Crack the Code:
The NJ MVC Signs & Signals Guide.



50 questions stand between you and your license.
Don’t memorize 1,000 signs. Learn **the secret language of the road.**

The Master Key

Signs, signals, and road markings are the language of the road.



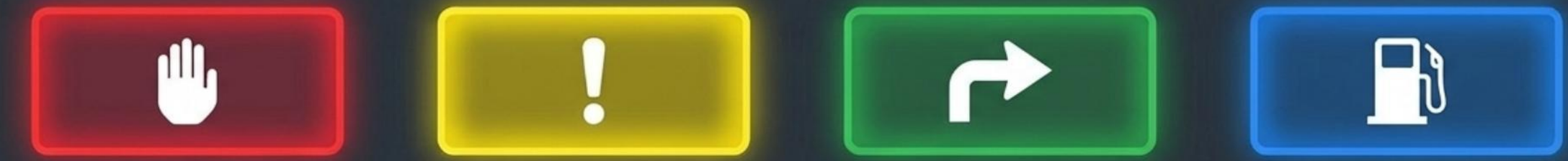
[Shapes]

They are built from a simple code of [Colors] + [Shapes].

[Colors]

Learn the code, and you can read almost any sign at a glance—even one you've never seen before.

The Color Code



[Red] = STOP / YIELD

[Yellow] = WARNING

[Green] = GUIDANCE

[Blue] = SERVICES



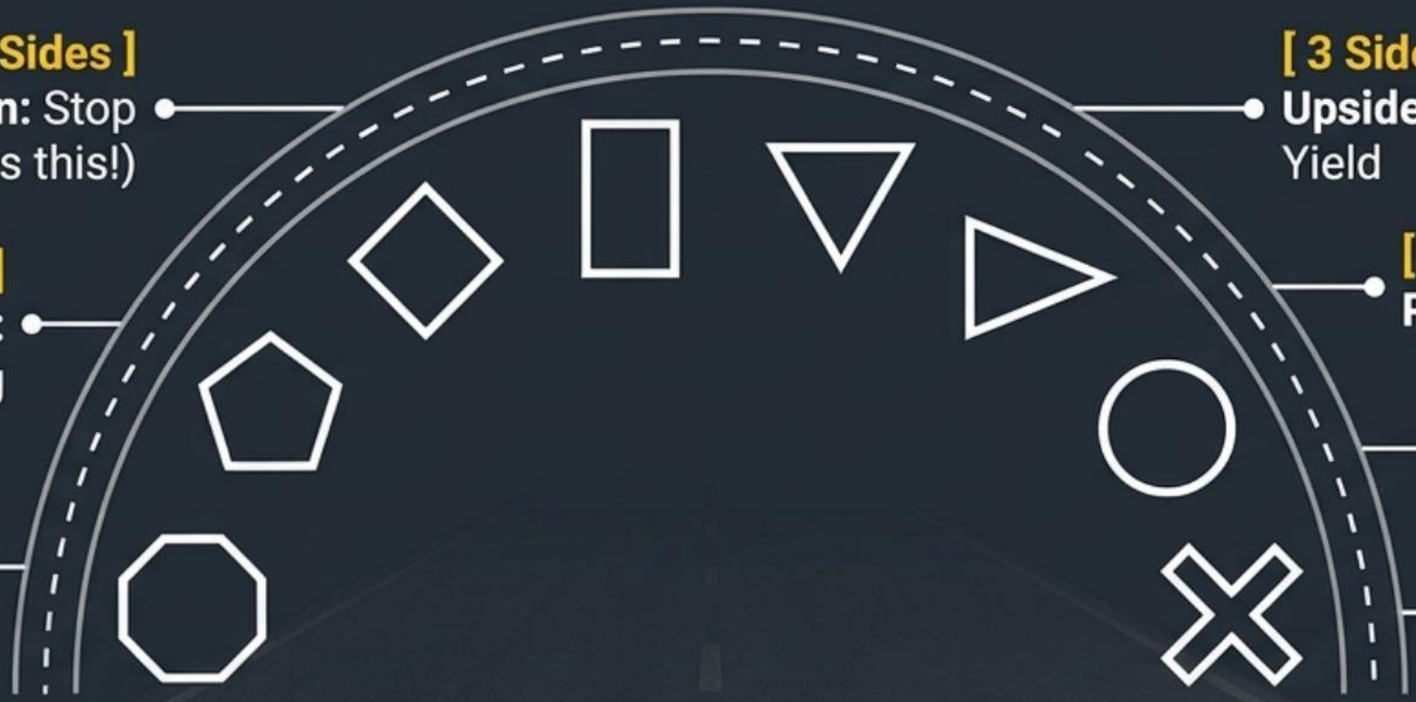
[Orange] = WORKERS

[Brown] = RECREATION

[White] = REGULATION

Memory Aid: Red stops you. Yellow warns you. Green guides you. Blue serves you. Orange means workers.

