- ✓ Driving alone with only a permit is a violation of GDL rules and will result in penalties.

1.3 Mandatory Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program

All individuals in New Jersey who have never had a driver license must complete the state's Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program. This program introduces driving privileges in phases to ensure new drivers gain experience under controlled conditions before receiving an unrestricted license.

- ✓ The GDL program is mandatory for all first-time drivers in New Jersey.
- ✓ The program requires a period of supervised driving before a motorist can obtain a basic driver license at age 18.

1.4 GDL Red Decal Requirement

As part of Kyleigh's Law, drivers under the age of 21 who possess a permit or probationary license are required to display two red, reflective decals on their vehicle's license plates. This allows law enforcement to easily identify GDL drivers and enforce restrictions.

- ✓ Drivers under 21 with a special learner permit, examination permit, or probationary license must display two visible, reflective GDL decals.
- ✓ The decals must be placed on the top left corner of both the front and rear license plates.

1.5 Penalties for Altering or Illegally Obtaining a License

New Jersey has severe penalties for driver license fraud. Altering a driver license or presenting an altered license carries heavy fines, potential imprisonment, and a loss of driving privileges. Obtaining a license illegally is also a serious offense.

- ✓ Altering a driver license can result in the loss of driving privilege, a fine of up to $1,000, and/or imprisonment.
- ✓ Obtaining a driver license illegally may result in a fine of up to $500 and/or imprisonment.

1.6 GDL Program Age and License Milestones

The GDL program has specific age requirements for each stage. A motorist must be at least 16 for a permit, 17 for a probationary license, and 18 for a basic, unrestricted license.

- ✓ The minimum age to obtain a Special Learner Permit is 16.
- ✓ The minimum age to obtain a Probationary Automobile License is 17.
- ✓ The minimum age to obtain a Basic Automobile License is 18.

1.7 Penalties for Violating GDL Restrictions

All GDL restrictions, such as passenger limits, driving curfews, and the decal requirement, must be strictly followed. Failure to adhere to any of these restrictions will result in a penalty.

- ✓ The penalty for failing to adhere to GDL restrictions is a fine of $100.
- ✓ A violation of GDL restrictions may also result in a suspension of the motorist's driving privilege.

1.8 GDL Early Bird Road: Permit and Practice Rules

The 'Early Bird Road' is the GDL path for 16-year-olds. It requires completion of a driver training course and a mandatory supervised practice period before the driver can take the road test.

- ✓ To get a Special Learner Permit at age 16, an applicant must be enrolled in an approved behind-the-wheel driver training course.
- ✓ After getting the permit, the applicant must complete at least six months of supervised driving before being eligible for a probationary license.

1.9 GDL Probationary License Rules

After passing the road test at age 17, a motorist receives a Probationary License. This license allows for unsupervised driving but still carries GDL restrictions. This phase must be completed before obtaining a basic license.

- ✓ A motorist must be at least 17 years old and have passed the MVC road test to get a Probationary License.
- ✓ A motorist must practice unsupervised driving with a Probationary License for at least one year before they can get a Basic Driver License.

1.10 Reporting Address and Name Changes to MVC

New Jersey law requires motorists to keep the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) updated with their current information. There are specific, strict deadlines for reporting changes to your address or legal name.

- ✓ A motorist who changes addresses must report this change to the MVC within one week after moving.
- ✓ A motorist who legally changes their name (e.g., through marriage, divorce) must report the change to the MVC within two weeks.

1.11 License Requirements for New New Jersey Residents

Motorists who move to New Jersey with a valid out-of-state driver license must transfer it to a New Jersey license within a specific timeframe. The out-of-state license must be surrendered upon receiving the NJ license.

- ✓ A motorist with a valid out-of-state license must apply for a New Jersey license within 60 days of moving to the state, or before the current license expires, whichever is sooner.
- ✓ Upon receiving a New Jersey license, the out-of-state license must be surrendered to the MVC.

1.12 Driver License Format for Underage Drivers

To help enforce age-related laws, such as those concerning alcohol, New Jersey issues driver licenses in a different physical format for motorists under the age of 21. A standard license is valid for four years.

- ✓ Motorists under 21 years of age are issued a distinctive vertical-format driver license.
- ✓ A standard Basic Automobile License is valid for four years.

CHAPTER 2

Chapter 2: New Jersey Driver Testing

2.1 NJ MVC Knowledge and Vision Test Requirements

To obtain a basic New Jersey driver license, all applicants must successfully pass both a knowledge test and a vision screening. The knowledge test consists of 50 questions based on the official NJ Driver Manual, and the vision test ensures the applicant meets the state's minimum eyesight standards for safe driving.

- ✓ Applicants must answer at least 40 out of 50 questions correctly, for a passing score of 80 percent.
- ✓ The minimum vision requirement for a Basic Automobile License is 20/50 with or without corrective lenses.

2.2 GDL Supervised Driving Practice Requirements

Before taking the road test, Graduated Driver License (GDL) permit holders must complete a mandatory period of supervised practice driving. The required duration of this practice period varies based on the driver's age.

- ✓ GDL permit holders under 21 years of age must have a minimum of six months of supervised practice driving before they can take the road test.
- ✓ GDL permit holders who are 21 years old or over must have a minimum of three months of supervised practice driving before their road test.

2.3 Road Test Vehicle and Documentation Checklist

Applicants must present a suitable vehicle and several required original documents for the road test. Failure to provide any of these items will result in the test being canceled. The vehicle must be properly registered, insured, and inspected.

- ✓ The vehicle used for the test must have a valid inspection sticker, a valid registration card, and a valid insurance ID card.
- ✓ If the applicant is subject to GDL requirements, two red GDL decals must be properly mounted on the vehicle's license plates.
- ✓ The vehicle must provide the examiner with unobstructed access to either the foot brake or a parking brake located to the right of the driver.

2.4 Post-Road Test and Probationary License

After passing the road test, a new driver who has never been licensed before will be issued a probationary driver license. The MVC monitors the driving habits of all new drivers during this one-year probationary period.

- ✓ If an applicant passes the road test, the examiner issues an authorization for licensing, which must be taken to an MVC Licensing Center.
- ✓ A successful applicant who has never been licensed in any state will be issued a probationary driver license, and their driving habits will be monitored by the MVC for one year.

2.5 Vehicle Safety Defects Causing Road Test Rejection

An MVC examiner will reject a vehicle for the road test if it has any defects that compromise its safe operation. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is in proper working order before arriving for the test.

- ✓ A vehicle will be rejected if the parking brake, brake lights, or signal lights are not working.
- ✓ Reasons for rejection include unsafe tires, a dashboard brake warning light being on, or tinting on the driver and/or front door windows.
- ✓ A vehicle may also be rejected if the examiner cannot access the foot brake or parking brake.

