



Annual Workplace Safety and Health Conference

SHARING THE ROAD:



A Truck Driver's Perspective

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Objectives

- Understand the differences in the handling characteristics of passenger vehicles and large trucks.
- Identify the “no zones” or blind spots around large trucks.
- Recognize your personal responsibility to assist in reducing the number of passenger vehicle and large truck collisions.

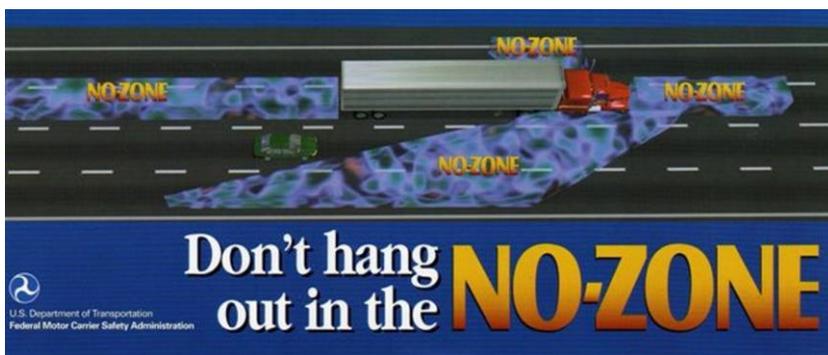


Before driving any vehicle, large or small

- Be rested and ready to drive
- Walk around the vehicle and check
 - Lights
 - Tires
 - Look for fluids leaking
- Buckle seat belts—drivers and passengers
- Adjust all mirrors



Blind Spots



Blind Spots

Blind spots for large trucks are the same as blind spots for passenger vehicles:

- True
- False



Blind Spots

Blind spots for large trucks are the same as blind spots for passenger vehicles:

- True
- **False**

Blind spots around trucks are much larger and a car can completely disappear from a truck driver's view.



Where is the largest blind spot around a truck?

- Front
- Rear
- Driver's Side
- Passenger Side



Where is the largest blind spot around a truck?

- Front
- Rear
- Driver's Side
- **Passenger Side**



Right Blind Spot

- The passenger side is the largest blind spot
- This blind spot extends out three lanes and the length of the trailer
- Don't linger in this area; keep moving if possible



When making a right turn, what may the truck driver do first?

- Back up to position the truck
- Swing to the Left
- Make a quick right turn
- None of the above



When making a right turn, what may the truck driver do first?

- **Swing to the left**

Trucks make wide turns at intersections and require additional space to maneuver.



Passing a Truck

To pass a truck, do you:

- Pass on the passenger side
- Pass on the driver's side
- Pass on the passenger side and don't linger
- Pass on the driver's side and don't linger



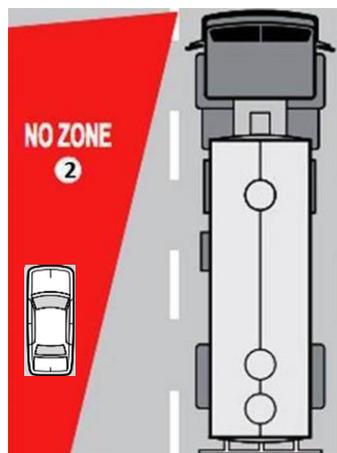
Passing a Truck

To pass a truck, you:

- **Pass on the driver's side and don't linger**



Left Blind Spot



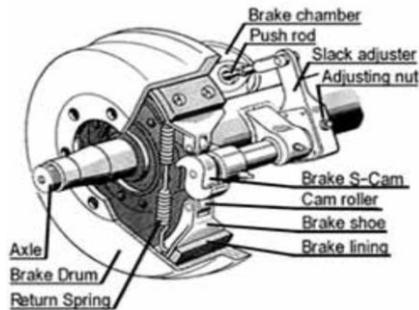
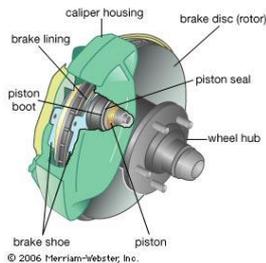
- The left blind spot is smaller than the right blind spot.
- This blind spot extends over the left shoulder of the truck driver, where the trailer blocks his or her view.
- An entire car can disappear from view in this blind spot.



Stopping a Truck

Big trucks have more tires and bigger brakes so they can stop faster than smaller vehicles.

- True
- False



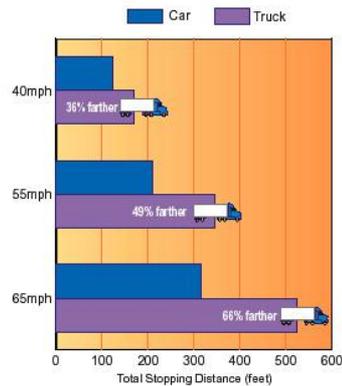
Stopping a Truck

Big trucks have more tires and bigger brakes so they can stop faster than smaller vehicles.

- False

A fully loaded tractor-trailer weighs 80,000 pounds.

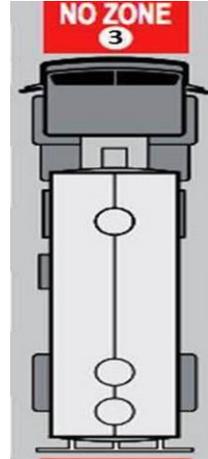
An average cars weighs around 2,000 pounds.



Front Blind Spot

- A truck cannot see a vehicle immediately in front of its grill.

- *Remember, it takes a truck a lot longer to stop than a car.*



Following Distance

How far should a car stay behind a truck when the truck is traveling at highway speeds?

- 4-5 seconds
- 10 seconds
- 20-25 car lengths
- 30 seconds



Following Distance

How far should a car stay behind a truck when the truck is traveling at highway speeds?

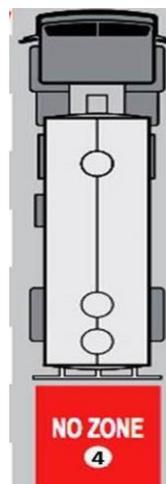
- 4-5 seconds

Allow yourself enough room to see the truck driver's face in the mirrors and time to react if traffic conditions change.



Rear Blind Spot

- The rear blind spot extends behind the truck more than the length of an additional trailer.
- This can create a blind spot 1/3 the length of a football field.
- Remember, your vehicle can completely disappear in this area.



Rear Blind Spot

- Your visibility is reduced when following too closely to the rear of a tractor-trailer; you can't see around the truck and the truck driver can't see your vehicle.
- When you tailgate a large truck, you can't react to the changing conditions; only to the back of the truck, and often that's too late.



Some Key Points

- Change lanes only when you can see both of the truck's headlights in your rearview mirror.
- Never pass on the passenger side.
- Pass quickly and completely – do not linger along side of a truck
- Steer clear of all blind spots
- If you can't see the driver's face in the mirrors, **The Driver Can't See You!!!**



Always Remember

- Buckle up – driver and all passengers
- Check your vehicle before taking it on the road (tires, lights, blinkers, etc.).
- Know where you are going. Map out your route before driving.
- Don't speed or run red lights or stop signs.
- Don't make frequent lane changes or pull out in front of other vehicles.
- Pay attention – be aware of everyday distractions.



Additional Resources

- Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
 - www.cvsa.org
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
 - www.fmcsa.dot.gov
- Texas Trucking Association - TXTA
 - www.texastrucking.com
 - (800) 727-7135
- DALLAS/FORT WORTH Council of Safety Professionals
 - www.dfwcsp.com.com



Questions?

