

Avoid Aggressive Driving

Don't Provoke, Don't be Provoked

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.

What is aggressive driving? Any unsafe driving behavior, performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for safety, can constitute aggressive driving. Examples of aggressive driving behaviors include:

- Speeding in heavy traffic
- Cutting in front of another driver and then slowing down
- Changing lanes without signaling
- Weaving in and out of traffic
- Blocking cars attempting to pass or change lanes
- Tailgating
- Running red lights
- Using headlights or brakes to "punish" other drivers

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 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 with a reckless driving violation has a 114% greater likelihood of being involved in a crash. The likelihood of a crash increases by 46% if the driver had a violation for following too closely. A driver is 45% more likely to get into a crash if he or she had a speeding violation.

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.
- Don't provoke or allow yourself to be provoked. If another driver is acting aggressively, ignore them.
- Remember the three Bs: be courteous, be patient, be forgiving.
- Buckle up. It is your last line of defense. Seat belts save lives.

Crash Likelihood

If a driver had:	The crash likelihood increased:
A reckless driving violation	114%
A failure to yield right of way violation	101%
A failure to keep in proper lane conviction	83%
A failure to use/improper signal conviction	82%
A past crash	74%
An improper lane/location conviction	72%
An improper pass conviction	70%
A reckless/careless/inattentive/negligent driving conviction	69%
An improper or erratic lane change conviction	66%
An improper lane change violation	63%
An hours-of-service violation	50%
An improper turn conviction	49%
A following too close conviction	46%
A speeding violation	45%
A false or no log book violation	45%
A disqualified driver violation	44%
Any conviction	43%
A speeding more than 15 miles over speed limit conviction	40%
A speeding 1 to 15 miles over speed limit conviction	38%
Any moving violation	35%
A seat belt violation	33%
A failure to obey traffic control device violation	30%
Any OOS violation	29%
A failure to obey traffic sign violation	25%
A driving too fast for conditions conviction	25%
A size and weight violation	20%
A failure to obey traffic signal/light conviction	20%