The Shape Decoder



[8 Sides]
Octagon: Stop
(Only stop uses this!)

[5 Sides]
Pentagon:
School zone/crossing

[4 Sides]
Diamond:
Hazard Warning

[3 Sides]
Upside-Down Triangle:
Yield

[3 Sides]
Pennant: No-passing zone

[0 Sides]
Circle: Railroad crossing ahead

[X Shape]
Crossbuck: Railroad crossing itself

Test Trap: The 8-sided Octagon is highly tested because it is unique—you must be able to recognize it even covered in heavy snow.

Regulatory Signs: The Law on a Stick











Speed Limits: Maximum speed for good conditions (not a target).

Do Not Enter / Keep Right: Directional laws (stop and turn around if facing you).

Slow-Moving Vehicle: Orange triangle, red border = catching up to <25 mph traffic.



The Jughandle Rule! A red slash over a left arrow means No Left Turn. In NJ, direct left turns are often banned; you must use right-side exit ramps (jughandles) to loop around.

Warning Signs: The Yellow Diamond Rule



Slippery When Wet: Wavy skid lines. NJ roads hydroplane easily; avoid sudden moves.



Hill Ahead: Slope symbol. Shift to a lower gear, go easy on brakes so they don't overheat.



Signal Ahead: Small traffic light symbol. Warns of a light hidden over a hill or bend.



Lane Ends: A lane is disappearing. Merge early.



The Orange Exception: Work zone signs break the yellow rule. They are [ORANGE DIAMONDS]. Merge early. Rear-end crashes are the most common work-zone crash.

