



## Sharing the Road with Trucks

### Front

Truck drivers sit up high, and the hood of the cab obscures part of the road ahead. When you pass a big truck, make sure you can see the entire truck cab in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front. When cars cut in too soon, then abruptly slow down, truck drivers are forced to react with little time or no room to spare.

### Wide turns

The driver of a large truck has difficulty making tight turns, especially to the right. Truck drivers must sometimes swing wide to the left in order to make a right turn. They can't see cars directly behind or beside them. If you cut in between the truck and the right curb, you might cause a collision. If you are facing a large truck as it makes a right turn, be prepared for the truck to enter your half of the roadway.

### Backing

Never pass close behind a big truck that is preparing to back up or is in the process of backing up. Most trailers are 2½ metres (8½ feet) wide, and completely hide objects behind them.

When drivers of other vehicles have an understanding of how big trucks operate, they can help make the roads safer for everyone.



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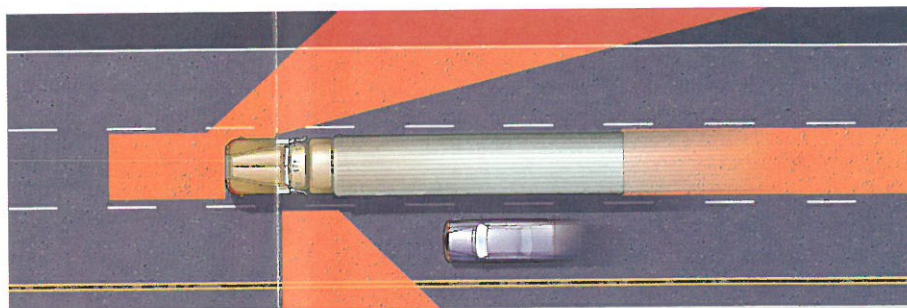
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safety



In the majority of collisions between cars and big trucks, the car driver is responsible for the collision. The tips that follow will help “four wheelers” stay safe when operating their vehicles around “18 wheelers.”



### Getting up to speed

The big truck is a complex vehicle to operate. When accelerating up to speed, truck drivers use up to 18 gear changes. Once they get into top gear, it's time consuming for them to have to slow down and start all over again. It also slows down traffic behind them. Therefore, avoid forcing a truck driver to slow down unnecessarily.

Big trucks will decrease speed when going uphill. You can expect truck drivers to pick up speed when going down a hill to help them get up the next hill. Plan your passing manoeuvre accordingly.

### Stopping

It takes longer to stop a big truck than a car, so a truck needs a longer following distance to be safe and in control. Don't cut in front of a truck immediately after you have passed it. When entering an intersection, use caution and good judgment. If a truck is approaching, make sure there is plenty of room between you and the truck.

But be careful – because of their large size, big trucks may appear to be moving at a slower speed than they actually are, and the gap between you and the truck could close quickly.

*The orange section above shows the areas around a truck where the driver cannot see smaller vehicles. Avoid driving in these areas for longer than is necessary.*

### The No Zone

Big trucks have big blindspots – and to stay safe, you should avoid them. The No Zone refers to blindspot areas around trucks, where crashes are more likely to occur. Avoid blindspots and make yourself visible by driving with your headlights on.

#### Rear

Big trucks have deep rear blindspots. A trucker can't see you if you're in the No Zone – especially if you're tailgating. If you can't see the truck mirrors, the driver can't see you. Stay well back of big trucks to avoid a rear-end collision.

#### Side

Big trucks have large blindspots on both sides. If you stay in these blindspots, that can mean trouble if the truck driver decides to change lanes.