2.6 Accompanying Driver Requirements for the Road Test

A permit holder is not allowed to drive the test vehicle alone at any point. A qualified, licensed driver must accompany the applicant to the test site and remain with them until the examiner begins the test.

- ✓ A licensed driver must always remain in the vehicle with the applicant, even while waiting in the road test line.
- ✓ The accompanying driver must hold a valid license for the type of vehicle being used for the test (e.g., a basic driver license for a car).

2.7 Nikhil's Law and the Driver Safety Pledge

Nikhil's Law reinforces the importance of obeying traffic laws. As part of the licensing process, drivers are encouraged to take the Safety Pledge, committing to safe driving habits to protect themselves, their passengers, and others on the road.

- ✓ The pledge includes a promise to 'STOP COMPLETELY' at all stop signs and never go through a red light.
- ✓ The pledge also includes a commitment to 'TALK SAFE' by using a hands-free cell phone system and not texting or using a handset while driving.

2.8 Rules for Out-of-State Teen Drivers

When drivers from other states apply for a New Jersey license, their age determines the type of license they receive and the rules they must follow. Teenage drivers are subject to GDL requirements.

- ✓ Out-of-state applicants between 17 and 18 years of age who possess a valid out-of-state license will be given a probationary license for one year.
- ✓ Teen drivers transferring their license to New Jersey must comply with all of New Jersey’ s GDL requirements and restrictions.

CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3: Driver Responsibility

3.1 New Jersey Seat Belt Law and Responsibilities

New Jersey law mandates that the driver and all passengers in a vehicle must wear a seatbelt. The driver is legally responsible for ensuring all passengers under 18 are buckled up. For GDL permit or probationary license holders, this rule is even stricter: they must require all passengers, regardless of age or seating position, to use seat belts. Failing to wear a seatbelt is a primary offense, meaning an officer can pull you over for that reason alone. Seat belts are proven to increase survival chances in a crash by 60%.

- ✓ The driver and all passengers of a passenger vehicle must wear a seatbelt.
- ✓ The driver is responsible for all passengers under the age of 18.
- ✓ Motorists with GDL permits or probationary licenses must require all passengers seated anywhere in the vehicle to use seat belts.
- ✓ The failure of a driver, front-seat passenger, or child under 18 to wear a seatbelt is a primary offense.

3.2 Child Passenger Safety and Car Seat Regulations

New Jersey has specific, strict laws for securing children in vehicles. The rules are based on age, weight, and height. A child under age 2 and weighing less than 30 pounds must be in a rear-facing car seat with a five-point harness. A child under age 4 and weighing less than 40 pounds must be in a rear- or forward-facing car seat with a five-point harness. Children under age 8 and less than 57 inches (4'9") tall must be in a forward-facing car seat or a booster seat. All children under 8 must ride in a rear seat, unless the vehicle has no rear seats. Failure to comply can result in a fine of $50 to $75.

- ✓ Children under age 2 and weighing less than 30 pounds must ride in a federally approved rear-facing child passenger restraint system.
- ✓ Children under age 8 who are less than 57 inches tall must ride in a federally approved forward-facing child restraint system or a booster seat.
- ✓ All children under age 8 must be seated in a rear seat, unless there are no rear seats in the motor vehicle.
- ✓ An infant seat must never be faced forward.

3.3 Air Bag Safety for Adults and Children

Air bags are a supplemental safety system designed to work with seat belts. They deploy at speeds up to 200 mph in a frontal crash. While they save adult lives, they can be extremely dangerous for children. It is critical to remember that children 12 years old and younger should always ride in the back seat. An infant in a rear-facing car seat must never be placed in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag.

- ✓ Air bags inflate at speeds of up to 200 mph to protect adults in a front-end crash.
- ✓ Always be sure that children 12 years old and younger ride in the backseat of the vehicle.
- ✓ Always put an infant in a rear-facing infant child safety seat in the back seat of a vehicle with air bags.

3.4 Required Vehicle Condition and Maintenance Checks

It is the vehicle owner's responsibility to keep their car in good working order. Before driving, you should check several key components. Brakes should be able to stop the vehicle within 25 feet at 20 mph. Tires must have at least 1/16 inch of tread. Windshields must be free of cracks or chips. Additionally, state law requires motorists to remove all snow and ice from their vehicle before driving, with fines from $25 to $75, and up to $1,500 if the dislodged snow or ice causes injury or damage.

- ✓ A vehicle's brakes should be able to stop it within 25 feet at 20 mph.
- ✓ Tires must have a minimum of 1/16 inch of tread.
- ✓ State law (N.J.S.A. 39:4-77.1) requires a motorist to remove snow or ice from a vehicle before driving it.
- ✓ With an anti-lock braking system (ABS), a motorist should apply steady pressure to the brake pedal and never pump an ABS.

3.5 Dangers and Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas in a vehicle's exhaust that can be fatal. Certain conditions can cause it to accumulate to dangerous levels, such as operating a vehicle with an exhaust leak, a blocked tailpipe (e.g., by snow), or idling in a confined space like a garage. Common symptoms include headache, dizziness, nausea, and loss of consciousness. If you suspect someone has CO poisoning, immediately remove them from the source and call 911.

- ✓ Operating a vehicle with an exhaust leak or a blocked tailpipe can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.
- ✓ Idling a vehicle in a garage or confined space can lead to CO poisoning, even with the garage door open.
- ✓ Common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, loss of consciousness, and nausea/vomiting.

3.6 New Jersey Vehicle Idling Law

To reduce air pollution, New Jersey law restricts most vehicle idling to three minutes or less. This includes while waiting in parking lots or on the side of the road. There are exceptions for situations like being stuck in traffic. Violating this law can lead to significant fines ranging from $250 to $1,000 for each offense.

- ✓ New Jersey law requires all motorists to restrict vehicle idling to three minutes or less.
- ✓ Vehicle and property owners face fines of $250 to $1,000 for each violation of the idling law.

3.7 Factors Influencing Vehicle Stopping Distance

A driver must understand that many factors affect how long it takes to stop a vehicle. These include motorist reaction time, weather conditions, vehicle weight, the condition of the brakes and tires, and roadway conditions. The single most significant factor is speed. The faster a vehicle is traveling, the longer it will take to stop. For example, the total stopping distance at 60 mph is 343 feet, which is more than the length of a football field.

- ✓ Stopping distance is determined by motorist reaction time, weather, vehicle weight, brake/tire conditions, roadway conditions, and speed.
- ✓ The faster a vehicle is going, the longer it will take it to stop.
- ✓ A motorist's typical reaction time is 3/4 of a second.

3.8 Proper Steering Hand Position and Technique

Correct hand position on the steering wheel is crucial for vehicle control and safety, especially in cars with air bags. A motorist should grip the wheel on the outside rim at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions. This grip reduces the risk of injury if the air bag deploys. Both hands should remain on the wheel at all times except when shifting gears or giving hand signals. For sharp turns, hand-over-hand steering should be used.