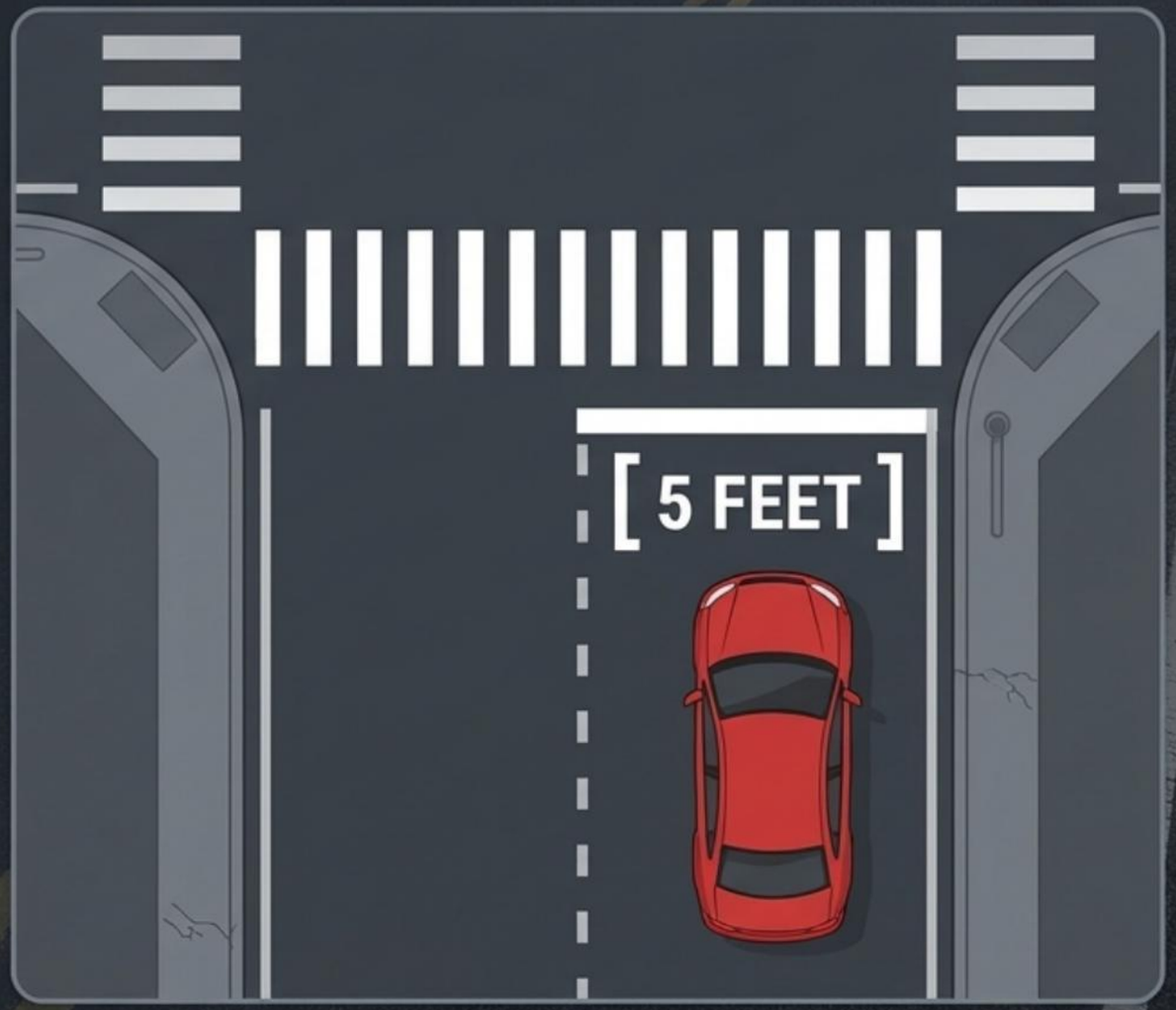
The Stop Sign Trap: Precision Matters

The Command:
Come to a complete stop (wheels fully still).

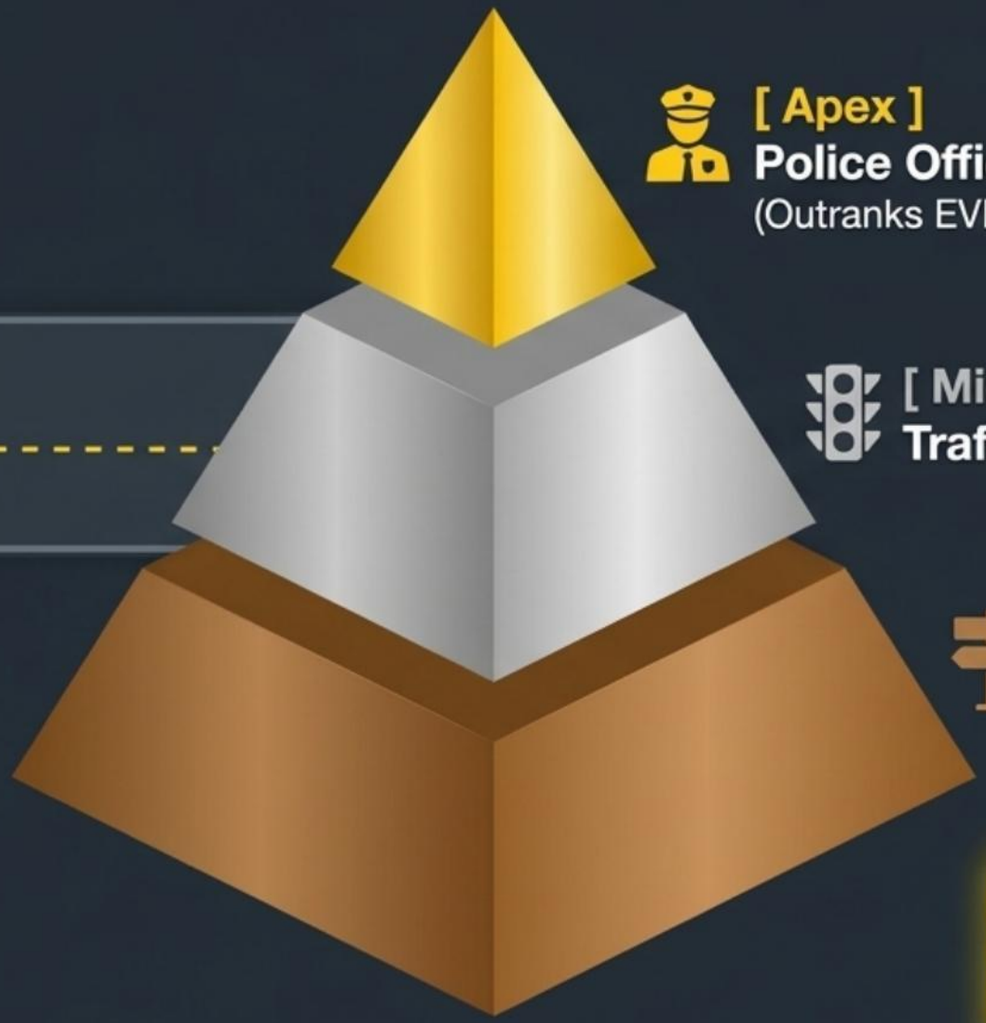
The Trap:
Where exactly do you stop?

