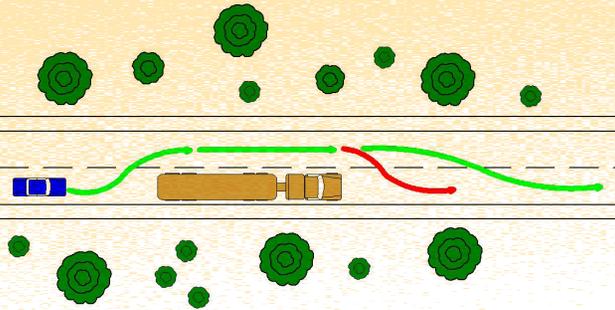




**Large trucks can weigh up to 25 times the weight of an automobile and require up to twice the distance to stop.**

- The seemingly large gap between a large truck following another vehicle is necessary to prevent rear-end collisions.
- Avoiding quick lane changes ahead of large trucks allows them to remain at a safe distance and reduces the risk of a collision.



**Avoid aggressive driving techniques.**

- Slow down and exit freeways behind large trucks rather than speeding up and changing lanes in front of them.
- Make sure you have plenty of room to pull out into the roadway in front of a truck – if necessary, wait until the truck passes.
- Always maintain a safe speed and distance that will allow you to react to any situation that may arise.

**Get plenty of rest.**

- By reducing driver fatigue, you will remain more alert and be able to react quickly to unexpected situations which may arise.

**Avoid unnecessary distractions.**

- Talking on a cellular phone, reading a map or eating not only distracts you from the task of driving but physically occupies your hands – which reduces your ability to maneuver quickly in an emergency. These tasks are better suited to the office or a roadside rest area rather than an automobile.



**Always remember to buckle your safety belt.**

- In the event of an unanticipated emergency or even a collision, a safety belt will, in most cases, lessen the severity of injury; and allow the driver to remain behind the steering wheel and able to maneuver the automobile.



[WWW.PUBLICSAFETY.OHIO.GOV](http://WWW.PUBLICSAFETY.OHIO.GOV)

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A message from the Ohio State Highway Patrol

## **Driving *Safely* Near Large Commercial Trucks**

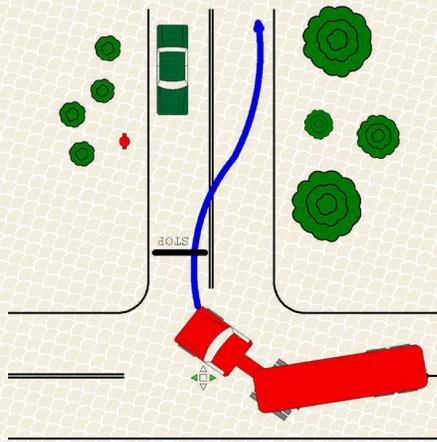


Large trucks require much more time and distance to accelerate, slow down, change lanes, turn or stop than automobiles.

These traits, combined with the many blind spots associated with operating a commercial vehicle, can have catastrophic results even for the most experienced drivers.

The information that follows will help you to recognize situations where your actions may help to avoid a collision.

Sharing the highways with these large trucks is everyone's responsibility.



**Large trucks require a lot of room when making turns.**

- Pay attention, be alert for turn signals, and allow extra room for the truck to turn. This can mean stopping farther back at an intersection.

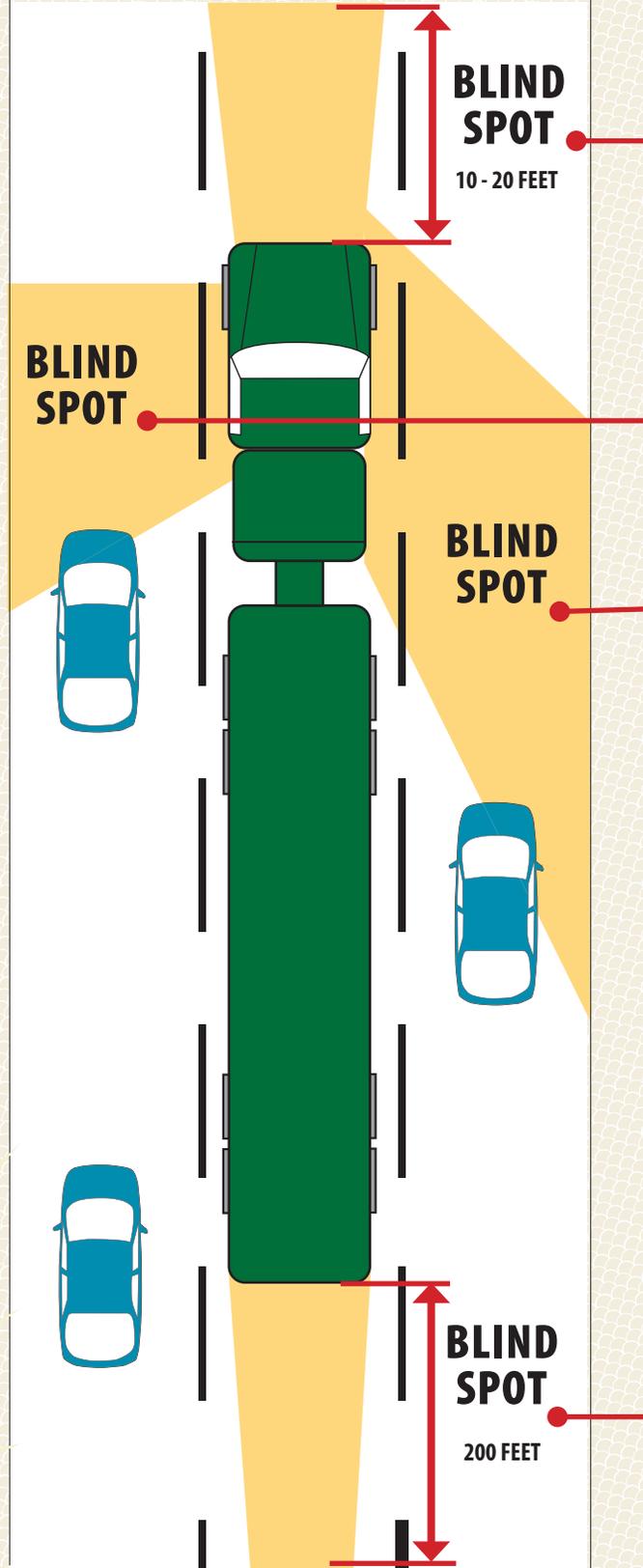
**Use caution in work zones.**

- Large trucks are wider, longer, and taller than other vehicles and have less room to maneuver within a confined area.
- Obey the reduced, construction zone speed limits, avoid passing or traveling alongside of large trucks and be alert for sudden stops or traffic pattern changes.

**Remember:**

Being right, does not always mean you will not become involved in a collision with another vehicle.

However, by remaining alert, obeying the traffic laws, and practicing defensive driving techniques, you will minimize the chances of being involved in a collision.



Large trucks have several blind spots located directly to the front and rear of the truck as well as to the right and left rear sides of the trailer.

Avoid following too closely or traveling alongside the rear tires of the trailer to avoid these blind spots.

**WARNING!**  
**IF YOU CAN'T**  
**SEE MY MIRRORS**  
**SEE YOU**