- ✓ For normal driving, a motorist should grip the steering wheel by the outside rim at the 9 and 3 o’ clock positions.
- ✓ Both hands should be kept on the wheel at all times, except when shifting gears or giving hand signals.
- ✓ Hand-over-hand steering is well suited for steering through curves and at intersections.

3.9 Pre-Driving Checklist and Blind Spot Awareness

Before starting a car, a motorist must perform a series of checks. This includes ensuring all windows are clean, adjusting the seat and mirrors, and fastening the seatbelt. It is crucial to check for blind spots, which are areas around the vehicle that cannot be seen in the mirrors. To check blind spots, a motorist must physically turn their head. Before moving, you should also look in front of and behind the vehicle for pedestrians or objects.

- ✓ Before getting into a vehicle, a motorist should look both behind it and in front of it.
- ✓ Blind spots are areas where a motorist cannot see behind his/her vehicle through the mirrors.
- ✓ To check blind spots, a motorist must turn his/her head.
- ✓ Over 95 percent of the information a motorist needs is visual.

CHAPTER 4

Chapter 4: Safe Driving Rules and Regulations

4.1 New Jersey Statutory Speed Limits

In New Jersey, specific speed limits are set by law for various types of roads. Unless a different speed is posted, motorists must adhere to these default limits. Exceeding the speed limit is a common cause of fatal crashes. It is crucial to know these limits for school, business, residential, and rural areas.

- ✓ The speed limit is 25 mph in school zones, business districts, or residential districts.
- ✓ The speed limit is 35 mph in suburban business and residential districts.
- ✓ The speed limit is 50 mph on non-posted rural roadways.
- ✓ Never drive faster than weather, road, or other conditions safely allow, regardless of the posted speed limit.

4.2 Understanding Pavement Markings for Passing

The lines painted on the center of the road indicate when it is legal and safe to pass another vehicle. A motorist must be able to interpret solid and broken lines to know the rules for passing.

- ✓ When both center lines are solid, no passing is allowed.
- ✓ When one center line is broken, passing is allowed only on the side with the broken line.
- ✓ When both center lines are broken, passing is allowed on both sides.

4.3 Situations Where Passing is Prohibited

For safety reasons, passing other vehicles is illegal in several specific situations and locations, regardless of the lane markings. These rules are designed to prevent collisions where visibility is limited or potential conflicts are high.

- ✓ A motorist must not pass at a street crossing, intersection, or railroad crossing.
- ✓ Passing is prohibited on a hill, a curve, in a tunnel, or in an underpass.
- ✓ Never pass a vehicle that has stopped to let a pedestrian cross.

4.4 Yielding the Right-of-Way

New Jersey law requires motorists to yield the right-of-way in specific situations to ensure a safe and orderly flow of traffic. A motorist should always be prepared to yield, even if they believe they have the right-of-way.

- ✓ A motorist must yield to emergency vehicles when they are using sirens or flashing lights.
- ✓ A motorist must yield to buses and postal vehicles when they are re-entering the flow of traffic.
- ✓ A motorist must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk and to motorized or mobility-assistance devices seeking to cross a road.

4.5 Pedestrian Safety and Crosswalk Laws

New Jersey law is very strict regarding pedestrian safety. Motorists must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and face severe penalties for failing to do so. Pedestrian safety is considered a shared responsibility, but motorists are held responsible for maintaining it.

- ✓ A motorist must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- ✓ Failure to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk carries a fine of up to $500, up to 25 days in jail, a driving privilege suspension of up to 6 months, and 2 points.
- ✓ Never pass another vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian.

4.6 Navigating Controlled Intersections

A controlled intersection has traffic signals, signs, or a police officer directing traffic. Motorists must obey these controls and follow specific yielding rules, especially at multi-way stops or when making left turns.

- ✓ At a multi-way stop or stop intersection, a motorist must yield to the motorist on the right if both get there at the same time.
- ✓ When making a left turn at an intersection, a motorist must yield to oncoming traffic and stop for pedestrians within the crosswalk.
- ✓ Driving on private property to avoid a traffic signal or sign is a motor vehicle violation.

4.7 Rules for Uncontrolled Intersections

An uncontrolled intersection has no traffic signals or signs. When approaching one, a motorist must reduce speed and be ready to stop. The general rule is to yield to traffic on the right.

- ✓ As a general rule for uncontrolled intersections, the vehicle on the left should yield to the vehicle on the right.
- ✓ A motorist coming from a private road or driveway must yield to all traffic on the main road.
- ✓ A traffic signal that is not working (not illuminated) should be treated as a 4-way stop.

4.8 Making a Right Turn on a Red Light

New Jersey law permits a motorist to make a right turn at a red light after coming to a full stop, unless a 'No Turn on Red' sign is posted. The motorist must first yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

- ✓ Unless a 'No Turn on Red' sign is posted, a right turn on a red light is authorized after a motorist comes to a full stop and checks for traffic.
- ✓ A motorist must yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning right at a red light.
- ✓ A proper turn signal must be used at least 100 feet before making the turn.

4.9 Stopping Regulations at Railroad Crossings

Motorists must stop at a specific distance from railroad crossings when warning signals are active. These signals include flashing red lights, ringing bells, and descending or lowered gates. It is critical to obey these signals to avoid a collision with a train.

- ✓ A motorist must stop at least 15 feet from a railroad crossing when there are flashing red lights, ringing bells, or lowered gates.
- ✓ Never attempt to cross until the gates have been raised, the bells have stopped, and the red lights have stopped flashing.
- ✓ Be prepared to stop behind vehicles that are required to stop at all crossings, such as school buses.

4.10 School Bus Stopping Laws

New Jersey has strict laws requiring motorists to stop for school buses with flashing red lights to protect children. The rules vary depending on the type of road.

- ✓ On a two-lane road or multi-lane highway without a median, motorists must stop at least 25 feet away from a school bus with flashing red lights.
- ✓ When traveling on a dual-lane highway, a motorist must slow to 10 mph if on the other side of a safety island or raised median.
- ✓ If a school bus is stopped directly in front of a school to pick up or let off children, a motorist may pass from either direction at a speed of no more than 10 mph.

4.11 Yielding to Emergency Vehicles

New Jersey law requires all motorists to yield to emergency vehicles when they are responding to a call with sirens and/or flashing lights. This action is critical to allow first responders to reach an emergency quickly and safely.

- ✓ A motorist must yield to emergency vehicles when they sound sirens and/or have flashing red or blue lights.
- ✓ When an emergency vehicle approaches, a motorist should steer to the extreme right of the roadway, stop, and wait for the vehicle to pass.

4.12 Safe Corridors and Double Fines

New Jersey designates certain high-crash-rate highways as 'Safe Corridors' to improve safety. On these designated highways, fines are doubled for various moving violations, including speeding and aggressive driving. Additionally, there are specific penalties for significantly exceeding the 65 mph speed limit.

