

Velociraptor and Michigan Speed Rules

Name: _____

Please see Michigan Speed Law FAQs on back and then do the quiz below.

Scenario

A velociraptor is reported running near a Michigan roadway at about 40 mph. A driver spots it and feels pressure to speed up, keep pace, or make sudden choices. This worksheet asks you to compare the velociraptor's speed with common Michigan road speeds and think about what a lawful, safe driver should do instead.

1. The velociraptor is running alongside a freeway construction zone posted at 60 mph. You feel panicked and drive 72 mph while workers are present.

- Are you at least 10 mph over the work zone limit? _____
- Which consequence could you face from the new camera system (warning, 150 dollar fine, or 300 dollar fine), assuming this is your first time being caught by the system?

2. Circle A or B for this scenario.

It is snowing hard on a 55 mph two lane highway. The velociraptor is still doing 40 mph.

- You drive 55 mph to "keep moving" and stay ahead of the dinosaur.
- You slow to 45 mph because visibility and traction are poor.

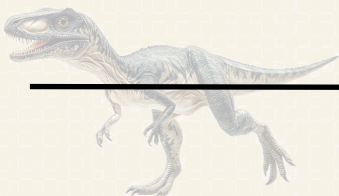
3. A velociraptor is chasing traffic toward a Michigan roundabout. The driver feels pressure to rush through the circle instead of slowing, yielding, and choosing a safe speed.

Write **T** for true or **F** for false.

- ____ 1. Drivers entering a roundabout have the right of way over cars already circulating.
- ____ 2. I look left and the velociraptor is in the roundabout running. I should wait to enter.
- ____ 3. A driver should not pass the velociraptor or bicycle ahead in the roundabout.
- ____ 4. A driver can turn left into the roundabout if there are no vehicles or velociraptors .

4. The velociraptor runs through a residential subdivision at 40 mph. You follow in your car at 35 mph where no speed limit signs are posted.

1. What is the default limit here? _____
2. Are you over the limit? If so, by how many mph?





Michigan Speed Laws FAQs

1. If there is no speed-limit sign, can a driver assume any normal traffic speed is fine?

No. Michigan has statutory and default speed rules for certain road types, so an unposted road may still have a legal limit. Two examples are 25 mph in residential districts or 55 mph on most rural highways.

2. Do drivers always get to drive the posted limit?

No. A driver may need to go slower because of rain, snow, fog, traffic, curves, visibility, or pedestrians.

3. What is the “basic speed law” in plain language?

It means a driver must travel at a careful and prudent speed for actual conditions, not just rely on the number on the sign.

4. Are work zones different from ordinary roads?

Yes. Work zones require extra care, and Michigan now uses automated speed cameras in select state highway work zones when workers are present.

5. How fast over the limit can trigger a mailed work-zone camera violation?

More than ten mph over the posted work-zone limit.

6. What happens first under the new work-zone camera system?

The first camera-caught violation is a warning notice, followed later by civil fines for repeat violations. Cameras operate only when workers are present, mainly on longer term freeway projects, and issue tickets by mail based on your plate if you are more than 10 mph over the limit. Typical structure being reported: first offense is a mailed warning, second is about a 150-dollar civil fine, and a third can be about 300 dollars.

7. Are very low speed limits ever legally required?

Yes. Places such as residential areas, parks, and mobile-home parks can have low limits that drivers may overlook. 25 mph is the statutory limit inside a residential subdivision street if no sign says otherwise.

8. What are some of the rules of a roundabout? Vehicles entering from each leg of the intersection must yield to traffic approaching from the left. Vehicles in the roundabout have the right of way. Refrain from passing other vehicles, bicycles and mopeds. Never make a left turn to enter a roundabout.

9. How should a driver think about speed when approaching a roundabout?

A driver should slow before the yield line, watch for vehicles already circulating, look for pedestrians, and choose a speed that allows safe entry rather than trying to maintain straight-road speed.



Fiction - Dinosaurs

Jurassic Park, by Michael Crichton

The Lost World, by Michael Crichton

Dragon Teeth, by Michael Crichton

Primitive War, by Ethan Pettus

Raptor Red, by Robert Bakker

The Lost World, by Arthur Conan Doyle

Far-Seer, by Robert J. Sawyer

Non-Fiction - Driving

Killed by a Traffic Engineer, by Charles Marohn

The Art of Taking It Easy: How to Cope with Bears, Traffic, and the Rest of Life's Stressors, by Dr. Brian King

Driving Survival: [How to Stay Safe on the Road], by Jim MacPherson

Not So Fast: Parenting Your Teen Through the Dangers of Driving, by Tim Hollister

A Set of Safe Driving Notes: Everything Teen Drivers Need to Know But Don't Know to Ask, by Graham Corkron

Survive the Drive!: a Guide to Keeping Everyone on the Road Alive, by Thomas Dingus

Distracted Driving, by Stefan Kiesbye

3 Keys to Keeping Your Teen Alive: Lessons for Surviving the First Year of Driving, by Anne Marie Hayes

Driving Techniques: for the Professional & Non Professional

110 Car and Driving Emergencies-- and How to Survive Them, by James Joseph

The Complete Driver, by Clarence Beedle