



10 MINUTE
TRAINING
TOPIC

Tailgating

August 2020

SafetyFirst

Topics covered

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Introduction

- Tailgating is a form of aggressive driving when impatience leads to driving too closely to the lead vehicle.
- The most common type of crash is the rear-end collision. This happens when a vehicle follows too closely to the vehicle in front and cannot avoid hitting it from behind.
- Rear-end crashes increase when tailgating behavior is combined with other factors like:
 - being distracted
 - feeling tired
 - trying to drive faster than conditions permit



Statistics

- Tailgating is a dangerous habit that often contributes to rear-end collisions.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):
 - **32% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018 were due to rear-end collisions, accounting for 2,439 deaths and 594,000 injuries.**
- According to a Michelin survey, **74%** of drivers indicated that they had been tailgated at least once within six months, but only **11%** of those drivers admitted that they were guilty of tailgating.



Reasons not to tailgate

- You cannot get home any faster than the vehicles in front of you so **DO NOT TAILGATE**.
- **You have less time to notice a problem and react to changing conditions:** a blowout on the vehicle in front of you, sudden stops, the vehicle in front has an engine failure, etc.
- **You have less room to stop or avoid the vehicle in front of you:** the physics of stopping (brake efficiency, road conditions, tire conditions, etc.) demand that you can't stop shorter than a set distance when everything works perfectly.
- **You can't accurately predict the actions of others:** drivers can do anything at any time. You need room to avoid their mistakes.
- **Anything can go wrong at anytime:** a crate can fall off a truck; a rear axle can lock up; a child might run into the street; the driver in front of you could have a seizure, stroke, heart attack or other emergency. You need room to stop.
- **It encourages road rage**
- The odds of a crash go up when tailgating behavior is combined with other factors like being distracted, feeling ill or tired, or traveling faster than conditions permit.

Key Factors – Safe following distance

Key factors to consider:

