

Almost all aspects of everyday life are made possible because of the hard work of the 3.5 million professional men and women who transport people and deliver goods safely, securely and on time. Throughout North America, drivers are the backbone of the economy.



Operation Safe Driver is a safety program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Operation Safe Driver aims to reduce deaths and injuries involving large trucks, buses and cars due to unsafe driver behaviors by educating all drivers about ways to safely share our roads.

CVSA is a nonprofit association comprised of local, state, provincial, territorial and federal commercial motor vehicle safety officials and industry representatives. The Alliance aims to prevent commercial motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities and believes that collaboration between government and industry improves road safety and saves lives. Our mission is to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and enforcement by providing guidance, education and advocacy for enforcement and industry across North America. For more information, visit www.cvsa.org.



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SAFETY TIPS

EVERY PROFESSIONAL DRIVER MUST KNOW



You spend a good part of your life on the roads. Make sure you're doing so safely. Follow these important safety tips:

Buckle Up

Always wear your safety belt. It is your first and last line of defense. Remember, safety belts save lives.

Prepare for the Drive

Adjust mirrors and instrument panel lighting, and program the GPS before you hit the road.

Drive Safely

Obey speed limits and traffic signs. Excessive speed reduces your ability to avoid a crash, extends your vehicle's stopping distance and increases the severity of a crash. Slow down in bad weather and at construction zones.

Avoid Distractions

Avoid distractions such as adjusting the radio, eating, drinking or other activities that remove your attention from the road.

Be Aware of Other Drivers

Always be aware that other drivers sharing the road with you might be inattentive or driving distracted.

Avoid Aggression

Don't provoke or allow yourself to be provoked. If another driver is acting aggressively, don't take the bait. Simply ignore them.

Never Text or Email While Driving

Set your smartphone to the Do Not Disturb setting or put it on silent mode before you start your journey. Federal regulations prohibit texting and hand-held mobile phone use while operating a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce. Drivers caught texting or using hand-held mobile phones are subject to strict fines.

Only Make Safe and Necessary Lane Changes

Pick a lane and stay in it for as long as possible. Lane changes increase the risk of a crash. When you do have to change lanes, always signal any lane change or turning movement well ahead of the action.

Don't Tailgate

Following too closely reduces visibility of the road ahead and impacts your reaction time.

Allow Plenty of Time

Allow plenty of time to reach your destination so you will be less likely to speed.

Never Drive Under the Influence

Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol and watch out for other motorists whose driving behavior suggests they may be impaired.

Get Enough Sleep

Sleep deprivation and fatigue causes lapses in attention, slowed awareness and impaired judgment.

Remain Attentive and Engaged

Short glances at vehicle instruments, mirrors, installed communication devices, GPS or other technologies can be done safely if these scans are limited to less than one second and are related only to the driving task.

Glancing away from the road for more than one second – for any reason – can be extremely dangerous. At 55 miles per hour, during a three-second glance away from the road, your vehicle will move nearly 250 feet down the road without your attention; that's almost the length of a football field.



For more information, visit www.OperationSafeDriver.org.