

# Get to your destination safely...



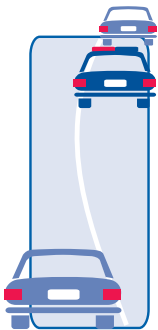
Make sure all occupants are buckled up at all times. Children under the age of 8 must be in an approved child safety seat.



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 provide exceptional public safety services.*

## Our vision

*Strive for excellence in all we do to be the premier public safety agency in the nation.*

## Our values

<i>Honor</i>	<i>Character</i>
<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Innovation</i>
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Compassion</i>
<i>Professionalism</i>	<i>Diversity</i>

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

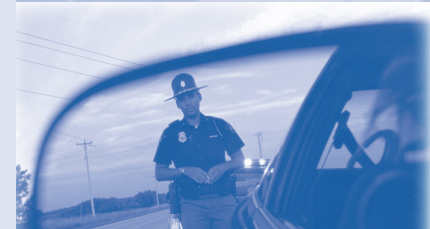
If you were stopped by the State Patrol and would like to comment on the stop, please contact the State Patrol region commander as listed on the following website:  
<http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/who-we-are/dsp/loc-contact.aspx>



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## WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

# Guidelines for motorists who are stopped by the State Patrol



## Your rights and responsibilities

# What to do when stopped by law enforcement

## General guidelines for motorists

Getting pulled over by a law enforcement officer can be a difficult experience. Following some simple guidelines will enhance safety for motorists and law enforcement, and in many cases, will get you back on your way as soon as possible. Things for drivers and passengers to keep in mind:

- State law (§346.19) requires you to pull over immediately when you observe emergency lights approaching from either direction. Move out of the lane of traffic and stop as near as possible on the right-hand shoulder of the roadway. Do not continue traveling to a location you believe is more suitable to stop; a police officer may be responding to another incident (crash, robbery, medical emergency, etc.) and drivers who remain in the traffic lane can inhibit law enforcement from assisting those in need.
- When stopped by a police officer, try to stay calm. Remember, the top priority for law enforcement is the safety and well-being of the travelling public. Law enforcement officers are trained to consider the totality of a situation before making any enforcement-related decisions.
- Place your vehicle in park. Turn off the ignition and put the keys on the dashboard in front of you.
- Do not exit the vehicle (unless asked to do so). At night or during low-light conditions, turn on your vehicle's interior dome light. Also, the officer will likely shine a bright light into your vehicle. This is to keep you and the officer safe.
- Place your hands in plain sight, preferably on top of the steering wheel. Keep movements to a minimum. Refrain from reaching into your clothing, purse, glove box, console, etc. to locate your license, registration or insurance cards. Wait for the officer to request such items.
- When the officer arrives at your window (this could be the driver or passenger side), comply with any orders. Provide clear and concise answers to the officer's questions.
- Be polite and patient. The officer may need time to verify your identification, etc. If you are given a citation, don't argue. You will have an opportunity before a judge or court to express any concerns.
- Always merge carefully when entering a highway.

### Other frequently asked questions

**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** 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.

## 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 website: <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/who-we-are/dsp/loc-contact.aspx>
- 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).*