

**“You are your
best protection on
the highway.”**

LARGE TRUCKS and buses do not operate like cars. They are so large that accelerating, slowing down and stopping takes much more time and space than any other vehicle on the road. Trucks and buses have large blind spots and make wide turns. They are not as maneuverable. If there is an unexpected traffic situation, there might not be enough room for them to avoid a collision.

Research reveals that passenger car drivers made the mistakes in the majority of fatal crashes involving large trucks and buses. Even though to err is human, colliding with a truck or bus could cost someone their life. The information in this publication will help you anticipate a truck or bus' actions and avoid collisions.

Our Mission

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is focused on reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.



PASSENGER CAR DRIVERS

***What You Need to Know to
Drive Safely Around Trucks
and Buses***



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration



For more information visit:

www.fmcsa.dot.gov
www.sharetheroadsafely.gov



Five Ways to Share the Road Safely with Trucks and Buses



1 *Leave More Space for Trucks and Buses*

Don't Get a Ticket—Avoid Aggressive Driving.

More than 60 percent of fatal truck and bus crashes involve impacts with the front of the truck or bus. Trucks and buses are not equipped with the same type of energy-absorbing bumpers as cars. When a car is hit from behind by a truck or bus, the results are often deadly.

Truck and bus drivers leave extra room behind the vehicles they follow because it can take them twice as long as a car to stop. When you move in front of a truck or bus, anticipate the flow of traffic, especially when traffic conditions change due to work zones, debris in the road, or a crash. If you are directly behind a truck or bus when it begins to slow down, it's best to back off and avoid tailgating.



2 *Pay Attention—Don't Get Distracted*

Concentrate on Driving.

Stay focused! Drivers are increasingly turning their vehicles into virtual offices and entertainment centers. Using cell phones, navigation devices and even laptops while driving makes the roadways more dangerous. Multi-tasking may work for the office, but not while you're driving. Talking and texting on the phone while driving don't mix.



3 *Stay Out of the "No-Zone"*

Watch out for blind spots (No-Zones) around large trucks and buses.

CMV drivers must react faster than car drivers in emergency situations due to the size and weight of their truck or bus. If faced with a potential front-end collision, the truck or bus driver may turn into your lane, not knowing you are there. Truck and bus drivers have huge blind spots around the front, back and sides of their vehicles, otherwise known as the No-Zone. Be safe and don't hang out in the No-Zone.

4 *Stay Alert*

Pay close attention to the side effects of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

These legal drugs can pose a serious threat to your driving judgment and abilities. Coupled with fatigue or a distraction, prescription or over-the-counter drugs can be dangerous on the road, and potentially deadly.

5 *Wear Your Seatbelt*

Buckling your seatbelt is the single most important thing you and your passengers can do to save your lives in a crash.

A seatbelt may keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle. The safest place for kids is in the backseat, buckled up or in a car seat. Be safe and always buckle up!

