

Speed Limits

Speed limits are established to inform motorists of how far they can observe the roadway and impending dangers. Residential streets have driveways, street side foliage and parked vehicles spaced closely, while rural roadways have curves, cresting hills, roadside foliage and driveways.

When the operator of a vehicle traveling at 30 miles per hour along a residential roadway observes an impending danger (a tree limb falls across the roadway, a bicycle enters from a driveway, a deer jumps into the roadway) and abruptly stops, the vehicle will travel 200 feet to come to a stop.

A vehicle traveling at **30 miles per hour** will travel **200 feet** to come to a stop for an impending danger.

A vehicle traveling at **40 miles per hour** requires **300 feet** to stop for a hazard.

A vehicle traveling at **50 miles per hour** needs at least **425 feet** to stop.

These distances include the time to perceive the hazard, apply the vehicle brakes and for the vehicle to come to a stop on dry pavement. Wet and/or icy pavements require additional distance for the vehicle to stop.



Utility poles along residential streets are typically spaced about every 100 feet.



The operator of a vehicle traveling at 30 miles per hour along a residential street must observe the roadway beyond two (2) utility poles to see and safely stop for an impending danger.

Utility poles along rural roadways are typically spaced about every 200 feet.



The operator of a vehicle traveling at 40 miles per hour along a rural roadway must be able to observe the roadway beyond two (2) utility poles, to see and safely for a hazard.

