

way, the road reflectors will shine red in your headlights.

If a sign has a *red circle with a red line* through it, it always means NO.



The picture inside the circle shows what you cannot do. The sign may be shown with or without words.

Circular signs mean you are approaching a railroad crossing.



Five-sided signs mean you are near a school.



Four-sided diamond-shaped signs warn you of specific road conditions and dangers ahead. Many warning signs are diamond-shaped. Obey all warning signs regardless of their shape.

White rectangular signs mean you must obey important rules.

See pages 81 and 82 for additional examples.

SPEED LIMITS

California has a “Basic Speed Law.” This law means you may never drive faster than is safe for current conditions. For example, if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph speed zone during a dense fog, you could be cited for driving “too fast for conditions.” You may never legally drive faster than the posted speed limit, even if you think it is safe to do so.

Regardless of the posted speed limit, your speed should depend on:

- The number and speed of other vehicles on the road.
- Whether the road surface is smooth, rough, graveled, wet, dry, wide, or narrow.
- Bicyclists or pedestrians walking on the road’s edge.
- Whether it is raining, foggy, snowing, windy, or dusty.

MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT

The maximum speed limit on most California highways is 65 mph. You may drive 70 mph where posted. Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit is 55 mph on two-lane undivided highways and for vehicles towing trailers.

Other speed limit signs are posted for the type of roads and traffic in each area. All speed limits are based on ideal driving conditions. Construction zones usually have reduced speed zones.

Driving faster than the posted speed limit, or than is safe for current conditions, on any road is dangerous and illegal. High speed increases your stopping distance. The faster you go, the less time you have to avoid a hazard or accident. The force of a 60 mph crash isn’t just twice as great as a 30 mph crash, it’s four times as great!