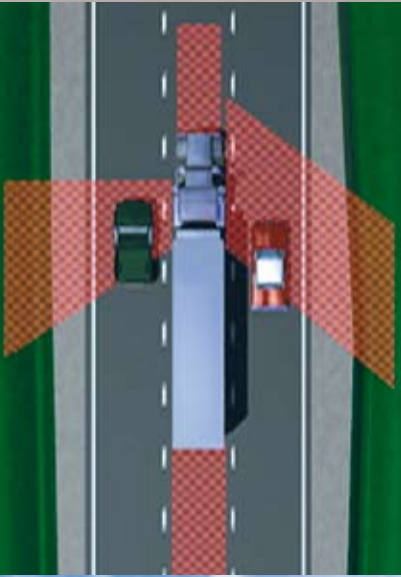




Sharing the Road

Driving
Safely
Around
Big
Trucks



Contents

Pre-Quiz.....	3
Do you know the safest ways to share the road with big trucks?	4
Trucks have large blind spots	5
Merge safely around big trucks	6
Pass and exit safely around big trucks	6
Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop	7
Stay behind white stopping lines.....	8
Trucks make wide right turns	9
Recap	10
Post Quiz	11

Pre-Quiz

1. Trucks have large blind spots on the:
 - a. driver side
 - b. passenger side
 - c. front
 - d. rear
 - e. all of the above
2. If you can't see the truck's mirrors, can the truck driver see you?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
3. When merging onto the freeway, trucks may not be able to move over, so:
 - a. match the flow of traffic
 - b. pick your spot and go
 - c. both of the above
4. When changing lanes in front of a truck, make sure you:
 - a. can see the headlights and the truck's front tires in the rearview mirror
 - b. are more than a mile from your exit
 - c. can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp
 - d. a and c
 - e. all of the above
5. Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop.
 - a. true
 - b. false
6. At intersections, you should stay behind white stopping lines because it allows:
 - a. you to see all the traffic lights/signs
 - b. trucks and other large vehicles to safely complete their turns
 - c. you to be a courteous driver
 - d. b and c
 - e. all of the above
7. You should never try to fit into an opening between the truck and the right-hand curb because:
 - a. trucks make wide right turns
 - b. you might get "squeezed" between the two, which would be bad news
 - c. both of the above
8. Which would be bad things to do around big trucks?
 - a. hanging out in a truck's blind spots
 - b. cutting in front of a truck to make your exit
 - c. expecting trucks to stop quickly
 - d. all of the above



These are both professional drivers.



But these professional drivers stay on a track, while professional truck drivers are out every day sharing the roadways with other traffic.



As a new driver, do you know the safest ways to share the road with big trucks?

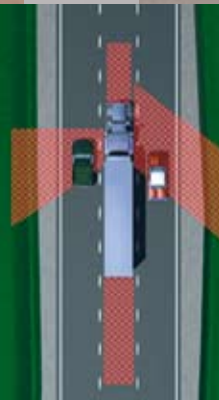


Trucks have large blind spots



Trucks have large blind spots on the:

- driver side
- passenger side
- front
- rear

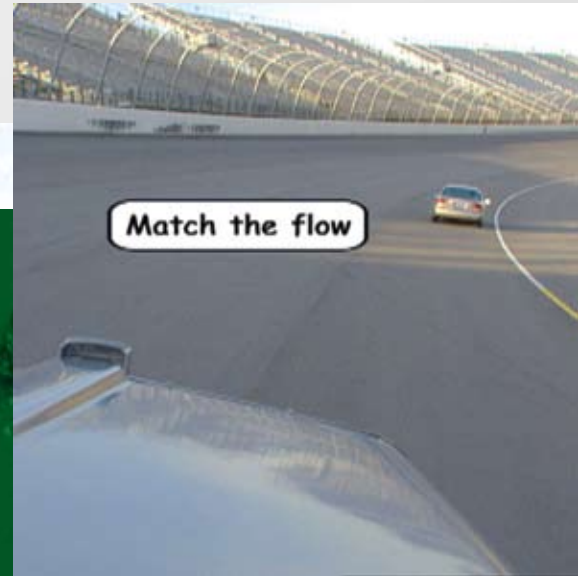


Remember if you can't see the truck's mirrors, the driver can't see you. That means bad things can happen, so don't hang out in a truck's blind spots.

Merge safely around big trucks

When merging onto the freeway trucks may not be able to move over, so:

- match the flow of traffic
- pick your spot
- and go



Pass trucks when you

- can see the headlights and the trucks front tires in the rearview mirror
- are more than a mile from your exit
- can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp

Pass and exit safely around big trucks



Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop



How long it takes a truck to stop depends on:

- how fast it's going
- how much weight it's carrying

NOTE: It can take the length of a football field for an empty truck to come to a complete stop.



Where the car stopped at 55 mph

Where the truck stopped at 55 mph



Stay behind white stopping lines

White stopping lines are there for a reason. If you stop past the line, trucks and other large vehicles won't be able to complete their turns without hitting you. Stay behind white stopping lines at intersections.



Trucks make wide right turns



When you see a truck parked like this at the intersection with its turn signal on:

- know that the truck is going to make a wide right turn
- don't try to pass on the right hand side



Otherwise you might get "squeezed" between the truck and the curb.

So stay behind trucks making wide right turns.

Recap

1. Trucks have large blind spots on the:

- driver side
- passenger side
- front
- rear

- are more than a mile from your exit
- can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp

2. When merging onto the freeway, trucks may not be able to move over, so:

- match the flow of traffic
- pick your spot
- and go

4. Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop.

5. Stay behind white stopping lines.

3. Pass trucks when you:

- can see the headlights and the truck's front tires in the rearview mirror

6. Trucks make wide right turns.



Post Quiz

- Trucks have large blind spots on the:
 - driver side
 - passenger side
 - front
 - rear
 - all of the above
- If you can't see the truck's mirrors, can the truck driver see you?
 - yes
 - no
- When merging onto the freeway, trucks may not be able to move over, so:
 - match the flow of traffic
 - pick your spot and go
 - both of the above
- When changing lanes in front of a truck, make sure you:
 - can see the headlights and the truck's front tires in the rearview mirror
 - are more than a mile from your exit
 - can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp
 - a and c
 - all of the above
- Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop.
 - true
 - false
- At intersections, you should stay behind white stopping lines because it allows:
 - you to see all the traffic lights/signs
 - trucks and other large vehicles to safely complete their turns
 - you to be a courteous driver
 - b and c
 - all of the above
- You should never try to fit into an opening between the truck and the right-hand curb because:
 - trucks make wide right turns
 - you might get "squeezed" between the two, which would be bad news
 - both of the above
- Which would be bad things to do around big trucks?
 - hanging out in a truck's blind spots
 - cutting in front of a truck to make your exit
 - expecting trucks to stop quickly
 - all of the above

Answers: 1. e; 2. b; 3. c; 4. e; 5. a; 6. d; 7. c; 8. d



MICHIGAN CENTER for TRUCK SAFETY

1131 Centennial Way, Suite 2
Lansing, MI 48917-8250
800-682-4682
517-321-1955
www.truckingsafety.org
info@truckingsafety.org

Upper Peninsula Office
Plaza Central
415 S. Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
800-469-7364
906-789-5830
upinfo@truckingsafety.org