- ✓ Fines are doubled on various state highways for speeding and aggressive driving in designated Safe Corridors.
- ✓ Motorists pay double fines for exceeding the 65 mph limit by 10 miles per hour or more.
- ✓ Double fines also apply to most other moving violations committed in a 65 mph zone.

4.13 Entering and Exiting Highways

Highways, parkways, and turnpikes have specific lanes for entering and exiting. Acceleration lanes are used to speed up to join traffic, while deceleration lanes are for slowing down to exit. It is illegal and dangerous to stop in these lanes or back up on an exit ramp.

- ✓ When entering a highway, use the acceleration lane to speed up to the flow of traffic and yield to traffic already on the main road.
- ✓ When leaving a highway, start slowing down when entering the deceleration lane.
- ✓ If you miss an exit, go on to the next one; never back up on an exit ramp or deceleration lane.

4.14 Rules for Frozen Dessert (Ice Cream) Trucks

When a frozen dessert truck is stopped with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, motorists must follow a specific procedure to ensure the safety of children who may be crossing the street.

- ✓ When approaching a frozen dessert truck with flashing red lights, you must stop first.
- ✓ After stopping, you may then drive past the truck at a speed of no more than 15 mph.
- ✓ You must yield the right-of-way to any person crossing the roadway to or from the truck.

CHAPTER 5

Chapter 5: Defensive Driving

5.1 Drowsy Driving and Maggie's Law

Driving while fatigued is extremely dangerous and can be as hazardous as drunk driving. New Jersey's "Maggie’ s Law," enacted in 2003, makes it illegal to knowingly operate a vehicle while impaired by lack of sleep. This law establishes driving while fatigued as recklessness under the vehicular homicide statute.

- ✓ Maggie’ s Law makes it illegal to knowingly drive a vehicle while impaired by lack of sleep.
- ✓ To avoid 'highway hypnosis' on long trips, rest every two hours and avoid looking at any one thing for more than a few seconds.

5.2 Safe Following Distance Rules

Maintaining a safe following distance is critical to prevent rear-end collisions. The manual provides two key methods: the 'one car length' rule and the 'three-seconds-plus' rule. The three-second rule is considered more practical as it works at any speed and should be increased in poor weather.

- ✓ The 'one car length' rule suggests keeping one car length (about 20 feet) of distance for each 10 mph of speed.
- ✓ The 'three-seconds-plus rule' is a method to ensure a safe following distance; this should be increased to four or more seconds during bad weather.

5.3 Following Distances in Poor Conditions

Standard following distances are for ideal conditions only. When driving on wet, gravel, snow, or ice-covered roads, you must significantly increase your following distance to account for longer stopping times. The manual provides specific minimums in car lengths for these situations.

- ✓ On wet pavement, the minimum following distance is double the ideal distance (e.g., 6 car lengths at 30 mph).
- ✓ On packed snow, the minimum following distance is triple the ideal distance (e.g., 9 car lengths at 30 mph).

5.4 Wet Roads and Hydroplaning

Driving on wet roads presents a significant danger of hydroplaning, where tires lose contact with the road and ride on a film of water. This can begin at speeds as low as 35 mph. At 55 mph, tires may lose all contact with the road surface, making braking and steering impossible.

- ✓ Hydroplaning can start at speeds of about 35 mph.
- ✓ To avoid hydroplaning, slow down when heavy rain or standing water is present and ensure tires are not bald or badly worn.

5.5 Winter Driving and Snow/Ice Removal

Winter driving requires special precautions. Under New Jersey law, a motorist is required to remove all snow and ice from their entire vehicle before driving. A motorist is legally responsible for any injury or property damage caused by ice flying from their vehicle.

- ✓ A motorist is responsible for any ice that flies from their vehicle and causes death, injury, or property damage.
- ✓ In New Jersey, studded snow tires are legally permitted for use between November 15 and April 1.

5.6 Night Driving and Headlight Use

Driving at night is more dangerous because visibility is limited. You should drive slowly enough to be able to stop within the distance you can see ahead with your headlights. A specific New Jersey law mandates headlight use in certain weather conditions.

- ✓ State law requires headlights to be on when windshield wipers are in use.
- ✓ At night, drive within the range of your vehicle's headlights, ensuring you can stop within the distance you see ahead.

5.7 Construction and Work Zone Safety

Work zones present unexpected dangers. To enhance safety, New Jersey has specific penalties for violations in these areas. Motorists must pay close attention to signs, flaggers, and posted speed limits, as workers and unexpected stops may be present.

- ✓ In New Jersey, traffic fines are doubled for motor vehicle violations committed in roadway construction zones.
- ✓ When driving through a work zone, do not tailgate, as unexpected stops or slowing may occur.

5.8 Standard Crash-Prevention Formula

The New Jersey Driver Manual outlines a standard crash-prevention formula to reduce the chances of a collision. This three-part formula emphasizes being constantly aware, anticipating potential hazards, and knowing how to react in time to avoid a crash. It is a core principle of defensive driving.

- ✓ Be alert: Never assume another motorist will not make a driving mistake.
- ✓ Be prepared: Know what to do in any situation where you have to act fast and always expect the unexpected.
- ✓ Act in time: Try not to panic and know what to do if something happens suddenly.

5.9 Aggressive Driving and Road Rage

Aggressive driving is defined as a series of unlawful driving actions, such as speeding, tailgating, or making erratic lane changes. Extreme cases can escalate to road rage, where motorists lose their temper. New Jersey has a dedicated campaign to stop aggressive driving, and motorists can report incidents.

- ✓ Aggressive driving includes actions like disregarding traffic signals, failing to yield, and following too closely.
- ✓ To report an aggressive motorist in New Jersey, call (888) SAF-ROAD or #77 from a cell phone.

5.10 Rules for Passing and Being Passed

When passing another vehicle, a motorist must ensure it is safe and legal. When another vehicle is passing you, New Jersey law requires you to be courteous and careful. You must stay in your lane and slow down to make the pass easier and safer for the other driver.

- ✓ When another vehicle is passing you, you must slow down to make the pass easier for the other motorist.
- ✓ After passing a vehicle, return to the right lane only when the vehicle you passed is visible in your rearview mirror.

5.11 New Jersey Vehicle Idling Law

To reduce air pollution, New Jersey law restricts vehicle idling. A motorist is prohibited from allowing their vehicle to idle for more than three consecutive minutes. There are exceptions, such as being stopped in traffic or for emergency vehicles.

- ✓ Motorists are prohibited from allowing their motor vehicle to idle for more than three consecutive minutes.
- ✓ Exceptions to the 3-minute idling rule include vehicles stopped in traffic, vehicles being repaired, and buses while picking up or discharging passengers.

5.12 Driving with Reduced Visibility

When visibility is reduced by conditions like fog, frost, or sun glare, drivers must adjust their driving. In fog, use low beams. On snow-covered roads, a following distance of six seconds or more is recommended. If visibility is severely reduced, pull over to a safe area and use emergency flashers.

