**Safe Speed Talking Points for**

**Safety Stakeholders**

## Why does maintaining a safe speed matter?

* Speeding claimed 7,725 lives on America’s roadways in 2020[[1]](#footnote-1), or an average of more than 21 people per day.
* In 2019, speeding of any kind was the most frequent driver-related factor for both passenger vehicles and commercial motor vehicles (CMVs)[[2]](#footnote-2).
* In fact, speeding caused 374 fatal crashes involving a large truck in 2019[[3]](#footnote-3).
* The large size and weight of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) increase driving challenges, including acceleration and braking. It’s critical CMV drivers maintain safe speeds while maneuvering large trucks and buses.

## Safety Tips and calls to action

It’s important for everyone sharing the road to be aware of the dangers of speeding. As you start your route, remember the tips below.

* When driving your vehicle, prioritize safety and maintain safe speeds at all times.
* Always obey all traffic laws, especially the speed limit. Unsafe driving behaviors can lead to crashes and fatalities.
* Tires and brakes can impact your ability to stop. Make sure your vehicle is in safe working order by completing pre-trip safety inspections.
* Big trucks need more time to stop safely. Don’t follow too closely, or merge or make sudden stops directly in front of them.
* Work zones present many hazards, like lane shifts, sudden stops, uneven road surfaces, moving equipment and workers, and more. Stay alert and be prepared to stop.
* Maintain a safe speed so if the need to stop arises, it can be done efficiently.
* Be aware of detours, mountainous terrain, and road conditions to anticipate when a slower speed may be necessary.
* The speed limits posted on curve warning signs are intended for passenger vehicles; CMVs should reduce speed even further. Approach curves and entrance/exit ramps at a safe speed to avoid rollovers.
* Hazardous conditions like rain, sleet, or snow can greatly increase the stopping distance for CMVs. Drive at an appropriate speed to avoid the risk of a crash.

*Our Roads, Our Safety* helps improve safety on America’s roadways by providing safety tips to passenger vehicle drivers, CMV drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

* For downloadable resources on key safety topics, check out FMCSA’s Outreach Toolkit: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/outreach-toolkit](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/outreach-toolkit?utm_source=talking_points&utm_medium=other&utm_campaign=speeding_field_toolkit).
* For additional resources specific to CMV drivers, check out the CMV Driver Toolkit: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/cmv-driver-toolkit](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/cmv-driver-toolkit?utm_source=talking_points&utm_medium=other&utm_campaign=speeding_field_toolkit).

1. NHTSA Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. FMCSA Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. FMCSA Large Truck and Bus Crash Facts 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)