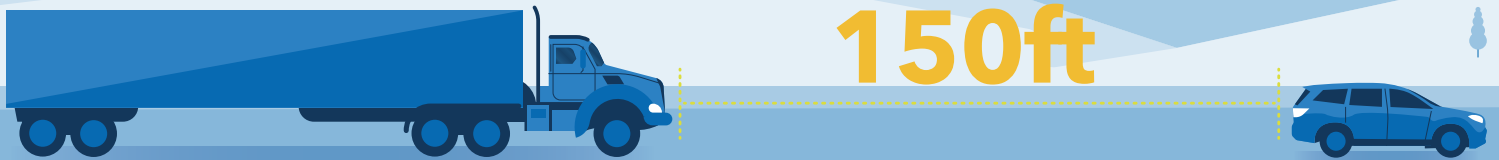


Which of these vehicles is maintaining a safe following distance?



We have absolutely no idea...

Determining a “safe following distance” is not just about a specific measurement. Instead, it depends on variables such as speed, vehicle weight, cargo, brake conditions, road conditions, weather conditions, perception distance, and reaction time to name a few.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

Focusing on time, not physical distance, will allow you to account for speed.

In Ideal Driving Conditions (Under 40 mph):

- For X-Heavy/Semi Tractor-Trailers
 - Allow 1 second for every 10 feet of vehicle length at 40 mph and under.
 - This generally equates to a 6 second minimum following distance.

For Medium to Heavy Trucks

- Recommend a 4 second minimum following distance.

For personal passenger vehicles/pickups

- Recommend a minimum of 3 second following distance.

In Ideal Driving Conditions (Over 40 mph):

- Add an additional 1 second.

In Adverse Driving Conditions:

National Safety Council recommends adding 1 second for every adverse condition. (If it is night, snowing and roads are icy, add an additional 3 seconds.) FMCSA recommends doubling your safe following distance in adverse weather conditions.