1. Weather and visibility

- Bad weather reduces visibility

2. Road conditions

- Wet roads are more difficult to stop on

3. Road type

- Straight or winding

4. Vehicle type

- Larger vehicles take a longer time to stop

5. Vehicle size and weight

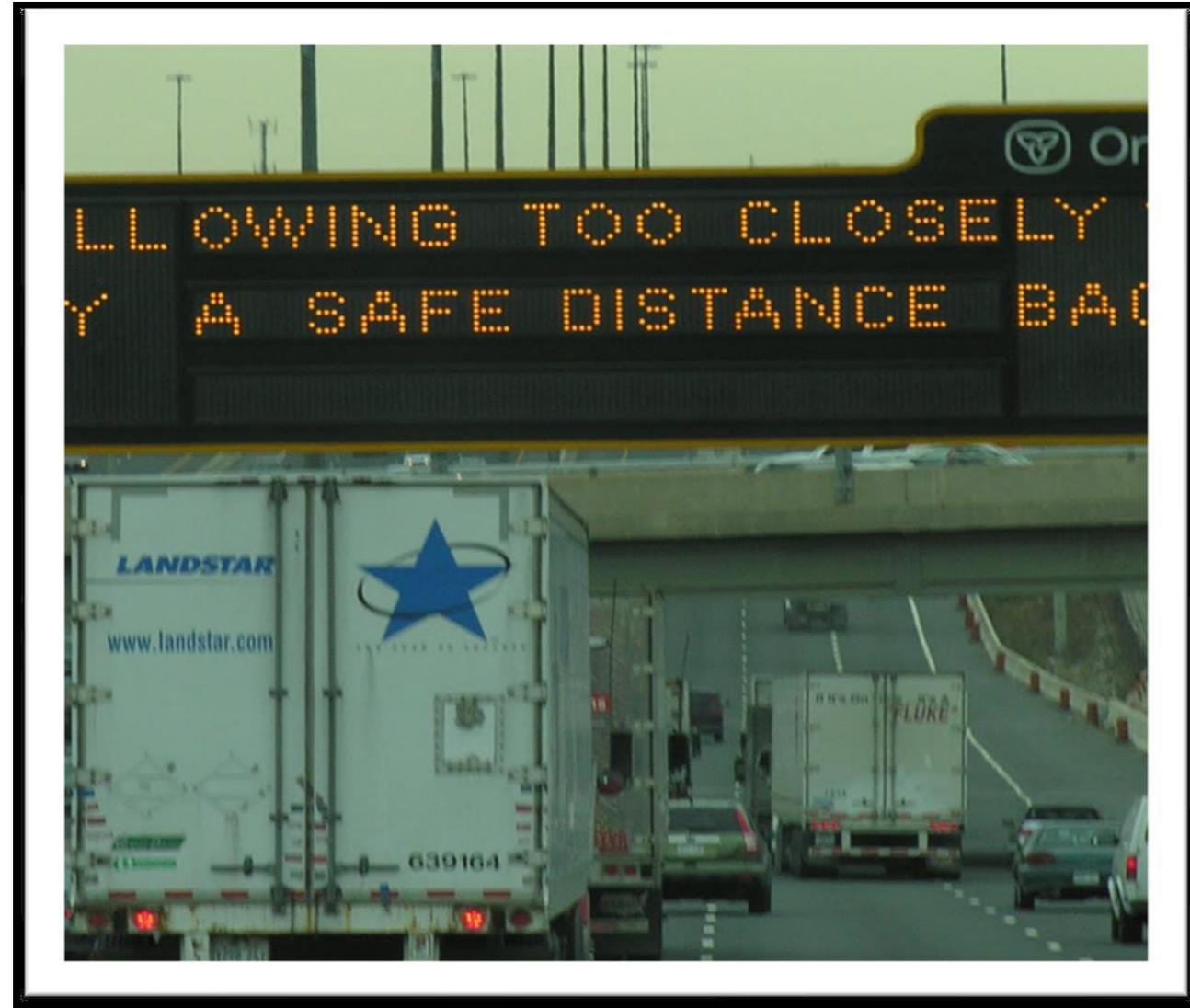
- Extra weight makes it harder to stop

6. Cargo and securement

- Might shift

7. Vehicle maintenance

- The vehicle's breaks may need adjustment



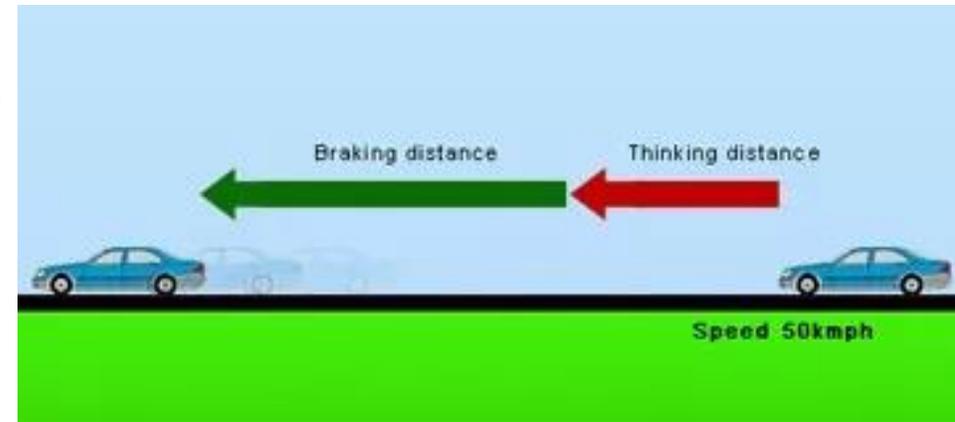
Other factors to consider

- Judging and managing the space between your vehicle and the one in front of you is a critical part of driving safely.
- The main factor is the size of your vehicle.
- Several state driver manuals point out that a minimum of three to four seconds gap should be maintained for sedans and light vehicles.
- The amount of time and space you will need to react, slow down and/or stop is even greater when pulling a trailer or carrying heavy loads due to the extra weight.
- You need **more** space when:
 - Traveling at higher speeds.
 - You are tired or distracted (recognition and reaction times will be longer).
 - Following large vehicles that block your view ahead.
 - Following motorcycles – If the motorcycle falls, you'll have to avoid hitting the rider.
- Recognize that during early morning hours or later in the day you need to pay extra attention to the road.

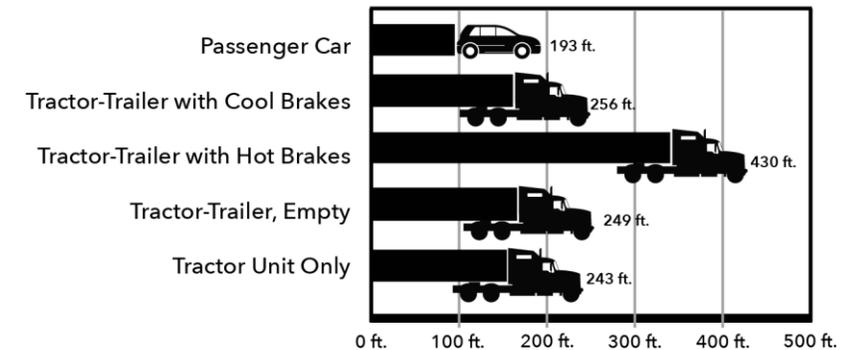
How to measure your distance

If you are looking to keep the distance between yourself and other drivers at a safe distance, aim for 10 feet per 10 mph of speed. For a vehicle driving at 45 mph, you would need 45 feet of distance. Of course, measuring distance while driving is difficult, so consider these tips:

- Pick a marker on the road and count the time between when the car in front of you passes and then when you pass. You should have at least 3 seconds of time between when the back of the other vehicle passes, and the front of your vehicle reaches the marker.
- In wet or fast driving conditions, add another second or two of time.
- If the vehicle is driving too slowly, avoid the temptation to tailgate to make a point. Instead, find a safe way to pass.