- ✓ When driving in fog, headlights should be kept on low beam.
- ✓ On snow-covered roads, a good rule is to maintain a following distance of six seconds or more.

5.13 City Driving and Pedestrian Safety

City driving requires extra vigilance due to heavy traffic and pedestrians. A motorist should look at least 12 seconds ahead, which is about one block at 25 mph. It is critical to remember that pedestrians have the right-of-way in all crosswalks.

- ✓ In city driving, a motorist should look at least 12 seconds ahead.
- ✓ Motorists must always stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk, whether the crosswalk is marked or unmarked.

CHAPTER 6

Chapter 6: Drinking, Drugs, and Health

6.1 New Jersey Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Limits

In New Jersey, it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating substances. The legal BAC limit is determined by the driver's age. For drivers 21 years of age or older, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of 0.08% or higher. For individuals younger than 21, New Jersey has a zero-tolerance policy, making it illegal to drive with a BAC of 0.01% or higher.

- ✓ For a person 21 years or older, it is illegal to drive with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or higher.
- ✓ For a person under 21 years old, it is illegal to drive with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01% or higher.

6.2 Crash Risk Increase with Blood Alcohol Concentration

Driving with any amount of alcohol in your system increases the risk of a crash. The risk grows exponentially as your BAC increases. A driver's risk of causing a motor vehicle crash doubles with a BAC of 0.05%, becomes six times as great at 0.10%, and is 25 times as great at 0.15%.

- ✓ If a motorist has a BAC of 0.05%, the risk for causing a motor vehicle crash doubles.
- ✓ The risk of causing a crash is six times as great when driving with a BAC of 0.10%.
- ✓ The risk of causing a crash is 25 times as great when driving with a BAC of 0.15%.

6.3 New Jersey's Implied Consent Law and Breath Tests

Under New Jersey's Implied Consent Law, by operating a motor vehicle on NJ roadways, you have automatically agreed to submit to a breath test if suspected of drinking and driving. Refusing to take a breath test is illegal and has severe penalties, which are equivalent to a conviction for driving with a high BAC. These penalties include loss of driving privileges, fines, and installation of an ignition interlock device.

- ✓ Under state law, refusal to take a breath test is illegal and carries severe penalties.
- ✓ Penalties for refusing a breath test include loss of driving privileges, fines, referral to an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC), and an ignition interlock device.

6.4 Standard Alcoholic Drink Equivalency

It is important to understand that different types of alcoholic beverages can contain the same amount of alcohol. A standard drink is considered to be 1.5 ounces of 86-proof liquor, a 12-ounce bottle or can of beer, or a 5-ounce glass of wine. All of these drinks contain approximately a half-ounce of pure alcohol. Studies show that most people arrested for drinking and driving had been drinking beer.

- ✓ One 12-ounce can of beer has the same amount of alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of 86-proof whiskey.
- ✓ A 5-ounce glass of wine contains the same amount of alcohol as a 12-ounce bottle of beer.

6.5 The Only Method for Sobering Up

The only thing that can make a person sober is time. The body needs time to metabolize and eliminate alcohol. The majority (90%) of alcohol is oxidized by the liver, while the other 10% is eliminated through breath, urine, and sweat. So-called 'sober-up-quick' methods like drinking coffee or taking a cold shower do not work.

- ✓ The only thing that can make a person sober is time.
- ✓ The majority (90%) of alcohol is detoxified and oxidized by the liver.

6.6 Drugs and Driving Regulations in New Jersey

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle in New Jersey while under the influence of any illegal drug. For prescription drugs, labels that warn of drowsiness or dizziness indicate you should not drive after taking them. After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found with drivers involved in crashes. Marijuana use can affect a driver's tracking ability, distance judgment, and vigilance.

- ✓ It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on New Jersey roadways under the influence of any illegal drugs.
- ✓ After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found with drivers involved in crashes.

6.7 Factors Determining Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

A person's BAC is determined by four primary factors. These are the quantity of alcohol consumed, the person's body weight, how quickly the drinks were consumed (the time frame), and the amount of food eaten prior to or while drinking. While food can slow the absorption of alcohol, it will not prevent a high BAC or make a person sober.

- ✓ BAC is determined by four factors: quantity of alcohol consumed, body weight, how quickly drinks are consumed, and food eaten.
- ✓ The only thing that can make a person sober is time.

6.8 Host Liability for Drunk Driving Incidents

In New Jersey, if you serve alcohol at a party, you have a responsibility to ensure your guests' safety. Hosts may become involved in a lawsuit if a guest is involved in a drinking and driving crash after leaving the party. Good hosts should provide non-alcoholic options, serve food, and stop serving alcohol well before the party ends, and never let an intoxicated guest drive.

- ✓ Hosts may become involved in a lawsuit if a guest is involved in a drinking and driving crash after leaving their party.
- ✓ A good host should never insist that a guest drink an alcoholic beverage and should arrange safe transportation for intoxicated guests.

CHAPTER 7

Chapter 7: Driver Privileges and Penalties

7.1 Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Limits in NJ

New Jersey has a strict zero-tolerance policy for underage drinking and driving. For drivers under the age of 21, it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01% or higher. For drivers 21 years of age or older, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of 0.08% or higher.

- ✓ For drivers 21 or older, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of 0.08% or higher.
- ✓ For drivers under 21, it is illegal to drive with any detectable BAC, defined as 0.01% or higher.

7.2 Penalties for Underage Alcohol Offenses

Drivers under 21 face specific penalties for alcohol-related offenses. If an underage person is found with a BAC between 0.01% and 0.08%, they face a 30 to 90-day license suspension, 15 to 30 days of community service, and must participate in an alcohol education program. If an underage person buys or drinks alcohol in a licensed establishment, they may be fined $500 and lose their license for a period of time.

- ✓ An underage driver with a BAC of 0.01% to 0.08% faces a 30 to 90-day license suspension.
- ✓ If a person under 21 buys or drinks alcohol in a place with an alcoholic beverage license, they may be fined $500 and lose their license.

7.3 Penalties for First-Offense DUI (21+)

A first-time DUI conviction for a driver 21 or older carries significant mandatory penalties that vary by BAC level. For a BAC of 0.08% to less than 0.10%, the fine is $250-$400. For a BAC of 0.10% or more, the fine increases to $300-$500. All first-time offenders must participate in the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) program, pay a $1,000 annual surcharge for three years, and may face up to 30 days in jail.

- ✓ A first-offense DUI with a BAC between 0.08% and 0.10% carries a fine of $250 to $400.
- ✓ All first-time DUI offenders must participate in an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) program and pay a $1,000 annual surcharge for three years.

