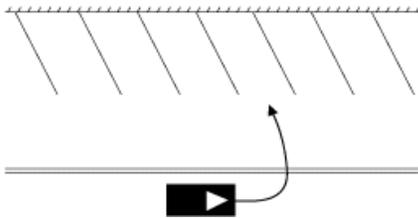


# TRAFFIC SAFETY

## WHAT DO DOUBLE YELLOW LINES MEAN?

Most drivers know that they are not permitted to cross or drive on the left side of double yellow center lines except to turn left at an intersection, to turn into or out of a private driveway/public street, or to make a legal U-turn. Drivers need to be especially aware that U-turns are not permitted on streets in business districts except at intersections and in openings on roadways divided by medians. Making a partial U-turn to enter an angled parking space on the other side of the street, as shown in the diagram below, is also not considered a safe maneuver:



Most drivers are also not aware that it is always illegal to cross double yellow center lines. These types of center lines cannot be crossed for any reason during normal traffic flow conditions.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN A TRAFFIC SIGNAL IS DARK AND NOT OPERATING?

The California Vehicle Code requires a driver to treat an inoperable traffic signal as an all-way stop. If the signal is operating, but you notice a malfunction such as a light bulb burned out or some other problem, please contact the City's traffic signal maintenance staff immediately at (760) 777 7070 and give exact location of the signal light(s).

If you need to report a traffic light malfunction after hours or on a weekend, you may also call Police Department Dispatch at (760) 836-3215, #5.

## CAN I USE MY GOLF CART ON CITY STREET?

A "golf cart" must be a motor vehicle having not less than three wheels having an unladen weight less than 1,300 pounds, which is designed to be operated at not more than 15 miles per hour and designed to carry golf equipment and not more than two persons, including the driver.

Except as provided in Section 21115.1 and Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1950) of Division 2.5 of the Streets and Highways Code, no person shall

operate a golf cart on any highway except in a speed zone of 25 miles per hour or less.

The La Quinta Municipal Code provides additional information in the following sections:

LQMC 12.69.040: Minimum safety criteria for operation of golf cart

LQMC 12.69.050: Golf cart permit process

LQMC 12.69.060: Golf cart routes

## WHAT DOES THE ANTI-GRIDLOCK LAW MEAN?

A driver is not permitted to enter an intersection or crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection to exit the intersection or crosswalk. Drivers must completely vacate both of these areas to allow through passage of cross traffic and pedestrians.

## CAN CITIZENS INSTALL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?

The California Vehicle Code only authorizes municipal agencies, such as the City, to install signs in the public right-of-way. Therefore, no signs can be installed in the public right-of-way without a permit from the City. Such permits are normally only issued to contractors who are performing work in the right-of-way

and need detour signs to advise drivers about street construction for traffic safety reasons.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF COLLISIONS?

- 1. Right-of-Way Violations:** Drivers who select too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy major street from a side street or driveway are frequently involved in severe broadside collisions. It is important to always wait until there is a sufficient gap in traffic when entering a busy street from a side street or driveway. It is also important to yield to oncoming traffic when turning left by selecting a safe gap in oncoming traffic before beginning a left turn.
- 2. Unsafe Speeds:** Drivers who follow vehicles ahead of them too closely cause rear-end accidents. Drivers should maintain at least a 3-second gap between their vehicles and the vehicles ahead of them in order to avoid rear-end collisions. Drivers traveling too fast for the prevailing conditions are a major factor in causing rear-end type collisions at all times.

- 3. Stop Sign and Traffic Signal Violations:** Drivers running red lights frequently cause severe broadside accidents. Drivers should never enter signalized intersections on the red light. They may enter on the green light once vehicles lawfully in the intersection have cleared. Drivers must always come to a complete stop at all stop signs.
- 4. Improper Turning Movements:** Right turns should begin and end in the farthest right lane. Left turns should begin in the farthest left hand lane or turn pocket and end in any lane lawfully available to them. Side swipes are also caused by drivers changing lanes abruptly. Drivers should always look over their shoulders and signal whenever changing lanes to make sure that adjacent travel lanes are clear of traffic

### REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic issues, please call the Public Works Department at

## TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS