Safety Tips for

DRIVING AROUND LARGE TRUCKS OR BUSES

OUR ROADS SAFETY™
Partnership for Responsible Driving

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Large trucks and buses—also known as commercial motor vehicles, or CMVs—have large blind spots, long stopping distances, and limited maneuverability. Simple actions can help you avoid causing or experiencing problems around trucks and buses.

1. **PASS SAFELY.**
Make sure you see the bus or truck driver in the mirror before passing. Signal, move into the left lane, and accelerate to pass promptly. Ensure the truck or bus is visible in your rear mirror before pulling in front. Never pass on a downgrade or from the right lane.

2. **NEVER DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.**
Alcohol and drugs impair judgment and reaction time; there is no safe limit for drinking before driving. Many prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs cause dizziness, sleepiness, or slow reaction time. Heed medication warnings: have someone else drive or use other transportation.

3. **DON'T CUT IT CLOSE.**
Cutting off a bus or truck is especially dangerous. If you move in quickly you're likely to be in a blind spot. Even if you're visible, long stopping distance may prevent the driver from stopping in time.

4. **DON'T DRIVE FATIGUED.**
Take regular breaks, get another driver to relieve you, or get off the road and find a safe place to rest.

5. **BUCKLE UP – ALWAYS.**
Using safety belts is one of the most important things you and passengers can do to save lives. Kids are safest in the back seat, buckled up, or in a car seat. If your pet comes along, use a carrier or appropriate safety restraint.

6. **STAY BACK.**
Tailgating a truck or bus puts you in a blind spot. If you fail to stop in time (or get hit from behind) your vehicle could slide under a truck, with devastating results. Also keep a safe distance while stopped – especially on an upgrade, where a bus or truck might roll back.

7. **BE PATIENT.**
Trucks and buses accelerate slowly and may use speed limiters. Honking or driving aggressively can cause dangerous distraction.

8. **STAY OUT OF BLIND SPOTS.**
Large trucks and buses have huge blind spots on every side. If you can't see the driver in the vehicle's side mirror, assume the driver can't see you.

9. **ANTICIPATE WIDE TURNS.**
Buses and trucks swing wide and may even start a turn from a middle lane. Never squeeze by a turning vehicle, get between it and the curb, or "block the box" (cross the white line) in an intersection.

10. **STAY FOCUSED.**
Driving distracted is as dangerous as driving impaired. Eating, drinking, adjusting the radio, or attending to a text, app, call, or GPS can take your eyes off the road long enough to cause a crash.

Get more safety tips and resources to share by visiting the *Our Roads, Our Safety* website: **www.ShareTheRoadSafely.gov**

FMCSA-ADO-17-017 – (2)

June 2020