

Get to your destination safely...



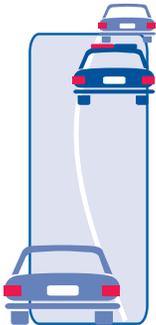
Make sure all occupants are buckled up at all times. Children under the age of 8 must be in an approved child safety seat.



Don't drink and drive. More than 40% of all fatal crashes are alcohol related. If you drink, use a designated driver.



Obey posted speed limits. Speeding tickets are expensive and may increase your insurance rates.



If you see a law enforcement or emergency services vehicle on the shoulder with its lights flashing, move over a lane on a multiple-lane road (if you can safely do so) or slow down to provide a "safe zone" that protects the officer or emergency services worker. On a 2-lane road, slow down to provide a "safe zone."



Minimize distractions when you're behind the wheel. Cellular phones and other devices make it hard to concentrate on driving.



The goal of the State Patrol is to improve highway safety through education, voluntary compliance and enforcement.

Our mission

To promote highway and public safety and to enhance the quality of life for all Wisconsin citizens and visitors by providing and supporting professional, competent and compassionate law enforcement services.

Our vision

People serving people with dignity and respect... enhancing a quality highway safety environment.

The Wisconsin State Patrol is a division of the Department of Transportation.

If you were stopped by the State Patrol and would like to comment on the stop, please contact the State Patrol region commander as listed on the following Web address:
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/about/locate/sp/offices.htm



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WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

Guidelines for motorists who are stopped by the State Patrol



Your rights and responsibilities



Frequently asked questions

State Patrol officers are highly skilled professionals who are trained to treat all motorists with respect and courtesy even under difficult and dangerous conditions.

Please remember that if you are cooperative and calm, a traffic stop will be less stressful and time consuming for you.

Here are some frequently asked questions about traffic stop procedures:

Q *Why do officers shine their lights into the car when stopping someone at night?*

A As a safety precaution at night, officers need to see what is inside the car.

Q *Why do officers sit in the cars for so long?*

A Using advanced communications technology, officers can check your driving status and vehicle registration directly from their patrol cars. However, there may be unavoidable delays in transmission. Officers also must complete information regarding the traffic stop, which takes time. Please be patient.

Q *Why do other officers show up if I've been stopped only for a traffic violation?*

A Officers may back each other up (even when they are not requested) as an added safety procedure and as a courtesy to fellow officers.

Q *Are officers required by law to show me the reading on a radar or laser device?*

A No. In many cases, the officer does not lock in the radar or laser reading when identifying the vehicle and tracking its speed.

Q *Why are most State Patrol cars outfitted with video cameras?*

A Video cameras are a great tool to accurately and impartially record what happens during traffic stops and other enforcement events including the actions of the officers.

Q *Do State Patrol officers have a quota for issuing citations?*

A State Patrol officers absolutely do not have a quota for issuing citations. Furthermore, the State Patrol does not receive revenue from traffic citations. Most of the revenue generated by traffic citations goes to the county where the citation was issued and the state's common school fund. Other citation assessments and fees help finance various state and county court and legal functions.

Q *I received a traffic citation, and I wish to contest it. What should I do?*

A You should follow the instructions listed on the citation. The State Patrol cannot reduce the forfeiture amount, lower the demerit points assessed, or dismiss the citation once it has been issued.

Law enforcement profiling

“Profiling” by law enforcement officers means stopping motorists based on their race, color or ethnicity instead of any observed violation of the law. The Wisconsin State Patrol does not tolerate racial profiling. It is against the law.

Through effective selection, education and training of its officers, the State Patrol has earned the trust of the citizens we serve regardless of their race, color or ethnicity. To maintain our high standards of fairness and professionalism, the State Patrol is vigilant in preventing any form of racial profiling.

If you sincerely believe that you have been treated unfairly by a State Patrol officer because of your race, color or ethnicity:

- You may contact the State Patrol regional offices as listed on the following Web address: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/about/locate/sp/offices.htm
- Please contact the regional office as soon as possible after the stop.
- You should retain any documents you have been issued and give a detailed statement of your concerns to the regional office.

Please remember that Sections 66.0511(3) and 946.66, Wisconsin Statutes, require that law enforcement agency written procedures for addressing complaints made against law enforcement officers must include conspicuous notification that: (1) it is illegal to knowingly make a false complaint regarding the conduct of a law enforcement officer, and (2) the penalty for knowingly making a false complaint against a law enforcement officer is a class A forfeiture (a forfeiture not exceeding \$10,000, section 939.52, Wisconsin Statutes).