“Reminder of Roundabout Rules”

Drivers in Norfolk have gotten used to the three roundabouts in the city. Police Chief Bill Mizner reminds people that the use of a turn signal is required when in a roundabout.

“Both City code and state law require the use of a turn signal whenever a vehicle turns or moves right or left on the roadway. Exiting a roundabout would be considered making a right turn and also requires the use of the turn signal,” said Mizner.

According to the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles Drivers Manual, other rules that pertain to roundabouts are:

1. Slow down to the posted advisory speed.
2. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists as you approach the roundabout.
3. Yield to traffic approaching on your left already in the roundabout.
4. Travel counter clockwise within the roundabout.
5. As you approach your exit within the roundabout, turn on your right turn signal.
6. Truck aprons (the raised section of pavement around the central island) are not to be used by cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, bicyclists or pedestrians.
7. Never stop in a roundabout unless to avoid a collision or to yield to a pedestrian or bicyclist in the crosswalk.

Mizner also cautioned that drivers should not assume that a vehicle is going to make a turn just because the turn signal is activated.

“The safest way to enter a roundabout is to make sure the entry will not conflict with other vehicles already in the roundabout,” Mizner said.

Additional rules for driving in a dual-lane roundabout:

1. To make a left turn, choose the share through/left-turn lane.
2. To make a right turn, choose the shared through/right-turn lane.
3. To go straight, observe the signs and arrows to see which lane is meant for through traffic.
4. Yield to all traffic on your left already in the roundabout before entering.
5. Stay in your designated lane.
6. Avoid driving next to or passing large trucks approaching and maneuvering through a roundabout as trucks might cross into other lanes or onto the truck apron when turning.

Rules concerning emergency vehicles in the roundabout:
1. Always yield to emergency vehicles.
2. If you have entered the roundabout, continue to your exit, then once beyond the splitter island, pull over and allow the emergency vehicles to pass.

For more information on using a roundabout go to http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/docs/rndabt.pdf