



The Dangers of Semi-Trucks on the Road

Commercial trucking is an essential part of our national economy and infrastructure — but, as we know all too well, semi-trucks also pose notable dangers to drivers.

Approximately 4,000 people die and another 100,000 are injured in commercial trucking accidents each year. It's important to remember that larger vehicles operate under unique constraints, increasing the likelihood of collision.

The United States Department of Transportation offers the following safety reminders for driving alongside semi-trucks:

Never cut in front of a semi-truck. Commercial trucks simply can't stop as quickly as smaller consumer vehicles. In fact, a semi-truck traveling at just 55 MPH requires the length of a football field to reach a complete stop.

Don't tailgate. Because semi-trucks are so large, they significantly limit your available field of vision. If there's a sudden sea of brake lights ahead of the truck driver, you won't know it if you're following too closely. Allow plenty of following distance to avoid visual surprises or rear-end collisions.

Keep out of their blind spots. "Big rig" trucks have enormous blind spots. While truck drivers are trained to change lanes and make turns with caution, you can protect yourself by staying well outside of the blind spot. Here's a tip: Look at the truck's driver-side mirror. If you can't see the driver's face, he or she probably can't see you either.

We want you to stay safe on the roads. Share the highway respectfully and always remain mindful of commercial trucks' limitations.

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