



A recent research study conducted by the American Transportation Research Institute concluded the following:

If a Commercial Vehicle driver had a **their future crash likelihood increases**

Reckless Driving violation	325%
Improper Turns violation	105%
Improper or Erratic Lane Change conviction	100%
Failure to Yield Right of Way conviction	97%
Improper Turn conviction	94%
Failure to Keep in Proper Lane conviction	91%
Improper Lane Change violation	78%
Failure to Yield Right of Way violation	70%
Driving Too Fast for Conditions conviction	62%
Any conviction	56%
Speeding More Than 15 Miles over Speed Limit conviction	56%
Reckless / Careless / Inattentive / Negligent Driving conviction	53%
Following too closely conviction	50%
Improper Lane / Location conviction	47%
Any moving violation	41%
Following Too Close violation	40%
Speeding violation	35%
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device violation	30%
Failure to Obey Traffic Signal / Light conviction	29%
Speeding 1 to 15 Miles over Speed Limit conviction	26%
Failure to Obey Traffic Sign conviction	24%
Size and Weight violation	21%
Any OOS violation	16%

Operation Safe Driver, a new safety initiative of Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), focuses on increasing commercial and non-commercial vehicle driver performance through enforcement and education.

FMCSA's 2006 Large Truck Crash Causation Study found that driver *actions* or *inactions* by BOTH large truck and automobile drivers accounted for 88 percent of the critical reasons for the crashes. Only 12 percent were found to be the result of vehicle, road or weather factors. The study also concluded that in multi-vehicle crashes between large trucks and cars that 56 percent of the time the car driver was assigned the critical reason for the crash, and the large truck driver was assigned the critical reason for the other 44 percent of the time.

Promoting Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety and Security

CVSA is an international not-for-profit organization comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal motor carrier safety officials and industry representatives from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Our mission is to promote commercial motor vehicle safety and security by providing leadership to enforcement, industry and policy makers. In addition, CVSA has several hundred associate members who are committed to helping the Alliance achieve its goals; uniformity, compatibility and reciprocity of commercial vehicle inspections, and enforcement activities throughout North America by individuals dedicated to highway safety and security. For more on CVSA visit www.cvsa.org.



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**CUTTING IT CLOSE
CAN CUT
YOUR LIFE
SHORT**





WHAT CAR DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRUCKS AND BUSES

Most car drivers think that it's the truck and bus drivers who are the ones who are most often at fault in crashes, while truck and bus drivers believe it's the car drivers. But on the highways throughout North America, clearly research has shown that both parties are at fault because, pardon the pun, it takes two to tango.

It's the typical HE SAID / SHE SAID finger-pointing scenario



And to the law enforcement officer that just pulled you over, both cars and trucks are to blame equally and both will be ticketed for driving aggressively.

Coincide, Don't Collide

We all have to share the road. You've heard that one before. The fact of the matter is our roads are only going to get busier. So, do one thing fast:

LEARN the proper way to drive in a cooperative manner and the safer we ALL will be.

WHAT TRUCK DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CAR DRIVERS

As a professional driver you face a lot of stress and pressure each day just trying to do your job. Maneuvering through congested highways with aggressive car drivers darting around you and everyone is in a rush to get where they are going because time is money.

It may make you want to gamble a bit by taking unnecessary risks. But your risk goes up exponentially for each violation you receive. The seriousness of violations is more than monetary, unless you're willing to pay with your life. And we're not just talking about your life. When you gamble, you are also gambling your family's future and the future of many innocent others. Don't take that gamble, it's just not worth the risk.

Truck and bus drivers will tell you many stories about being cut-off or passed by a car and the car driver proceeds to put on their brakes or dash to the next exit. You never hear of the near misses, accidents that ALMOST happened, on the local or national news – yet EVERYONE has their own story about this. And it's not what you drive around big trucks and busses that matters, it's HOW you drive.

If we could put every member of the public in a truck or bus for a day, there would be a lot more awareness and a lot less crashes. But since we can't do that, get familiar with the following eight keys to keeping safe around big rigs. One or all of these could save your life.

1. Never cut in front of a truck. A fully loaded truck can take 400 feet (more than the length of a football field) to stop and the odds are that you or someone driving next to you could be killed as a result of your driving.
2. Keep a safety cushion around trucks. Try to leave a 10-car length gap when in front of a truck and 20-25 car lengths when behind a truck. An average passenger car traveling at 55 miles per hour takes about 130 to 140 feet to stop.
3. Never linger alongside a truck. Cars can momentarily "disappear" from view due to blind spots.
4. Pass trucks quickly to increase visibility and reduce dangers associated with lingering beside a truck.
5. Only change lanes when you can see both of the truck's headlights in your rearview mirror.
6. If possible, pass a truck on the left, not on the right, because the truck's blind spot on the right runs the length of the trailer and extends out three lanes.
7. Check a truck's mirrors. If you are following a truck and you cannot see the driver's face in the truck's side mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you.
8. Allow trucks adequate space to maneuver. Trucks make wide turns at intersections and require additional lanes to turn.

1. Pre-inspect the condition of your vehicle before and check for load securement. Maximize the vision around your truck with properly adjusted mirrors; be sure your mirrors are properly set and clean.
2. Get in a safe mindset!
3. Buckle up! It is your last line of defense!
4. Obey speed limits and traffic signs. Excessive speed reduces your ability to avoid a crash, extends your vehicle's stopping distance, and increases the severity of a crash when it occurs. Slow down in bad weather and at construction zones.
5. Maintain a safe following distance. Follow other vehicles at a safe distance (3-5 second rule).
6. Make only safe and necessary lane changes. Pick a lane and stay in it for as long as possible. Lane changes increase one's risk of an accident.
7. Focus on your driving not the distractions! Avoid or minimize in-truck distractions such as cell phone use, changing CDs, eating, or other activities that can remove your attention from the road.
8. Never drive under the influence! Watch out for other motorists whose driving behavior suggests they may have been drinking.
9. Get enough sleep. Sleep deprivation and fatigue can cause lapses in attention, slowed awareness and impaired judgment.

Don't forget that speeding and aggressive driving kills. The facts are clear, and don't be one of the 43,000 people that lose their lives each year on our roadways.