

GOLD CROSS BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES TO AVOID REAR END COLLISIONS



People in a hurry can exhibit a multitude of poor driving habits, including speeding, tailgating, risk taking behavior and a general disregard for others. Their rushed, frantic pace and their focus on just the road in front of them puts them at a severe disadvantage when it comes time to recognize, react and respond to emergencies. Recognize anyone you know?



At least 3 Seconds Is What You Need

Most experts agree that a space of a minimum 3 seconds between you and the vehicle in front of you is considered a minimum reasonable safety space. That means that you will have time to recognize a hazard, decide on an evasive maneuver and then execute that maneuver safely. This assumes ideal road, vehicle, driver and weather conditions. Scan well ahead at all times.

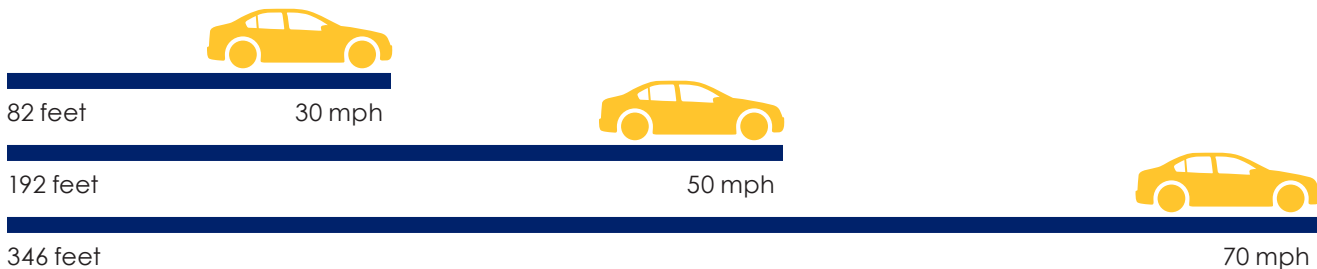
What To Do About Tailgaters

More than 50% of all aggressive driving behavior is tailgating. Those inclined to follow us too closely are often angry, impatient and convinced that the car in front of them is responsible for holding them up. Similarly, that tailgater could actually be a mother trying to get her child to the hospital. We just don't know the reason. Regardless of the reason, the SMARTDRIVER'S response is the same, slow down, move to the right when it is safe and let them by!

Rear End Hits

Safe Speed — Smart Speed

The posted speed limit may never be exceeded, however, conditions (snow, ice, rain, fog etc.) may require a slower speed. Even if the posted speed limit is higher — you can be ticketed for “Driving Too Fast for Conditions.” Inappropriate speed acts in much the same way as inattention. Increased speed decreases the time between your perception of a dangerous situation and the time you actually encounter it. Speeding increases the distance your vehicle travels, decreasing your time to react.



Stopping Distance

Stopping distance is the combination of Perception, Reaction Time and Braking Distance. That is how long it takes a driver under ideal conditions to recognize a hazard and bring the car to a complete stop.

Night Driving — Rear End Collisions

Night time is especially risky for drivers. Most people are programmed to sleep when it's dark and sleep can become irresistible late at night. Avoid driving during the “low” period between 2 and 6 a.m. To be a safer driver, become aware of your own biological clock. What times of day do you feel most alert? What times do you feel most drowsy? Once you are aware of your personal cycle, you can take extra care when you're likely to feel sleepy.

About 90% of driving decisions are based upon what we see. At night, your vision is reduced. Slow down and drive within the range of your headlights. This is about 500 feet on high beam and about 350 feet on low beam. Be sure you can stop within the distance you can see ahead.



Most “ACCIDENTS” are really “CRASHES”
Most “CRASHES” are Preventable
Safety is No “ACCIDENT” — It’s An “ATTITUDE”

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