

Safety Fact Sheet



These programs offered by the Utah Safety Council offer practical strategies to reduce collision related injuries and fatalities on Utah roadways.

SMART DRIVING AROUND BIG-RIGS

Driving a truck is not like driving a car. Truck drivers cannot make sudden maneuvers and they have much larger blind spots, need more room to stop, and require additional lanes to make wide turns. Statistics show that over 70 percent of truck accidents are caused by auto drivers that did not practice smart driving. With over 6 million big-rigs on the road, it is critical that we observe a few simple rules of thumb to protect our truckers, ourselves, and our fellow motorists.

Don't hang out in the No-Zone. The No-Zone is the area around trucks in which cars disappear from the driver's view into blind spots or are so close that they restrict the driver's ability to stop or maneuver safely.

- Don't follow trucks closely, as they can't see you and you can't see the road ahead.
- Never linger on the sides of a truck. If you can't see the driver's face in his side-view mirror, he can't see you.
- When passing the vehicle, do so quickly. Make sure you can see the entire cab in your rear-view mirror before signalling and cutting in front of the truck.
- Don't try to squeeze past a truck while he is swinging wide to make a right turn. He will not see you, and you will most likely collide.

Other Tips

- Pay attention to a truck's signals, and allow them to safely make their desired maneuver.
- Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Trucks do not have rear-view mirrors.
- Slow down when a truck passes you, especially during bad weather. The spray from their tires reduces your visibility.

