

7 Tips to Drive Safe Near Big Rigs



1 - Big rigs don't turn on a dime

If you see truckers veering out to the left as they approach an intersection for a right-hand turn, give them space.

2 - Trucks have massive blind spots

Don't drive alongside a truck for any longer than you have to, because they may pull into you without even knowing that you're there.

3 - Trucks stop slowly

Trucks have air brakes, which engage slower than car brakes, and they can become depleted if truckers have to brake too hard or too often.

4 - Bad road conditions are worse for truckers

If you have trouble maneuvering or stopping on a rainy, windy, or icy road, it's even worse for a trucker carrying a heavy load with delayed braking power.

5 - Changing lanes is hard

It's not easy to change lanes in a big truck. If you see truckers signaling that they want to move left or right, do your best to get out of their way.

6 - Merging traffic does not have the right of way

If you are coming off of a ramp onto the freeway, the freeway traffic has the right of way. Truckers will often try to move over to accommodate merging traffic, but they don't always have that luxury.

7 - Trucks may have to take it slow

Because of their size and weight (up to 80,000 pounds on fully-loaded 18-wheelers), semi-trucks tend to accelerate slower, and their drivers often maintain slower speeds so that they can brake quickly if needed.



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