

 Every year, approximately 1.3 million people die in car crashes worldwide – an average of 3,287 deaths per day.

 Young adults aged 15-44 account for more than half of all road traffic deaths.

 Globally, car crashes are the leading cause of death among young adults ages 15-29.

Operation Safe Driver is a safety program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Operation Safe Driver aims to reduce deaths and injuries involving large trucks, buses and cars due to unsafe driver behaviors by educating all drivers about ways to safely share our roads.

CVSA is a nonprofit association comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal commercial motor vehicle safety officials and industry representatives. The Alliance aims to achieve uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial motor vehicle inspections and enforcement by certified inspectors dedicated to driver and vehicle safety. Our mission is to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and uniformity throughout Canada, Mexico and the United States by providing guidance and education to enforcement, industry and policy makers. For more information, visit [www.cvsa.org](http://www.cvsa.org).



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# SAFELY SHARING THE ROADS

## WITH LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES



I WILL KEEP MY EYES ON THE ROAD, HANDS ON THE WHEEL, HEAD IN THE GAME.



While there is no substitute for on-the-road driving experience, there are steps you can take to reduce risks. This is especially true when it comes to driving around large trucks and buses, and understanding these vehicles and the differences in their handling characteristics compared to cars.

### **Trucks Make Wide Turns**

It is more difficult for large trucks and buses to turn and maneuver. Because of its large size, a truck making a right turn may first swing left to clear the corner. Conversely, a truck making a left turn may first swing right to clear vehicles and other objects on its left side. Expect this and be prepared.

### **It Takes Longer for a Large Vehicle to Stop**

Because of their increased weight and size, trucks and buses take longer to stop than a car. A heavy-duty truck and trailer can weigh up to 80,000 lbs. fully loaded with freight compared to an average car which weighs around 4,000 lbs. Traveling at 55 mph under ideal road conditions, such a truck combination would need 430 feet to stop – or 1 ½ times the length of a football field; 91% longer than that of a car.

### **Keep a Safe Distance**

While it is never safe to tailgate any vehicle on the highway, following too close is particularly dangerous around large trucks and buses because the size of these vehicles prevents you from seeing the road ahead and having sufficient time to react to slowing or stopped traffic, or another obstacle.

### **Don't Speed**

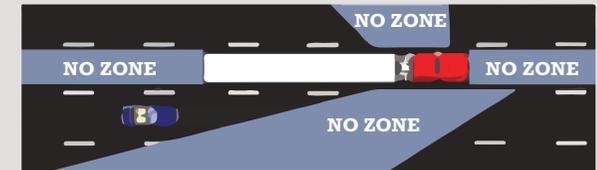
Speeding endangers not only the life of the speeder, but all of the people on the road around them. Speeding increases the distance needed to stop the vehicle while reducing reaction time to avoid a potential collision. Speeding also increases the severity of injury resulting from a crash.

### **Don't Provoke, Don't Be Provoked**

Don't provoke or allow yourself to be provoked by other drivers. If another driver is driving aggressively, simply ignore them.

### **Stay Out of a Truck's "No Zones"**

The best way to avoid crashes around large trucks and buses is actually very simple: stay out of blind spots, known as "No Zones." A large percentage of crashes between cars and trucks occur when cars move into the area around a truck where the truck driver can't see them.



### **Stay Focused on the Driving Task**

Distracted driving contributes to a large number of traffic crashes. Although most people think of texting and cell phone use as the most common distractions on the road, anything that takes your attention away from the driving task is a distraction.

To avoid distractions, follow these important guidelines:

- Check and adjust your side-view and rear-view mirrors, program your GPS and buckle your seat belt before you turn the key in the ignition.
- Before you start your trip, select what you plan to listen to and set the volume at a reasonable level so you can concentrate on the driving task and hear sirens from emergency vehicles.
- Set your smart phone to the do not disturb setting.
- Place books, backpacks and other heavy objects on the floor to prevent them from becoming flying objects if you come to a sudden stop.
- If you have passengers in your car, they must wear their seat belts and be sure to buckle yours.
- Don't eat, apply makeup, manually adjust the seat, or text or talk on your cell phone while you are driving.
- Focus on the task at hand: arriving at your destination safely.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES AROUND LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES, VISIT:**  
[www.OperationSafeDriver.org](http://www.OperationSafeDriver.org)