

GLOSSARY

AIR BAGS — Supplemental restraint systems that are standard equipment in many newer vehicles, to protect vehicle occupants during collisions. Designed to be used with seat belts.

ANTI-LOCK BRAKING SYSTEM (ABS) — Allows the driver to stop without brake lockup. Standard equipment in many newer vehicles. Designed to be used by applying steady pressure on the brake pedal.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) — Any motor vehicle designed to travel over any terrain, of a type possessing three to six rubber tires, and powered by a gasoline engine not exceeding 600 cubic centimeters and is used exclusively for off-highway use.

BICYCLE — Any vehicle having two tandem wheels, propelled solely by human power, upon which any person may ride (except scooters and similar devices).

BLIND SPOT — The areas at the left and right corner of the car that the driver can not see in the rearview mirrors.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC) — The percent (%) of alcohol in a person's blood. In Missouri it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle when the BAC is 0.08% or more for a person who is age 21 or over; and 0.020% or more for a person who is under age 21.

BYPASS — A road used for going around or passing an area.

CONTROLLED INTERSECTION — An intersection where traffic is regulated by traffic signs or signal lights.

DAYTIME RUNNING LAMPS — Upper beam headlights that go on automatically when the vehicle is running. This is a feature of many newer vehicles.

DECELERATION LANE — An extra driving lane on the side of a high-speed highway to permit vehicles to slow down before exiting.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING — Being careful to prevent accidents, in spite of incorrect actions of others or bad driving conditions.

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM — A required course of study for certain drivers who have shown cause that their driving skills are not acceptable. The course must meet or exceed the standards of the National Safety Council's eight-hour "Defensive Driving Course".

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) — Driving when your senses and judgment are impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

ENDORSEMENT — A code used on a driver license or permit, to show that you are also qualified to operate other types of vehicles (such as a motorcycle). Two examples of commercial driver license endorsements are P (passenger vehicle) and H (hazardous materials).

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY — A driver's (or car owner's) ability to pay for damage caused by an accident when he or she is at fault. It is usually in the form of liability insurance.

FREEWAY — A high-speed divided highway without intersections.

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE — A step-by-step licensing process for all new driver license applicants under the age of 21.

HIGHWAY — Any publicly-maintained roadway that is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

HYDROPLANING — A driving condition where the tires lose traction on a wet road, and float on a layer of water or slush.

IMPAIRMENT — Physical and/or mental condition that can reduce the ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

IMPLIED CONSENT — Under this law, a driver (by driving), automatically agrees to take a test to measure blood alcohol concentration when stopped (under 21 years old), under arrest (age 21 and over), and suspected of driving under the influence.

INTERCHANGE — The junction of two or more highways where turnoffs allow you to join or cross traffic.

INTERSTATE SYSTEM — A national network of over 41,000 miles of limited access highways set by Congress.

INTOXICATION — The state of a person who has consumed too much alcohol.

MANDATORY SENTENCES — These are penalties set by law for certain driving offenses and, if convicted, the penalties must be carried out.

MEDIAN — A strip of land separating traffic going in opposite directions.

MERGING TRAFFIC — Traffic from two separate lanes combining into one.

NO ZONE — Blind spots or danger areas, particularly around large trucks, where crashes may occur.

PEDESTRIAN — Any person on foot.

PRIVILEGE — A benefit. A driver license is a privilege, and not a basic right granted by law.

REACTION DISTANCE — The distance a car travels before the driver can take corrective action to a perceived danger.

REINSTATEMENT — The return of driving privilege after it has been suspended/revoked/denied, after all reinstatement requirements are met by the driver.

RESTRICTION — A special need that must be met in order to drive legally. Restrictions are marked on the driver license. For example, if you must wear corrective lenses to pass the vision test, then you must also wear them while driving. Your license will have an “A” restriction (for corrective lenses).

RIGHT OF WAY — The privilege of the immediate use of the highway. Pedestrians always have the right of way. At uncontrolled intersections, the vehicle to the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle approaching from the right.

SATOP — Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Program.

SHOULDER — The portion of the highway for emergency use, but not intended for travel.

TAILGATING — Following another vehicle too closely.

UTILITY VEHICLE — Any motor vehicle designed primarily for landscaping, lawn care, or maintenance which is sixty-three inches or less in width, traveling on four or six wheels and is used exclusively for off-highway use.

VIOLATION — A failure to obey driving rules and regulations.

***IF YOU AREN'T SURE YOU
UNDERSTAND A TRAFFIC LAW,
ASK A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER!***