



Avoid Aggressive Driving

Don't Provoke, Don't be Provoked

Each year, aggressive driving results in more than 1,500 fatalities and thousands of serious injuries. A study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that 56 percent of fatal traffic crashes are caused by Aggressive Driving behaviors.ⁱ

Aggressive driving, sometimes referred to as reckless driving, usually involves one or more of the following dangerous behaviors:

- Speeding or Driving Too Fast for Conditions.
- Tailgating or Following Too Closely.
- Improper/Unsafe Passing, often without signaling.
- Improper /Unsafe Lane Usage, cutting off another vehicle.
- Obscene gestures and/or use of the horn out of anger or frustration.

Engaging in these hazardous driving behaviors may constitute a criminal offense of reckless driving. It may escalate into road rage and often results in crashes that involve loss of life and serious injuries. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) reports that the likelihood of a commercial motor vehicle being involved in a crash increases significantly when the driver has been convicted of one of these hazardous actions. For example, a driver that has been convicted of Reckless/Careless/Inattentive/Negligent Driving has a 64 percent greater likelihood of being involved in a crash.ⁱⁱ



All drivers should follow these tips to avoid the dangers of aggressive driving:

- Allow ample time to get to your destination safely.
- Obey all posted speed limits and slow down if conditions warrant a slower speed.
- Don't tailgate. Following Too Closely reduces a driver's visibility and reaction time.
- Never attempt to pass a vehicle unless it is safe and there is plenty of time to do so safely.
- Never make obscene gestures or use your horn out of anger.
- Remember the three Bs: be courteous, be patient, be forgiving.
- Avoid alcohol or drugs before or during driving.
- Buckle up! It is your last line of defense. Remember, seat belts save lives.



Remember, if a driver has been convicted of Reckless, Careless or Negligent Driving, their likelihood of being involved in a crash goes up 64%!

i AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

ii American Transportation Research Institute report on Predicting Truck Crash Involvement, April 2011

Driving is not a competition. Leave the ego at home. If another driver is acting aggressively, don't take their challenge. Just back off and live to drive another day!

For more information about how to **Avoid Aggressive Driving** please visit the following websites:

www.AAAFoundation.org
www.NHTSA.dot.gov
www.ATRI-online.org
www.FMCSA.dot.gov
www.AZDPS.gov

www.operationsafedriver.org

