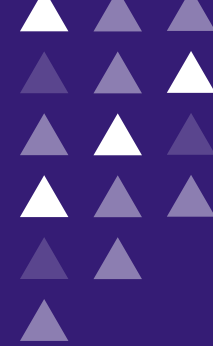




Aggressive Driving

Instructions: Use the arrows or swipe left / right to browse through the slides. (The slideshow will autoplay unless you click the PAUSE button.) When you have completed your review of all slides, click on the X in the upper right corner of the presentation to return to your lesson.





Aggressive driving is a traffic offense or combination of offenses such as following too closely, speeding, unsafe lane changes, failure to signal intent to change lanes and other forms of negligent or inconsiderate driving. Aggressive drivers can be dangerous drivers.



Drivers who do not follow the rules of the road are a hazard to all motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on the roadway.

They put themselves and others at risk with their unsafe driving.



Speeding, running red lights and stop signs, pulling in front of trucks too quickly when passing and making frequent lane changes, especially in the blind spots of trucks, can create dangerous and potentially fatal situations on the road. These situations can lead to road rage not only for the aggressive driver, but also for others sharing the road.



To keep control of your driving,
you should:

- Allow plenty of time for trips.
- Understand that you cannot control traffic, only react to it.
- Be polite and courteous.

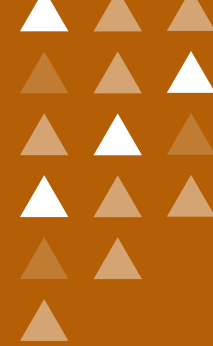


- Alter your schedule to avoid driving during peak roadway congestion periods.
- If running late, call ahead so you can relax.
- Avoid driving when angry, upset or overly tired.



- Give others the benefit of the doubt.
- Relax and remain aware of your posture.
- Sit back in your seat and don't clench your teeth.
- Remember, driving is not a contest. It is not about winning.





**IF YOU WITNESS AGGRESSIVE
DRIVING, CONTACT LAW
ENFORCEMENT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.**





When confronted by an aggressive driver, you should:

- Avoid eye contact and steer clear, giving drivers plenty of room.
- Stay calm and relaxed. Be a cautious and courteous driver.
- Make every attempt to get out of the way safely. Don't escalate the situation.





- Put your pride in the back seat. Do not challenge an aggressive driver by speeding up or attempting to hold your position in the traffic lane.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Keep anger from building by not letting other drivers or situations upset you.



- Emotionally and mentally disconnect from the situation.
- Whenever possible, put as much distance between you and the aggressive driver.
- Don't tailgate and don't use the horn to "punish" the other driver.





If the aggressive driver persists:

Do not stop and try to solve it on the side of the road. Drive to a police station or a public place where witnesses are readily available. Most people don't want to cause trouble when others can see them. Above all, don't drive home if someone is following you.



Road rage is a criminal offense.

This occurs when a traffic incident escalates into a far more serious situation. For example, a person becomes so angry about an aggressive driving incident that he overreacts and responds with some type of violence. The violent act(s) may range from a physical confrontation to an assault with a motor vehicle or possibly a weapon.





Feelings of anger experienced by people driving in difficult conditions may lead to violent behavior. Driving is the most dangerous thing we do on a routine basis. It is emotionally challenging because unexpected things happen constantly.

Emotional intelligence is a critical factor in safe driving.



Actions associated with road rage:

- **Blowing the horn**
- **Pursuing another vehicle**
- **Flashing headlights**
- **Forcing a car off the road**
- **Forcing a car to pull over**
- **Verbal abuse and/or gestures**
- **Bumping into another car**
- **Tailgating**



- Threatening another driver
- Braking or slowing suddenly
- Deliberate obstruction
- Physically assaulting another driver
- Damaging another vehicle intentionally
- Cutting off or swerving in front of another vehicle



How to Avoid Road Rage:

- Be calm
- Keep a good distance
- Stay alert
- Behave cooperatively in traffic situations
- Create a relaxing and comfortable environment in your car
- Don't speed
- Allow adequate time for your trip
- Avoid tailgating



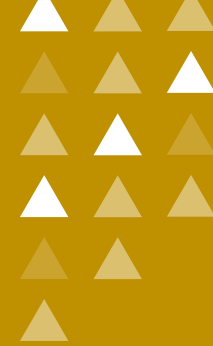


If someone cuts you off by mistake, be calm. Always stay alert. Keep your eyes open for other drivers and stay away from aggressive motorists instead of irritating them even more. Keep a good distance between your car and the one in front of you.



Tailgating is a very common cause of crashes and can be avoided by simply moving to the right lane and letting the faster driver pass. Try to avoid following other cars closely because you never know when the driver in front of you will slam on the brakes and stop.





Don't speed. Respect the speed limits. Driving fast will only get you to your destination a mere few minutes earlier. Driving at more controlled speeds will provide you with longer reaction time to change lanes, exit, or stop your vehicle.

