

## LARGE TRUCKS DO NOT OPERATE LIKE CARS

They are so large that accelerating, slowing down, and stopping takes more time and much more space than any other vehicle on the road. Trucks have large blind spots and make wide turns. They are not as maneuverable. If there is an unexpected traffic situation, there might not be enough room for them to avoid a collision. Research shows that passenger car drivers make the mistakes in the majority of fatal crashes involving large trucks. Even though to err is human, colliding with a truck could cost someone their life. We've included tips that can help you anticipate a truck's actions and avoid collisions. YOU are the best protection on the highway.



FLORIDA TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION

# SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY WITH TRUCKS



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# STAY OUT OF THE NO ZONE

## FIVE WAYS TO SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY WITH TRUCKS

### 1 STAY OUT OF THE NO ZONE

Watch out for the huge blind spots - or the “No Zone” - around large trucks. Truck drivers must react faster than car drivers in emergency situations due to the size and weight of their vehicle. If faced with the potential front-end collision the truck driver may turn into your lane, not knowing you are there.

**SIDE NO ZONES:** Don't hang out on either side of trucks because they have large blind spots on both sides. Never pass a truck on the right side, which is the largest and longest blind spot. If you can't see the driver's face in his sideview mirror, he can't see you! Always pass quickly and efficiently on the left side of the truck.

**REAR NO ZONES:** Avoid tailgating because the truck driver can't see you behind his truck - and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck has to stop suddenly, you have no place to go. Allow a minimum of four seconds between you and the truck ahead.

**FRONT NO ZONES:** Pass safely and don't cut in too soon after passing. It can take a fully loaded semi the length of two football fields - plus endzones - to stop. Look for the whole front of the truck in your rearview mirror before pulling in front - and then don't slow down!

### 2 BEWARE OF WIDE RIGHT TURNS

Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. They can't see cars squeezing in between them and the curb. Watch for their blinkers and be patient - and give them room.

### 3 PAY ATTENTION AND DON'T GET DISTRACTED

Concentrate on driving. Drivers are increasingly turning their vehicles into virtual offices and entertainment centers. Using cell phones, navigation devices, and even laptops while driving makes the roadways more dangerous. Multi-tasking while driving is never a good idea.

### 4 LEAVE MORE SPACE FOR TRUCKS

Trucks are not equipped with the same type of energy-absorbing bumpers as cars. When a car is hit from behind by a truck, the results are often deadly. Truck drivers leave extra room behind the vehicles they follow because it can take them twice as long as a car to stop. When you move in front of a truck, anticipate the flow of traffic, especially when traffic conditions change due to work zones, debris, or a crash. If you are directly behind a truck when it begins to slow down, it's best to back off and avoid tailgating.

### 5 WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Buckling your seat belt is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash. A seat belt will keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle.

