

# What Every Driver Should Know!

Before returning to the pavement, make a complete visual check ahead, to the sides, and to the rear. Unless some object beside the road poses a *more serious threat*, **avoid trying to return to the roadway immediately**. A rapid attempt to return to the driving surface may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Straddle the pavement edge. When it is safe and your speed is under control (slower than when you left the road), turn the wheel sharply left or right as necessary, permitting the tire to climb the pavement edge to get back on the roadway.

## *In an Emergency...*

### ✓ Skidding

Take foot off gas and off brake. Turn the steering wheel in direction rear is skidding.

### ✓ Brakes Fail

Shift into low gear, cut off engine, use emergency brake. (Do not turn off engine if car has locking steering column or power steering.)

### ✓ Need Help

Put your car hood up. Tie a white cloth to antenna or door, and stay clear of the roadway.

If you see someone in need of help, let the nearest service station know.

When you see an accident that the police are handling, *do not stop out of curiosity*.



*A Safety Message from  
the Nebraska Department of Roads  
and the Nebraska State Patrol*

# Safety Tips You Should Know

Each year thousands of motorists run off the road due to a variety of reasons. It is what happens “after” the motorist runs off the roadway that will determine the outcome. Responding with the wrong action could cause an accident and result in property damage, injuries, and/or fatalities.

**Beware when driving** on roads with nonpaved shoulders as there may be pavement drop-offs. Drive with extra caution and watch for signs that warn you of “Soft Shoulders” or “Sharp Drop-off at Pavement Edge,” especially in *road construction or work zones and on narrow roads that carry wide loads*.

**If you take the wrong action** when you drop a wheel off the pavement—someone could be killed. Going off the edge of a road or experiencing a temporary loss of control can happen to the best of drivers. The action you take, as a driver, could save your life.

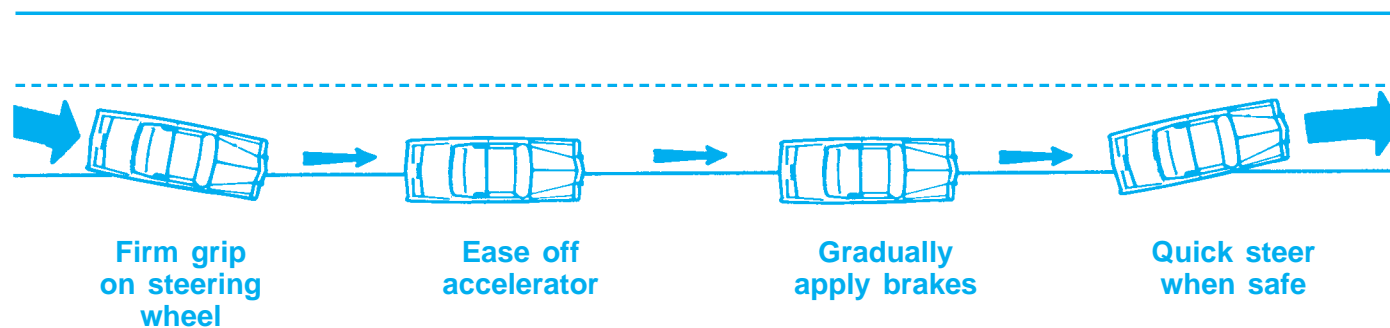
**It is essential** that drivers be prepared to handle such situations. The occasion may arise when your vehicle drifts off the roadway onto the shoulder or you steer off the pavement edge to avoid a collision.

There may be a drop-off of several inches from the edge of the road and most shoulders will provide less traction than the roadway surface. The shoulder may be quite narrow and consist of loose gravel, grass or mud. In spite of these variables, pulling off onto the shoulder or pavement edge and returning back onto the roadway can be performed safely if you know and practice the proper procedures.

## Off-Road Recovery Procedures

If you should run off the paved surface of the roadway, keep a firm grip on the steering wheel. This is necessary to keep the vehicle traveling straight ahead, straddling the pavement edge. You will need to fight the tendency of the wheels to pull to the right if the shoulder is soft. You must also resist any immediate urge to whip the vehicle back onto the pavement.

The next step is to ease off the accelerator, causing the vehicle to slow down gradually. Avoid braking if possible, but if necessary, use a gradual braking method which will enable you to maintain control. Slow down until you can safely return to the road or stay off until a driveway or other surface allows for a gradual return.



**Avoid trying to return to the roadway immediately.**