The NJ Answer:
No more than [5 feet] before the nearest crosswalk or stop line. **Never on top of it.**

Note: If there is no line, stop where you can see clearly without rolling into the intersection.



Right of Way Hierarchy



[Apex]
Police Officer
(Outranks EVERYTHING)

[Middle]
Traffic Lights

[Base]
Static Signs



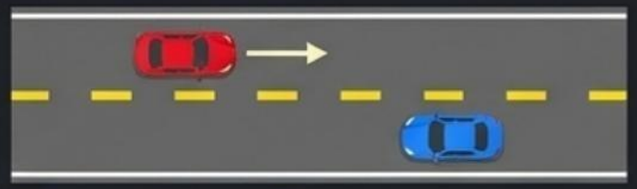
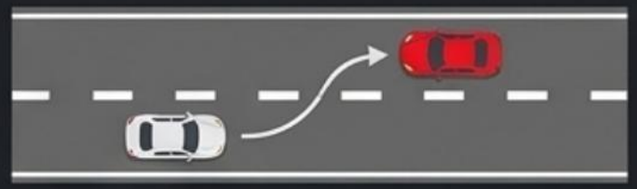
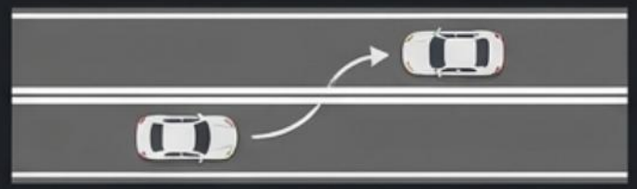
Green Arrow w/ Red Light:
Go ONLY in arrow direction.
Red bans every other movement.

Flashing Red:
Treat EXACTLY like a stop sign.

Flashing Yellow:
Slow down, proceed with caution.

The Dark Signal Trap:
Power failure? A completely dark signal is NOT a yield.
By NJ Law, you must treat it as a **[FOUR-WAY STOP]**.

Pavement Markings

Line Type	Yellow	White
Broken	 **[Yellow + Broken]** = Opposite Directions Pass safely	 **[White + Broken]** = Same Direction Change lanes when safe
Solid	 **[Yellow + Solid]** = Opposite Directions Do NOT cross to pass	 **[White + Solid]** = Same Direction (or edge) Cross only if required



Solid Yellow + Broken Yellow: Pass ONLY if the broken line is on your side.

Test Trap: Solid white edge line slanting inward. What does it mean? The road is getting narrower ahead!

The Headlight Equations

When MUST your headlights be on in NJ?

[½ hr after sunset ↓] TO [½ hr before sunrise ↑] = [Headlights ON] →

[Visibility is 500 feet or less] 

