This material was developed by the Michigan Center for Truck Safety and funded by the Michigan Truck Safety Commission.
**Not so SMART:**
Driving in a truck’s blind spots

**SMART:** Knowing trucks have four large blind spots: in front, in back, and to the left and right; not hanging out in the “no zones” (if you can’t see the driver in the mirror, the driver can’t see you)

**Not so SMART:**
Following too closely (if the truck stops suddenly, it definitely will not be good for you)

**SMART:**
Keeping a safe distance between you and the large truck in front of you (once again, if you can’t see the driver in the mirror, that driver can’t see you behind the truck)
**Not so smart:** Passing a truck within one mile of your exit

**Smart:** Trucks can’t slow down as quickly as cars, so either change lanes in front of the truck at a safe distance or hang back and wait.

**Not so smart:** Sneaking between a truck and the curb while the truck is making a right turn

**Smart:** Avoid the “squeeze play.” Stay back, giving a truck plenty of room to make a right turn.
**NOT SO SMART:**
Stopping over the white stopping lines at intersections

**SMART:**
Stopping behind the white stopping lines, giving large vehicles plenty of room to make turns at intersections

**NOT SO SMART:**
Expecting a truck to move out of your way when merging onto the highway

**SMART:**
Knowing that merging traffic must yield when merging onto the highway; so pick your spot, adjust your speed appropriately and go with the flow
**NOT so SMART:**
Thinking that fatigue is only a problem for “over-the-road” truck drivers

**SMART:**
Knowing that everyone gets fatigued; if you feel tired, you are fatigued

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**NOT so SMART:**
Thinking that safety is the responsibility of other drivers

**SMART:**
Practicing the 10 steps for responsible driving because safety is all about YOU:

1. YOU should plan your route
2. YOU should maintain your vehicle
3. YOU should focus your attention
4. YOU should minimize your distractions
5. YOU should know your surroundings
6. YOU should share your space
7. YOU should watch your speed
8. YOU should keep your distance
9. YOU should signal your intentions early
10. YOU should always wear your safety belt