7.4 New Jersey's Implied Consent Law

By operating a motor vehicle on New Jersey roadways, you have automatically agreed to submit to a breath test given by law enforcement following an arrest for a DUI offense. This is known as the Implied Consent Law. Refusing to take the breath test is a serious offense with penalties equivalent to a high-BAC DUI conviction, including a violation surcharge of $1,000 per year for three years and license suspension until an ignition interlock device is installed.

- ✓ Motorists on NJ roadways have agreed to submit to a breath test if arrested for a DUI; this is the Implied Consent Law.
- ✓ Refusing a breath test results in a violation surcharge of $1,000 per year for three years.
- ✓ The penalties for refusing a breath test are equivalent to being convicted of a DUI with a high BAC.

7.5 Penalties for Driving While Suspended

Driving with a suspended license carries severe and escalating penalties. A first offense results in a $500 fine and up to six months of additional license suspension. A second offense includes a $750 fine and a jail sentence of up to five days. A third offense results in a $1,000 fine and a mandatory 10-day jail sentence.

- ✓ The penalty for a first offense of driving while suspended is a $500 fine and up to six months of additional license suspension.
- ✓ A third offense for driving while suspended includes a $1,000 fine and a mandatory 10-day jail sentence.

7.6 Driving as a Privilege and Habitual Offenders

In New Jersey, driving is considered a privilege, not a fundamental right. This means the state can suspend or revoke your driving privileges for various motor vehicle violations. A motorist who has their driver license suspended three times within a three-year period is classified as a habitual offender and faces more severe penalties.

- ✓ Driving in New Jersey is a privilege, not a right.
- ✓ A habitual offender is a motorist whose driver license has been suspended three times in three years.

7.7 Ignition Interlock Device Requirements

An ignition interlock device is a breathalyzer installed in a vehicle that prevents it from starting if the driver's BAC exceeds 0.05%. A motorist convicted of a DUI offense must have this device installed. For a first offense with a BAC of 0.15% or higher, or for refusing a breath test, the device must be installed during the suspension period and for 12 to 15 months after the license is restored.

- ✓ An ignition interlock device prevents a vehicle from starting if the motorist's BAC is 0.05% or higher.
- ✓ A first-time DUI offender with a BAC of 0.15% or higher must have an ignition interlock device installed during their suspension and for 12-15 months after their license is restored.

7.8 Enhanced Penalties for Driving While Suspended

Penalties for driving while suspended are significantly increased if the original suspension was for a DUI or if the driver causes an injury. Driving while suspended for a DUI results in a $500 fine, an additional 1-2 year suspension, and 10 to 90 days in jail. If a suspended driver is in a crash that causes injury to another person, they face a fine, continued suspension, and a potential minimum 45-day jail sentence.

- ✓ Driving while suspended for a DUI offense results in a $500 fine, an additional license suspension of one to two years, and a jail sentence of 10 to 90 days.
- ✓ If a driver with a suspended license is involved in a crash that causes injury, they face a potential minimum 45-day jail sentence.

7.9 Doubled Fines in Construction and 65 MPH Zones

To enhance safety, New Jersey doubles fines for certain moving violations in specific areas. Fines are doubled for violations like speeding, tailgating, or improper passing in designated highway construction zones. Fines are also doubled for speeding 10 mph or more over the posted limit in a 65 mph zone.

- ✓ Fines are doubled for moving violations committed in a highway construction zone.
- ✓ Fines are doubled for speeding 10 mph or more over the speed limit in a 65 mph zone.

7.10 Penalties for Hit-and-Run Violations

Leaving the scene of an accident (hit-and-run) that involves bodily injury or death is a very serious crime. A first offense results in a fine of $2,500 to $5,000, up to 180 days in jail, and a one-year license suspension. A subsequent conviction for a similar offense results in the permanent loss of driving privileges.

- ✓ A first-offense hit-and-run involving bodily injury or death results in a one-year license suspension.
- ✓ A second conviction for a hit-and-run involving injury or death results in the permanent loss of your driver's license.

7.11 Fraud on a License or Registration Application

Providing false information when applying for a driver's license or vehicle registration is illegal. The penalties include a fine of not less than $200 or more than $500, possible imprisonment for up to six months, and a mandatory suspension of driving privileges for six months to two years.

- ✓ Lying on a license or registration application can result in a fine of $200 to $500.
- ✓ A conviction for application fraud leads to a license suspension of six months to two years.

7.12 Carrying Alcoholic Beverages in a Vehicle

It is illegal for motorists to carry open or unsealed alcoholic beverage containers in the passenger areas of a motor vehicle. A first offense for this violation results in a $200 fine. A second or subsequent offense results in a $250 fine or 10 days of community service.

- ✓ Carrying an open or unsealed alcoholic beverage container in a vehicle is illegal.
- ✓ The fine for a first offense of carrying an open container of alcohol is $200.

CHAPTER 8

Chapter 8: Sharing the Road with Others

8.1 Pedestrian Right-of-Way and Safety Rules

In New Jersey, motorists must take special precautions for pedestrians, who have the right-of-way at all intersections, including unmarked crosswalks. It is illegal to block a crosswalk when stopped. When stopping for a pedestrian on a multi-lane road, you must stop approximately 30 feet before the crosswalk to avoid blocking the visibility of other motorists. Never pass a vehicle that is stopped for a pedestrian. Violating these laws carries significant penalties, including fines, points, and potential jail time, especially if a pedestrian suffers serious bodily injury.

- ✓ A motorist must stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk.
- ✓ A motorist must yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- ✓ Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk can result in a fine of up to $200, 2 points on your license, and possible community service.
- ✓ If a pedestrian suffers serious bodily injury from a motorist's violation, the penalties increase to a $100-$500 fine, up to 25 days in jail, and a license suspension of up to 6 months.

8.2 New Jersey's Safe Passing Law for Vulnerable Road Users

The Safe Passing Law requires motorists to exercise 'due caution' when approaching or passing vulnerable road users like pedestrians, bicyclists, and skateboarders. This means slowing down and giving them plenty of space. On a multi-lane road, you should move over a lane if possible. On a single-lane road, you must provide at least a 4-foot safety zone. If providing 4 feet of space is not possible, you must slow down to 25 mph and be prepared to stop until you can pass safely. Violating this law results in fines and points, especially if bodily injury occurs.

- ✓ When passing a vulnerable road user on a single-lane road, you must allow at least a 4-foot safety zone.
- ✓ If a 4-foot passing distance is not possible, the motorist must slow their speed to 25 mph and be prepared to stop.
- ✓ Violating the Safe Passing Law results in a $100 fine if no injury occurs.
- ✓ If bodily injury occurs due to a violation of the Safe Passing Law, the penalty is a $500 fine and 2 motor vehicle penalty points.