Average Total Stopping Distance at 55 MPH*



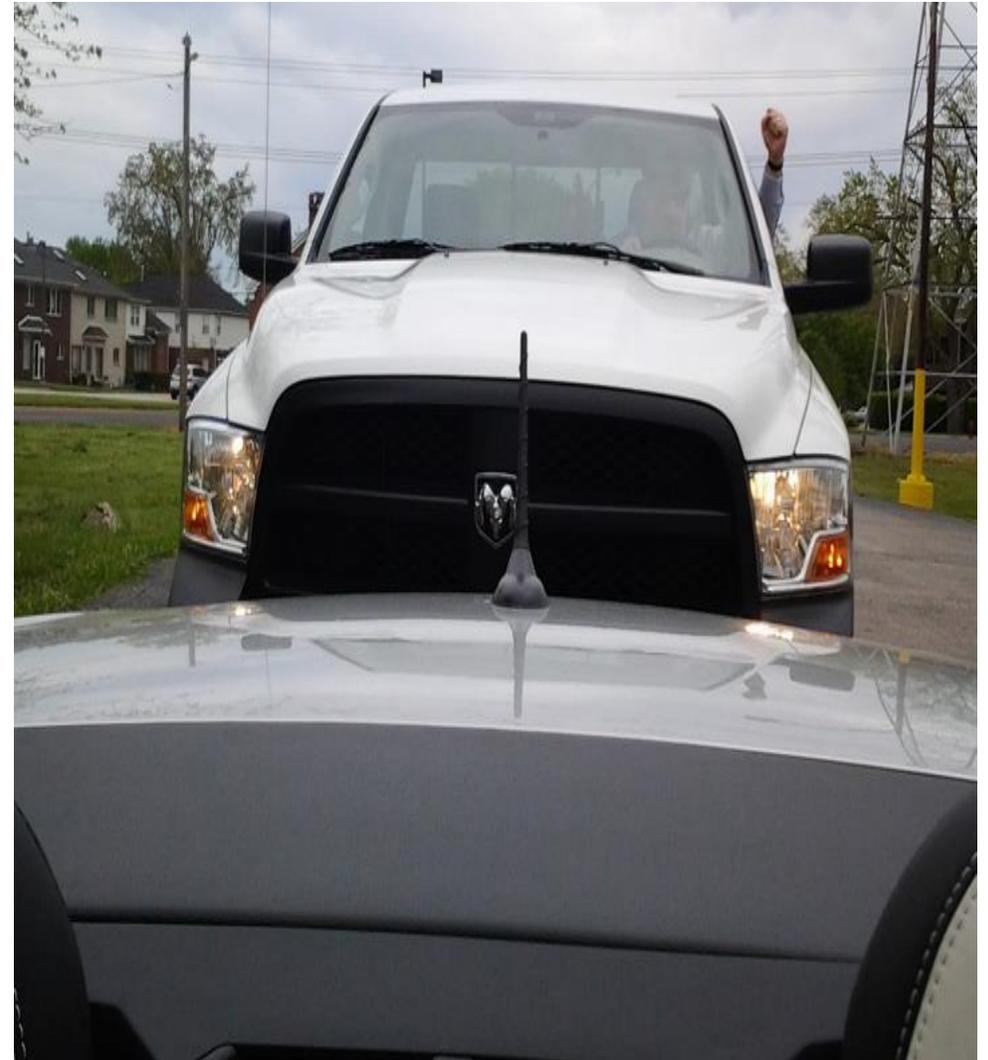
* Distance based on a study of average braking distance by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety plus reaction distance recommended by the National Safety Council.

Actions to take if being tailgated

If you find that you are being tailgated, take defensive measures to avoid an accident.

Consider:

- Finding a way to allow the faster vehicle to pass.
- Leaving sufficient space between yourself and the vehicle in front of you, in case of a crash. This will avoid a multi-vehicle crash.
- Driving in the right-hand lane.
- Braking slowly before stopping.
- Pulling off the road **when** safe to let the **tailgater** pass.



