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Maintain a Safe Following Distance

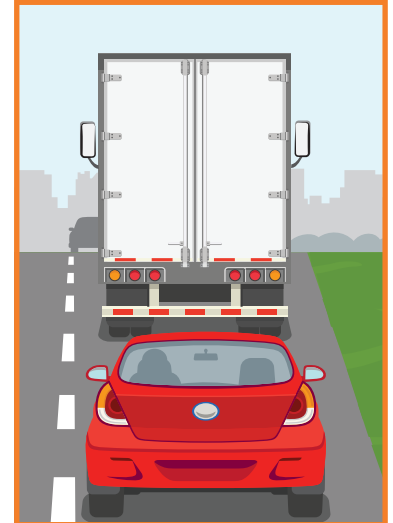
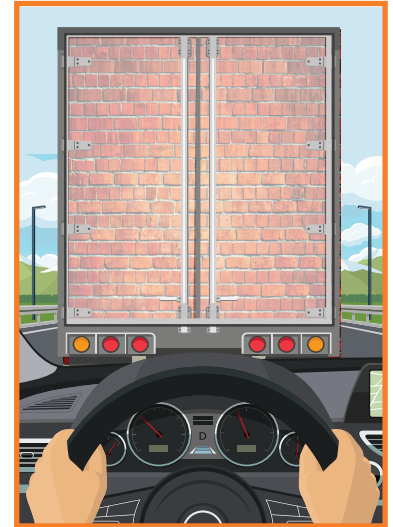


Tailgating a large truck is like a brick wall in front of you. You cannot see through it or around it!

- You will not be able to see any hazards in the roadway ahead such as:
 - Debris in the roadway that may damage your vehicle
 - Construction zones
 - Law enforcement and emergency vehicles

All 50 states have move over laws to give safe clearance for law enforcement, emergency vehicles. Some states include tow trucks and construction vehicles in their move over laws.

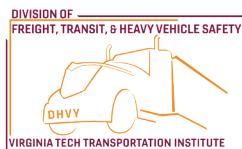
 - Bicyclists or pedestrians
- Cargo or other objects may come loose, fall from the truck and impact your vehicle. Objects may penetrate the windshield, causing serious injury or even death.
- Tailgating trucks at intersections may prevent you from seeing traffic control devices and could lead to crashes.
- Tailgating may lead to a rear-end crash if the truck brakes suddenly.
 - Large trucks have significantly more mass than passenger vehicles, therefore, your vehicle will absorb the majority of force from the impact.
 - A rear-end collision with a tractor-trailer often results in an underride crash which is usually fatal.



How Can You Maintain a Safe Following Distance?

- Ask yourself; can I see the truck's mirrors?
- Stay far enough back to see the mirrors on *both sides* of the truck. If you can, you are completely out of the rear no-zone.
- In city driving, stop-and-go traffic, or at slow speeds, position your vehicle so you can see at least the driver's side mirror.

The Sharing the Road with Trucks (STR) program was developed by a team of large truck safety experts from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) in response to research that found over 75% of crashes or close calls involving trucks are primarily caused by car drivers. Increased light vehicle driver knowledge on how to safely interact with large trucks on roadways can reduce these incidents. There are five key strategies for sharing the road with large trucks.



<https://cmvroadsharing.org/>