8.3 Understanding Truck No-Zones (Blind Spots)

When sharing the road with large vehicles like trucks, tractor-trailers, and buses, it is crucial to be aware of their 'no-zones' or blind spots. These are areas around the vehicle where the driver cannot see you in their mirrors. The four main no-zones are directly in front, directly behind, and on both sides of the vehicle. During bad weather, a truck can take as much as 25 percent longer to stop. Always leave extra space when stopping behind a truck, especially on an incline, as it may roll backward slightly when starting.

- ✓ If you cannot see the truck driver's face in their side-view mirror, you are in their no-zone (blind spot).
- ✓ During bad weather, a truck or bus can take as much as 25% longer to stop.
- ✓ Never tailgate or remain sandwiched between large trucks.
- ✓ When passing a truck, do not pull in front of it until the entire front of the truck is visible in your rearview mirror.

8.4 Railroad Crossing Safety Procedures

Trains always have the right-of-way and cannot stop quickly; a freight train at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop. Never try to race a train to a crossing. If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, exit immediately, move quickly away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle in the direction the train is coming from, and call for help. Do not pass other vehicles within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.

- ✓ You must not pass other vehicles within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
- ✓ A freight train traveling at 55 mph can take a mile or more to stop.
- ✓ If your vehicle stalls on railroad tracks, get out immediately and move at a 45-degree angle away from the tracks in the direction the train is coming from.
- ✓ Never stop on railroad tracks; only proceed through a crossing if there is enough room on the other side for your vehicle.

8.5 Yielding to Buses Re-entering Traffic

New Jersey state law mandates that all non-emergency vehicles must yield the right-of-way to buses that are signaling to re-enter the flow of traffic after picking up or dropping off passengers. This law is intended to improve roadway safety. However, once the bus is already back in the normal flow of traffic, motorists are not required to yield to it when it is changing lanes.

- ✓ Motorists must yield the right-of-way to buses re-entering traffic after a stop.
- ✓ Violations of the bus yield law carry a fine of not less than $50 or more than $200, up to 15 days in jail, or both.
- ✓ This law does not apply to buses that are already in the flow of traffic and are simply changing lanes.

8.6 Right-of-Way for Visually Challenged Persons

New Jersey law is very specific about the right-of-way for visually challenged individuals. A motorist must stop and yield the right-of-way when a person using a white or metallic cane, or a person accompanied by a guide dog, is crossing any highway or intersection. All motorists must comply with this law to ensure the safety of these pedestrians.

- ✓ A motorist must stop for a blind person using a white or metallic cane.
- ✓ A motorist must stop for a blind person accompanied by a guide dog or a guide dog instructor.
- ✓ This rule applies when the person is crossing any highway or intersection.

8.7 Sharing the Road with Horse-Drawn Vehicles

Horse-drawn vehicles and horseback riders have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles on public roads. Motorists must exercise caution when approaching or passing them. The law requires specific actions to avoid startling the horse and causing an accident.

- ✓ When approaching or passing a horse-drawn vehicle or horseback rider, a motorist must reduce their speed to 25 mph or less.
- ✓ If the person riding or driving the horse signals by hand, the motorist must stop their vehicle and remain stationary until the horse has passed.
- ✓ Horse-drawn vehicles must display a light on the front 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise.

8.8 Interacting with Bicyclists and Skaters

Under New Jersey law, bicyclists, skateboarders, and inline skaters have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles. Motorists must be vigilant, especially when turning. When making a right turn, check for and yield to these road users. When turning left, yield to oncoming cyclists and wait for any cyclist in front of you to complete their turn before you proceed.

- ✓ Bicyclists, skateboarders, and inline skaters have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles.
- ✓ When turning right, a motorist must yield to bicyclists, skateboarders, or inline skaters moving through an intersection.
- ✓ Always check blind spots before turning, parking, or opening a door to avoid endangering a cyclist or skater.

8.9 General Rules for Sharing the Road with Motorcycles

The most common cause of motorcycle crashes is a motorist's failure to see them. Always be alert, check blind spots twice before changing lanes or turning, and never follow a motorcycle too closely, as they can brake in shorter distances than cars. When a motorcycle passes you, maintain your speed and position to allow them to complete the pass safely.

- ✓ Never follow a motorcycle too closely.
- ✓ Check blind spots twice before changing lanes or making turns, as motorcycles are small and can be easily hidden.
- ✓ The most common cause of motorcycle crashes is a motorist's failure to detect and recognize them in traffic.

CHAPTER 9

Chapter 9: Vehicle Information

9.1 Proper Display and Handling of NJ License Plates

New Jersey requires passenger vehicles to have two license plates, one on the front and one on the rear, mounted between 12 and 48 inches from the ground. The rear plate must be lit so it is visible from 50 feet at night. Using plate holders that obscure any lettering is a violation. Misusing plates carries severe penalties.

- ✓ Passenger vehicles must display two matching license plates, one on the front and one on the rear.
- ✓ The rear license plate must be illuminated so it is visible from 50 feet at night.
- ✓ Using license plate covers or holders that obscure or conceal any lettering is a violation with a fine of up to $100.
- ✓ Forged or counterfeit license plates may result in a fine up to $500, up to 60 days imprisonment, or a license suspension of up to six months.

9.2 New Jersey Vehicle Inspection Rules and Timeline

Most gasoline-fueled passenger vehicles in New Jersey must be inspected every two years, starting after they are five model years old. New vehicles receive a sticker valid for five years. When moving to NJ, you must get your vehicle inspected within 14 days of registration if it is more than five model years old. You must present a valid driver license, registration, and insurance card at the inspection.

- ✓ Gasoline-fueled passenger vehicles, model year 1996 and newer, that are more than five model years old must pass state inspections every two years.
- ✓ New passenger vehicles are issued a new car dealer sticker and are exempt from inspection for five years.
- ✓ When moving to New Jersey from another state, a motorist must have their vehicle inspected within 14 days after registering it (if it is five model years or older).
- ✓ A valid driver license, New Jersey registration, and insurance documents must be presented for a vehicle inspection.

9.3 Mandatory Motor Vehicle Insurance in New Jersey

Motor vehicle liability insurance is mandatory for every vehicle registered in New Jersey. A New Jersey Insurance Identification Card, which can be in paper or electronic format, must be kept in the vehicle and shown during inspections, after a crash, or when stopped by law enforcement. Driving an uninsured vehicle can lead to significant penalties, including fines, community service, and suspension of your license and registration.

- ✓ Motor vehicle liability insurance is mandatory in the State of New Jersey for every registered vehicle.
- ✓ An Insurance Identification Card, in either paper or electronic form, must be kept in the vehicle at all times.
- ✓ Failure to maintain liability insurance can result in fines, community service, license and registration suspension, and violation surcharges.

9.4 New Jersey Vehicle Registration Requirements

In New Jersey, all new or used vehicles must be titled, registered, and insured before being driven on public roads. If you move to New Jersey, you have 60 days to title and register your vehicle, or sooner if your out-of-state registration expires. The initial registration for a brand-new vehicle is valid for four years, while most subsequent registrations are valid for one year.