THE FOLLOWING SLIDES ARE BEING INCLUDED FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY TRAINING TOPICS FOR COVID-19.

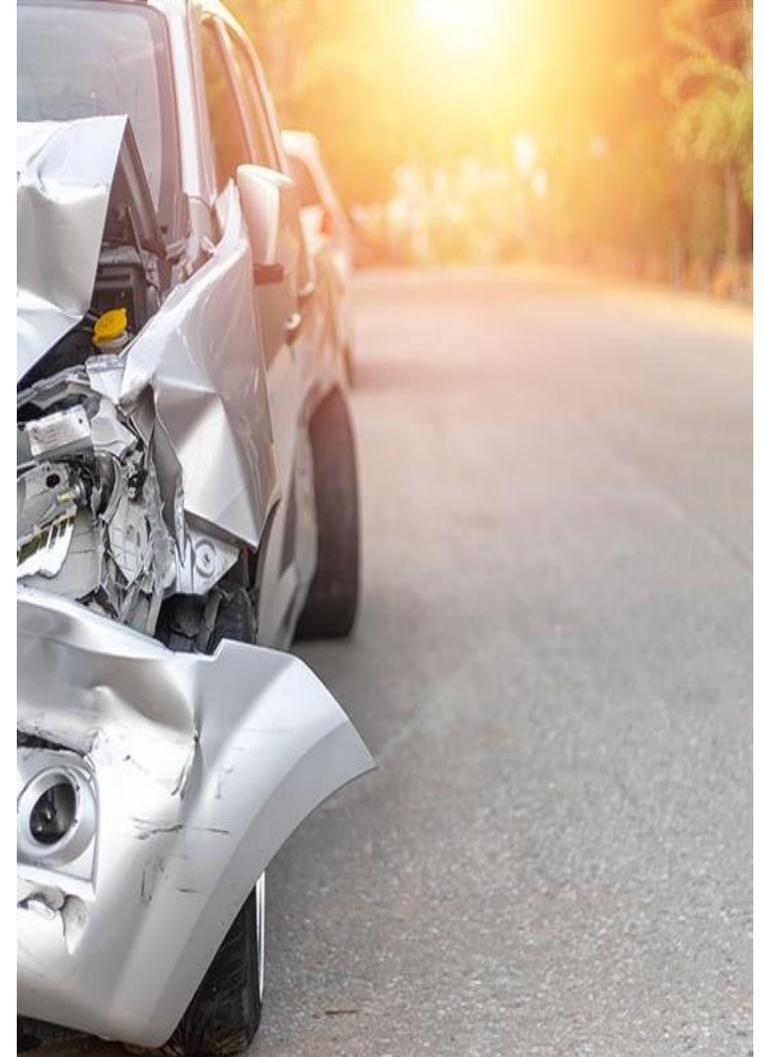
Hygiene and Sanitation

- Remind drivers to not come to work if ill.
- Wash hands frequently.
- If using hand sanitizer, make sure it contains greater than 60% alcohol.
- Sneeze or cough in corner of arm.
- Sanitize frequently touched surfaces like doors or latches.
- If sharing vehicles is a must, keep a log of when the vehicles were last sanitized.
 - Make it a part of the daily checklist.



Steps to take after a collision

- Always keep a pair of gloves, hand sanitizer and wipes in your vehicle. Remember to maintain Social Distancing from all parties.
- Remain calm, just as you should in any vehicle collision.
- Exit your vehicle to inspect damage and check for injuries. Call 911 if necessary.
- Ask the other party to put their Driver's License, Insurance Card and Registration on the hood of their car so you can take pictures with your smart phones.
- If possible, avoid riding in the tow truck by contacting a co-worker/family member to pick you up from the scene.
- If your insurance company provides you with a rental vehicle, plan to vigorously sanitize all touchpoints.



Tailgating

- Tailgating is a form of aggressive driving when impatience leads to driving too closely to the lead vehicle.
- Adjust your following distance to appropriately match weather conditions, road conditions, visibility and traffic.
- How far should you drive behind the vehicle in front of you? It depends on several factors.
 - The main factor is the size of your vehicle – more time for tractor-trailers and (as several state driver manuals point out) at least three to four seconds for sedans and light vehicles.
- A key study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration links many rear-end collisions to drivers who are looking away from the road.
- If you are being tailgated, you should consider pulling over and letting the vehicle pass by.
- Not all tailgate crashes involve deliberate, aggressive maneuvers.
 - The driver may believe that they've left adequate space for a clear dry day (their normal experience), but on the day of the crash, the weather, road and braking conditions were poor enough to contribute to the crash event.
- Judging and managing the space between your vehicle and the one in front of you is a critical part of driving safely.