



July 2020

Share the Road

Many “Share the Road” initiatives speak to the drivers of passenger vehicles and focus on how to drive around large trucks, motorcyclists, etc. This approach is good to learn from, but truck drivers must also look at how they drive around others and practice similar techniques. Read the information below and ask yourself if there are actions you can take to share the road better.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

ENVIRONMENT

Driving in construction zones, in congested traffic, and in urban areas with bike lanes and pedestrians—all of these situations have the potential for hazards to appear suddenly. In addition, sharing the road with emergency vehicles and vehicles stopped on the side of the road are hazards truck drivers must account for.

EQUIPMENT

Large blind spots make it difficult to see others around the truck, like cars, motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists—all of which come out in force during the summer months. Likewise, making wide turns can lead to your truck encroaching on adjacent lanes.

PERSONAL BEHAVIOURS

Aggressive driving including hopping lanes, tailgating, distracted driving, and failing to yield the right of way are risky behaviors that can cause a preventable crash.

KNOW THE DEFENSE

MOVE OVER

Slow down to half the posted speed and move over when safe for emergency vehicles, including tow trucks. It is the law in all Provinces and States. The same rules apply when you see a distressed person with a vehicle stopped on the side of the road.

Be alert for pedestrians changing a tire or servicing a disabled vehicle.

MANAGE THE SPACE AROUND YOUR TRUCK

Monitor the blind spots all around the truck by making quick glances to mirrors. Keep the windshield and dashboard clear and uncluttered. Before changing lanes, use the “lean and look” method to verify the right front corner of the tractor is clear. If you think a motorcycle is present, slow down to ensure that the rider clears the tractor before you change lanes.

SLOW DOWN

If a vehicle cuts in front of you or is tailgating your trailer, slow down and add more following distance. Giving yourself more room to stop allows you to slow down gradually when traffic ahead slows or stops. Also, be mindful that motorcyclists may downshift to slow down, so you may not see a brake light to indicate they are slowing.

YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY

Any time the right of way is in question, it is safest to yield to others. Also, allow other vehicles to merge when their lanes are ending, and do not encroach on other traffic lanes, like designated bike lanes. Keep in mind, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers on public streets.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Put away mobile devices before driving, and avoid other bad habits, like eating, drinking, and adjusting the radio while driving. Keep your focus on the task of driving.

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____ Emp/Unit #: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Before changing lanes, use the lean and look method as well as your mirrors. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. If a vehicle cuts in front of you, it is ok to tailgate them for a short period. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on the road as you do. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 4. Eating your lunch and/or drinking a coffee are not distractions. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

Answers:
1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False



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