- ✓ A motorist moving into New Jersey must title and register their vehicle within 60 days.
- ✓ An initial registration for a brand-new vehicle is valid for four years.
- ✓ Most vehicle registrations, after the initial one for a new car, are valid for one year.

9.5 When to Surrender License Plates to the MVC

A motorist must surrender their old license plates to the MVC in specific situations, such as when selling a vehicle without transferring the plates or when terminating insurance coverage. This prevents fraudulent use and ensures compliance with state law.

- ✓ If a motorist sells their vehicle and does not transfer the plates to another vehicle, they must surrender the old plates to an MVC agency.
- ✓ If a motorist terminates vehicle insurance, the plates must be returned to the MVC.

9.6 New Jersey Motorcycle Helmet Law

The law in New Jersey requires all individuals operating or riding on a motorcycle to wear a helmet. The helmet must be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and be securely fastened. This rule applies to all riders, regardless of age or experience, to prevent head injuries.

- ✓ Helmets are required by law for motorcycle operators and passengers in New Jersey.
- ✓ Helmets must meet U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

9.7 Penalties for Committing Insurance Fraud

Providing false information to an insurance company during a claim or on an application is a criminal offense in New Jersey. The Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) can file criminal charges that may lead to incarceration, impose heavy civil fines, and cause the loss of your driver license.

- ✓ Committing insurance fraud by providing false information can lead to criminal charges and incarceration.
- ✓ Civil fines for insurance fraud can be up to $15,000 for each violation.
- ✓ A person convicted of insurance fraud could lose his/her driver license.

CHAPTER 10

Chapter 10: Traffic Signals

10.1 Understanding Traffic Light Color Meanings

Explains the required actions for each standard traffic light color. A solid red light requires a complete stop before the crosswalk or intersection. A yellow light is a warning that the signal is about to turn red, and you must stop if it is safe to do so. A green light means you may proceed, but only after yielding to any pedestrians or vehicles already in the intersection.

- ✓ At a solid red light, a motorist must stop before the intersection or crosswalk and remain stopped until the light changes to green.
- ✓ For a solid green light, you must yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in the intersection before proceeding, and yield to approaching vehicles when making a left turn.

10.2 Responding to Special and Unlit Traffic Signals

Covers driver responsibilities for non-standard traffic signals. A flashing red light is treated the same as a stop sign. A flashing yellow light means to slow down and proceed with caution. A green arrow allows you to proceed in the direction of the arrow after yielding to pedestrians. An unlit traffic signal must be treated as a four-way stop.

- ✓ A flashing red light has the same meaning as a stop sign: stop, yield to traffic and pedestrians, and proceed only when safe.
- ✓ An unlit traffic signal, where no bulbs are working, should be treated as a four-way stop sign.

10.3 Identifying Traffic Signs by Shape and Color

In New Jersey, the shape and color of a traffic sign communicate its meaning. An octagon is exclusively for stop signs. A triangle is for yield signs. A pentagon warns of a school zone, and a round yellow sign provides an advance warning of a railroad crossing. Diamond-shaped signs are used for warnings, with yellow for general hazards and orange for construction zones.

- ✓ An eight-sided, red sign is a STOP sign.
- ✓ A five-sided, yellow sign indicates a school zone.
- ✓ A round, yellow sign is a railroad crossing advance warning sign.

10.4 Navigating New Jersey Construction Zones

Road work zones are indicated by orange, diamond-shaped signs. These zones may have lane shifts, flaggers, and reduced speed limits. Motorists must stay alert and be prepared to slow down or stop. Flaggers have the same authority as a regulatory sign. In New Jersey, all traffic fines are doubled in designated work zones.

- ✓ In New Jersey, all traffic fines are doubled in work zones.
- ✓ Motorists must obey the directions of flaggers in a work zone, as they have the same authority as a regulatory sign.

10.5 Understanding Pavement Markings and Lane Control

Pavement markings regulate traffic flow and passing. Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions, while white lines separate traffic moving in the same direction. A solid line on your side of the road means you may not pass. A dashed line on your side means passing is permitted when safe.

- ✓ A solid yellow line on the motorist's side of the center line means 'do not pass'.
- ✓ A dashed line on a motorist's side of the center line means that passing is permitted when safe.
- ✓ Double yellow and white solid lines prohibit passing.

10.6 Recognizing Key Regulatory Traffic Signs

Regulatory signs control the movement of traffic. The most common are the STOP sign (red octagon), the YIELD sign (red and white inverted triangle), and the DO NOT ENTER sign (white square with a red circle). The railroad crossing sign (white X-shaped crossbuck) is also a regulatory sign and has the same meaning as a Yield sign.

- ✓ A YIELD sign is an inverted triangle and requires you to slow down or stop to give the right-of-way to other traffic.
- ✓ A railroad crossing crossbuck sign (white X) has the same meaning as a Yield sign; you must yield to trains.

10.7 Interpreting Special Pavement Markings

Special markings on the pavement provide additional warnings and information. White stop lines show where to stop at an intersection. White crosswalks indicate pedestrian crossing areas. White diamonds painted on the pavement indicate a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane, reserved for vehicles with multiple riders.

- ✓ White diamonds painted on the pavement indicate a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane.
- ✓ At an intersection where a stop line is missing, you must stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by a sign or signal.

10.8 Sharing the Road with Slow-Moving Vehicles

Certain vehicles, like farm and construction equipment, travel at much lower speeds than other traffic. These vehicles are required to display a fluorescent and reflective orange triangular sign on their rear. Motorists should be prepared to slow down when approaching a vehicle with this sign.

- ✓ A fluorescent and reflective orange triangular sign on the back of a vehicle indicates it is a slow-moving vehicle.
- ✓ When you see a slow-moving vehicle sign, you must slow down and be prepared to adjust your speed accordingly.

10.9 Rules for Driving in a Roundabout

A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection where traffic flows around a center island. Traffic entering the roundabout must yield to traffic already circulating. All turns into and out of the roundabout are right turns, which helps to reduce severe crashes. Motorists should slow down upon approach and follow signs and pavement markings to navigate to their exit.

- ✓ Traffic flows in one direction (counter-clockwise) around a center island in a roundabout.
- ✓ Motorists entering a roundabout must yield to traffic already circulating within it.

10.10 Understanding Pedestrian Signals and Motorist Duties

Pedestrian signals direct when it is safe to cross. A white, steady pedestrian silhouette or a countdown timer means pedestrians may cross. An orange, steady raised-palm symbol means they should not start crossing. New Jersey law requires turning motorists to yield to pedestrians crossing on a 'walk' signal and to any pedestrian in a crosswalk.

- ✓ An orange, steady raised-palm symbol means pedestrians must not leave the sidewalk to enter the roadway.
- ✓ New Jersey law requires turning motorists to yield to pedestrians who are crossing on the 'white, steady pedestrian silhouette' signal.