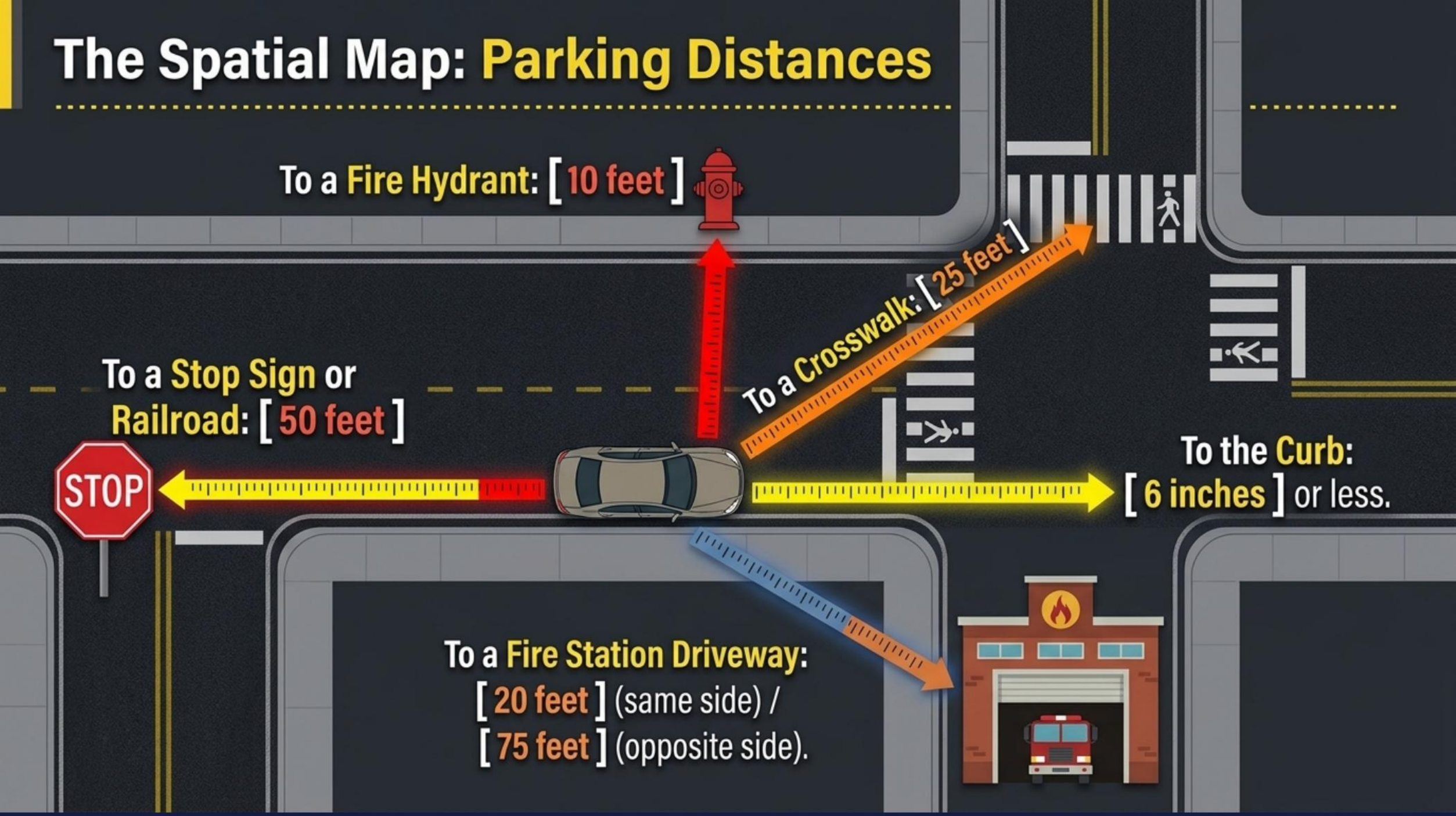
= [Headlights ON] →



[Windshield Wipers are ON]  [Headlights ON (Crucial for rain, fog, mist, smoke)] →

Test Trap: Parking lights are never a legal substitute for headlights.

The Spatial Map: Parking Distances



Emergency Vehicles: The Spacing Rules

Following (Moving):
Keep at least [300 feet] behind
a signaling emergency vehicle.



Parking (Stationary):
Never park within [200 feet]
of a fire vehicle in service.

Let’s See If You Cracked The Code

1. The traffic light at your intersection is completely dark after a power failure. What does NJ law say to do?



2. A traffic light shows a green arrow pointing left and a steady red light. Which way(s) may you legally drive?



3. You park on a residential street. How close to the curb must you be, and how far must you stay from the fire hydrant on the corner?



Flip for Answers

The Answer Key

1. Treat the intersection as a four-way stop. Stop completely, then proceed in turn when it's safe.

2. Left only, in the direction of the arrow. The red light still bans every other movement.

3. No more than [6 inches] from the curb, and at least [10 feet] from the fire hydrant.

Master Data Log: Final Review

Shapes: 	Stop = [8 Sides] 	School = [Pentagon] 	Warning = [Yellow Diamond] 	Work Zone = [Orange Diamond] 
Signals: 	Dark Signal = [4-Way Stop]	Top Authority = [Police Officer] 		
Markings: 	Stop Sign Line = [<= 5 ft] before line/crosswalk.			
Headlights: 	[Wipers ON] = [Lights ON]	[½ hr after sunset] to [½ hr before sunrise]	Visibility < [500 ft]	
Parking Boundaries: 	Curb = [6 in]	Hydrant = [10 ft]	Crosswalk = [25 ft]	Stop Sign/RR = [50 ft]

Keep practicing — free, no sign-up

New Jersey Signs & Signals study guide, practice tests & flashcards:

drivinglicensetest.org/nj