

Commercial Vehicles

Research shows that most fatal crashes involving large trucks are caused by the car, not the commercial vehicle. Remember, these are professional drivers doing their job. Protect yourself, your passengers, and the commercial vehicles by driving safely.

Tips for driving with commercial vehicles

• Pass safely

Don't cut in front too soon after passing. Commercial drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. More than 60 percent of fatal truck crashes involve impacts with the front of the truck. To be safe, look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front, and then don't slow down.

• Watch for side blind spots



Because of the size, commercial vehicles have large blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face in the truck's side-view mirror, the driver cannot see you.

If a truck is passing you, stay to the right, slow down slightly and let the truck pass. This will give the truck driver plenty of room to pass safely and get you out of the truck's blind spot faster.

• Avoid tailgating

Commercial vehicles have large blind spots directly behind them. Not only can the driver not see you, but you cannot see what's going on ahead. Driving too close prevents you from reacting to changing traffic conditions. If the truck brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

If you hit the rear of the truck, you will quickly learn that trucks are unforgiving. There are no impact-absorbing bumpers and the metal bumpers trucks do have may not align with yours.

• Watch for right turns

Commercial vehicles may need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. These drivers cannot see cars attempting to squeeze in between them and the curb. Watch for signals and give trucks room to turn.



For additional information:

- American Trucking Association "Share The Road": www.atastr.org
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: www.fmcsa.dot.gov
- Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement: www.kentuckystatepolice.org
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Motor Carriers: <http://transportation.ky.gov/motor-carriers>