


Trucks and buses are an important part of our economy, providing safe, reliable transportation of goods and people over long distances.


While truck and bus drivers are sometimes at fault in traffic crashes, research shows drivers of cars, especially inexperienced drivers, needlessly place themselves in danger by failing to recognize that large vehicles differ from cars in their handling characteristics. As a result, nearly 70 percent of traffic crashes involving large trucks or buses and cars are the fault of the car driver.


And teens are much more likely to be involved in crashes than the general population. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death worldwide among young people 10-24 years old. Each year nearly 400,000 people under age 25 die on the world's roads – on average more than 1,000 a day.



f **Make sure you like “Teens and Trucks” on Facebook. Here are some posts for your Facebook wall (don’t forget to tag “Teens and Trucks”):**

 I never cut off trucks when I’m driving. The stopping distance is very different for a large truck or bus compared to a car.

 Remember, because of their large size, trucks make wide turns. Expect this and be prepared.

 Check a truck’s mirrors. If you are following a truck or bus and cannot see the driver’s face in the vehicle’s side mirrors, the driver cannot see you.

t **Here are some tweets you can post to your Twitter account:**

 I always keep a safe distance around large trucks and buses. #teensandtrucks

 I never text or email while driving. #teensandtrucks

 I always buckle up when I’m in a car. Seatbelts save lives. #teensandtrucks

Operation Safe Driver is a safety campaign of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance – in partnership with state, provincial and local law enforcement, federal agencies and industry – aimed at combating the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crashes involving large trucks, buses and cars.

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SAFELY SHARING THE ROADS WITH LARGE TRUCKS & 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 your risk of becoming a statistic. 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 in tight spaces. 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

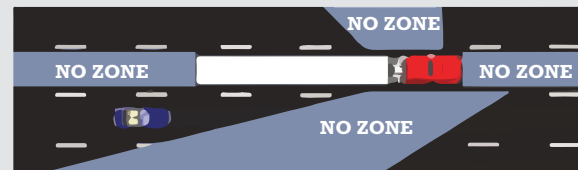
Because of their increased weight, trucks and buses take longer to stop than a car. A heavy-duty truck and trailer can weigh up to 80,000 pounds fully loaded with freight. Traveling at 55 mph under ideal road conditions, such a truck combination would need 430 feet to stop – or 1 ½ times the length of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

Stay Out of a Truck's "No Zones"

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



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, don't take the bait. Simply ignore them.

Stay Focused on the Driving Task

Distracted driving may be the single largest contributing factor to traffic crashes today. 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 and rear view mirrors, program your GPS and buckle your seat belt before you turn the key in the ignition.
- Reduce the volume of music so you can concentrate on the driving task and hear sirens from emergency vehicles.
- 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