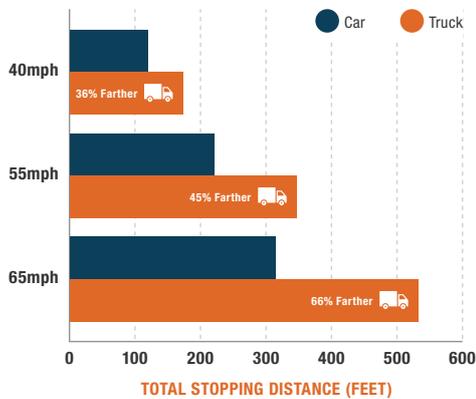


Safely Sharing the Road with Trucks

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, there are more than 250,000 accidents involving cars and trucks each year. Research also shows that most deaths in these large truck crashes are passenger vehicle occupants. That's why it's especially important to use caution around trucks, buses, semis and other large commercial vehicles.



Understanding Stopping Distances

A fully-loaded semi can weigh as much as 80,000 pounds, or 20 times more than a passenger vehicle. Although they have larger brakes than other cars and vehicles, they need more time to come to a complete stop.

Braking distances can also be affected by road surfaces and weather conditions such as rain, snow or ice. Keep further distances from trucks and tractor trailers under those circumstances in order to prevent auto accidents.

Stay Out of No-Zones

Trucks can't maneuver as quickly as cars in emergency situations. They also have several blind spots because of their size and height. These danger areas are called no-zones because crashes are more likely to occur in these spots. Staying out of them could save your life.



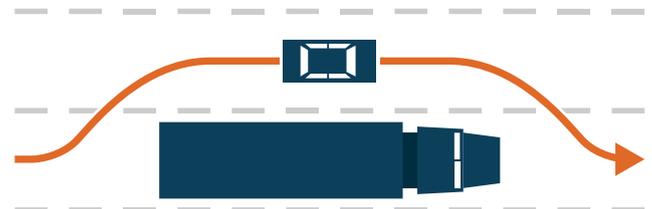
Don't Linger Near Trucks

Give trucks plenty of space to avoid dangerous scenarios.

Tire Blowouts: Tire shreds could fly through your windshield

High Winds: Could cause truck rollovers

Sudden Stops: Cars could slide under trailers



Pass Trucks with Caution

Pass on the left side of trucks for maximum visibility. Be sure to maintain a consistent speed.

Other Safety Tips for Motorists

- 1 Trucks create wind gusts. Keep both hands on the wheel when you pass a truck or when a truck passes you.
- 2 Leave plenty of room between your car and a truck when stopping on a hill. Trucks may roll back as the driver releases the brake.
- 3 Don't speed up when a truck is passing you. Instead, stay to the right and slow down slightly. Let the truck pass you. This will give the truck driver plenty of room to pass safely and get you out of the truck's no-zone faster.
- 4 Give trucks lots of space when they change lanes. An average truck changing lanes at highway speeds needs an eight second gap or 700 feet (the length of 2 1/2 football fields).

Sources: AAA, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Driver Solutions, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration