



Sharing the Road

Session Goals

1. Identify all road users and types of transportation that they use.
2. Understand their characteristics, limitations, and special considerations.
3. Explain the importance of communication as a means of preventing crashes.
4. Predict and anticipate the errors of other road users to avoid crashes

Key Vocabulary & Topics

- Sharing the road with other users:
 - Pedestrians
 - Mid-block crosswalks
 - Construction workers
 - Bicycles and mopeds
 - Large Trucks & RV's "No-zones"
 - Off-tracking - rear wheels
 - Roll Over hazards
- Emergency vehicles
 - Move-over laws
 - Emergency vehicle procedures
- Farm vehicles
- Horse and buggies

Key Vocabulary & Topics

- Braking Time/Distance
 - Total stopping distance
- Truck escape ramp (TER)
- Turbulence
- Underride collision
- Work zone
- Stop line vs crosswalk
- Crossing, Joining, Leaving Traffic
- Five Traffic Conflict Situations
 - Intersection vehicles and pedestrians
 - Oncoming vehicles
 - Entering and existing vehicles
 - Vehicles ahead of you
 - Vehicles behind you

Importance of Communication

- Good communication involves a sender of information and a receiver of information. Without these two components, communication did not happen.
- Good communication on the sender's part is timely and specific to the receiver.

Methods of Communicating

- Signaling devices (traffic lights, pedestrian signals)
- Vehicle Lights used to signal other drivers signals (e.g. turn signals, brake lights)
- The horn sounds warnings (e.g. quick taps, lasting blast)
- Headlights (e.g. flashing on and off, low beam to high beam)
- Body actions (e.g. hand signals, nodding)
- Vehicle position (e.g. lane choice, position in the lane, direction of front tires)

Common Messages

- Show what you intend to do/where you intend to go
- Reveal hazards to oncoming drivers/pedestrians, etc.
- Acknowledgement of other road user's messages
- Use messages that allow you to see and be seen

Anticipating Errors

Let's brainstorm anticipation errors that could put us at risk...

- Failure to “See and Be Seen”
- Improper signaling
- Improper following distance
- Sudden braking
- Failure to yield to other roadway users

Sharing the Road

Can you name some common traffic situations where a driver might encounter risk? Such as...

- Anticipating the behaviors of other roadway users:
 - Approaching a 4-way intersection
 - Merging onto a Highway
 - Entering a traffic circles

Sharing the Road with Pedestrians: Key Points

Drivers

- Expect pedestrians
- Pay attention! Don't text while driving!
- Obey the speed limit

Pedestrians

- Use crosswalks
- Obey signals
- Look left, look right, look left again!
- Pay attention! Don't text while walking!

Pedestrians: Special Considerations

- Children are less visible to drivers
- Older people may not hear or see well and may be unaware of possible conflicts
- Pedestrians may be distracted (texting, listening to music) which means they may not be paying attention to where they are going
- Always be cautious and expect the unexpected when coming out of alleys, driveways, driving in school zones, driving on busy city cross streets, near parks, or within residential neighborhoods
- Parking lots present high-risk areas to hitting a pedestrian or even a shopping cart, which will damage your vehicle

Intersections Video

View Video “Intersection Perfection” by NYSDOT

[Intersection Perfection - YouTube](#)

Distractions Video

View video “See! Be Seen! Distractions and Pedestrian Safety” By
NYSDOH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1x1EXOAAxw>

Visibility Video

View Video “Pedestrian Safety – See and Be seen Visibility” by NYSDOH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flMytAcid1o>

See! Be Seen! Video Discussion

- What take away messages did you get from these videos?
- Will your driving behavior change as a result?

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists: Key Points

Drivers:

- Give bicyclists extra space whenever possible
- Reduce speed when passing
- Always expect the bicyclist to pull out in front of you. They may encounter vehicle doors opening, railroad tracks, storm drains, potholes, puddles, and other roadway hazards that cause them to swerve.
- When passing a bicyclist, pass on the left, providing them at least one-half lane between your vehicle and them.

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists: Key Points

Bicyclists

Share the responsibility for avoiding conflicts with other roadway users.

Bicyclists should:

- Wear a helmet for head protection. Know and follow the laws regarding roadway riding, lane position, and sidewalk riding
- Obey all signs, signals, and laws
- Wear light-colored clothing and have lights and reflectors on bicycles when riding at night
- Do not wear earphones while riding
- Keep bicycles in safe operating condition

Sharing the Road with Mopeds/Motor Scooters: Special Considerations

- Limitations in acceleration
- May not be able to keep up with traffic
- When approaching, take same precautions as you would when approaching a bicyclist



Motorcycles: Key Points and Special Considerations

- NYS requires all motorcyclists wear a DOT approved helmet
- A motorcyclist should wear eye protection, heavy shoes/boots, full length pants, leather jacket/heavy long sleeved shirt, and full fingered gloves.

Special Considerations

Weather and roadway conditions present greater problems for motorcyclists:

- Rain or hot weather can cause the pavement to be slippery
- Road conditions like potholes can throw a motorcycle out of control

Motorcycles: Special Considerations

Special Considerations:

- Motorcycle tires can get caught in railroad tracks
- Motorcyclists carrying passengers need great attention as the extra passenger affects acceleration, braking, and turning
- They often travel in groups
- Turn signals are often small and hard to see
- Motorcyclists may use hand signals
- The motorcyclist may drive right or left of center of the lane because of oil slickness on the road

Discussion

What special considerations should you keep in mind when driving around large trucks?



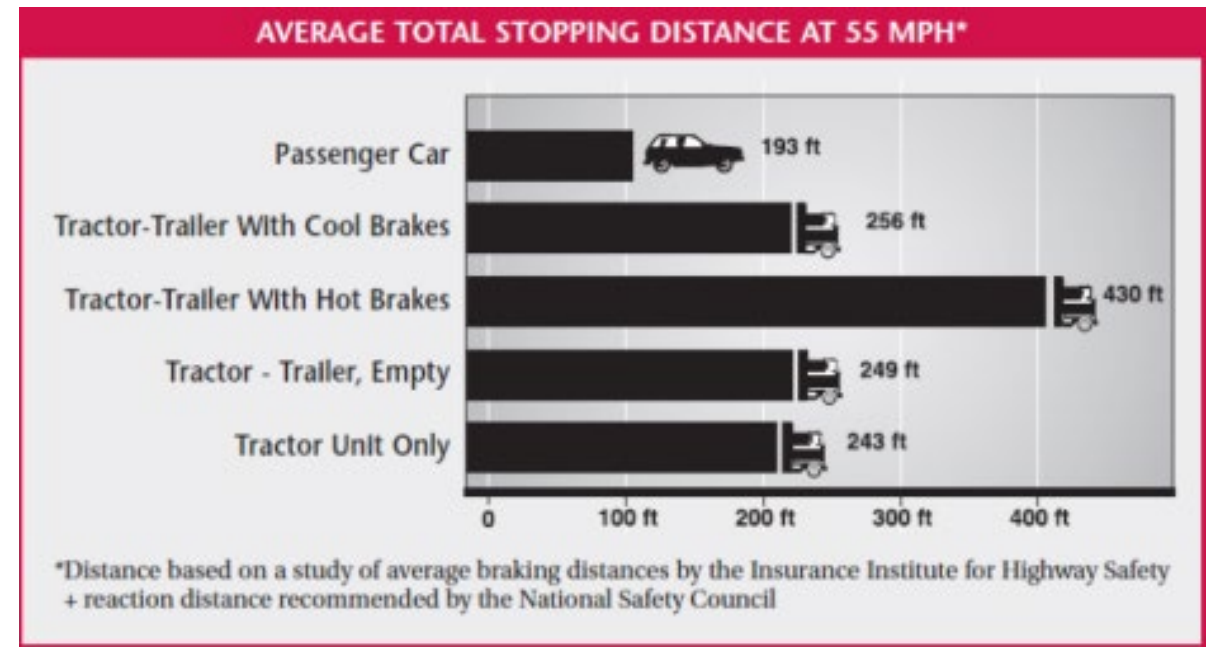
Large Trucks: Special Considerations

- Trucks make wide-right turns
- Distance to stop is significantly increased because of weight
- Large trucks cause visibility problems for other drivers
- There are large blind spots (No Zones) in front, to the sides, and to the rear of every large truck
- Staying behind or to the left of truck that is making a right turn is advisable



Distance to Stop

- Large vehicles take much longer to stop than smaller vehicles moving at the same speed
- Leave space between your vehicle and trucks
- If you are in front of a truck, indicate your intention to turn or change lanes early; don't make sudden moves.



New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.
New York State Driver's Manual.

Approaching Large Trucks

Don't underestimate the size and speed of approaching large vehicles

- Larger size can cause vehicles to appear to be moving slower than they really are
- Vehicles also may not appear as large as they really are from a distance
- When driving on a two-way highway, move as far to the right as possible to ensure your vehicle will not be hit by an approaching large truck.

Passing Large Trucks

- Check front and rear zones, signal a lane change, and change lanes smoothly.
- Stay in lane position 2 during the passing maneuver, and complete your pass as quickly as possible.
- After you see both headlights in your rearview mirror, signal, check over your right shoulder, and return to the right lane.
- Do not slow down during or after completing the pass. Maintain your highway speed.
- Never pass close behind a large truck that is backing up. If you try to pass in this situation, you will likely enter one of the blind spots

Stopping Behind Large Trucks

Always leave space when you stop behind a truck or other large vehicle, especially when facing up hill; these vehicles could move backward slightly when starting



Special Purpose Vehicles

School Buses

- Required to stop both ways if lights are on

Metro Buses

- Stop frequently to pick up and drop off riders

Snowplows

- Will go slower than other traffic. If you are going to pass them, give them plenty of room

Farm machinery/Horse and buggies

- Very slow moving, be patient!

Other Special Purpose Vehicles

Wide-Loads (e.g. transportation of mobile homes)

- These vehicles deserve plenty of room, may be slow moving, often times will take curves and corners wide. May have a trail vehicle to protect the vehicle in traffic areas.

Recreational vehicles

- Can range in size from being small (e.g. 4-wheeler) which is difficult to see – to large (e.g. RV Camper) causing visibility problems.
- Are increasingly becoming problems in places you wouldn't expect them such as within city limits.

Emergency Vehicles

New York State Move Over Law

- As soon as you see lights, vests, or reflectors, check traffic around you. SLOW DOWN and safely MOVE OVER
- Drivers MUST use due care when approaching an emergency vehicle or hazard vehicle including police vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, construction and maintenance vehicles and tow trucks
- The Move Over Law applies to both sides of the roadway, not just the shoulder on the right

Emergency Vehicles

View Video “Slow Down, Move Over PSA” by NYS DMV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74SgAZv89wE&t=7s>

Buses

Two most common types of buses

1. Local mass transit buses
2. School buses



Laws Governing School Buses

1. Traffic going in both direction on a two-way street needs to stop when a school bus stops to load or unload passengers
2. Follow the school zone speed limit posted around schools

Farm Vehicles

- Are often going well below the speed limit
- Expect to see them a lot during the Spring (for planting) and the Fall (for harvesting) when driving on country roads
- When passing, make sure you have a clear line of sight—give them plenty of room!!



Animals – Horse Drawn Carriages

Limitations:

- Sight
- Speed
- Erratic behavior when frightened



Special Considerations

- Horses and horse-drawn carriages
 - Visibility issues
 - Easily scared
 - Don't beep at them
 - Slow down
 - Give extra room when passing

Animals – Wild and Domestic

Characteristics:

- Vary in size
 - Small = squirrel, cat, dog, raccoon, etc.
 - Large = Moose, horse, cow, etc.
- May be pets (duty to inform)
- Drivers swerve to miss



Avoiding Collisions with Animals

- Vary in size
- Large animals are more active first thing in the morning, in the evening and at night
- Large animals are particularly active during rut – hunting season
- Do not swerve to avoid hitting a large animal and risk losing control of your vehicle

If you hit a dog, cat, horse, or an animal such as cattle – you must inform the owner of the animal or a police officer. Give your name, address, proof of insurance, and license number.

Railroad Crossings

- Trains can't change lanes and it takes them 3/4 of a mile to stop with an average load. Hence, on the road drivers must be vigilant and adhere to safety rules.
- Train intersection collisions occur each year because of drivers who are impatient and who try to beat the safety precautions set up to protect drivers.

What controls can be found at a train intersection?

Rail Signs and Signals

- Active Signs: electronic devices that warn of the approach, or presence, of rail traffic at grade crossings
- Passive Signs: signs that alert motorists that they are approaching a highway-rail grade crossing

Signs: Before the Crossing

Watch for these signs:



New York Operation Lifesaver Inc.

On the Road: Pavement Markings

Be alert for these pavement markings:



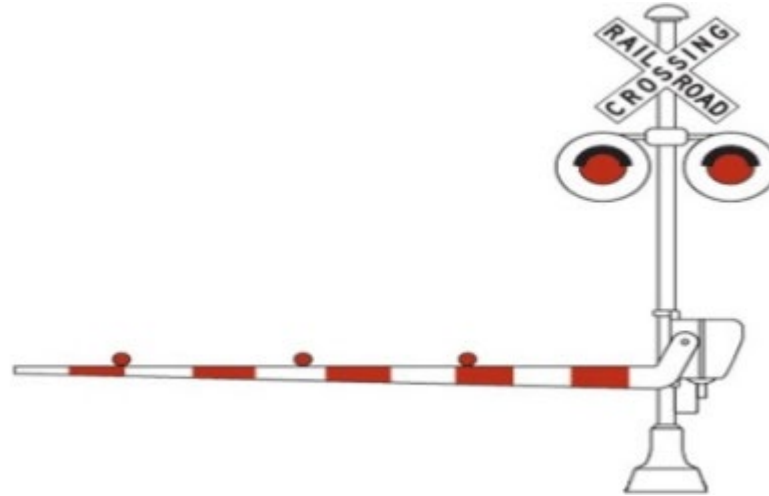
Signs: At the Crossing

Watch for these signs:



Devices: At the Crossing

Some crossings have active warning devices



New York Operation Lifesaver Inc.

References

- Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Slow Down, Move Over Public Service Announcement.