



# Commercial Vehicles

Trucks play an important part in America's economy by transporting products that are critical to day-to-day life. For many motorists, sharing the road with trucks is difficult. However, research shows that **70% of fatal crashes involving large trucks are caused by the car** and not the commercial vehicle. Learning the proper way to "Share The Road" with trucks is crucial in keeping everyone safe on our roadways.

## Tips On Sharing The Road With Commercial Vehicles

- **Pass Safely**

Don't cut in front too soon after passing. Commercial drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. If you move into that space and have to brake suddenly, you cut the truck's available stopping distance in half. More than 60 percent of fatal truck crashes involve impacts with the front of the truck. To be safe, look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front, and then don't slow down.

- **Watch For Side Blind Spots**

Because of the size, commercial vehicles have large blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver's face in the truck's side-view mirror, the driver cannot see you. If a truck is passing you, stay to the right and don't speed up. Slow down slightly and let the truck pass. This will give the truck driver plenty of room to pass safely and get you out of the truck's blind spot faster.

- **Avoid Tailgating**

Commercial vehicles have large blind spots directly behind them. Not only can the driver not see you, but you cannot see what's going on ahead. Driving too close prevents you from reacting to changing traffic conditions. If the truck brakes suddenly, you have no place to go. If you hit the rear of the truck you will quickly learn that trucks are unforgiving. There are no impact-absorbing bumpers and the metal bumpers trucks do have may not align with yours.

- **Pay Attention**

Hundreds of motorists and pedestrians are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear-view mirror and may not see your car cutting in behind them.

- **Watch for Right Turns**

Commercial vehicles may need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. These drivers cannot see cars attempting to squeeze in between them and the curb. Watch for their blinkers and give them room to turn.

- **Wear Your Seatbelt**

Buckling-up is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash. A seatbelt will keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle.

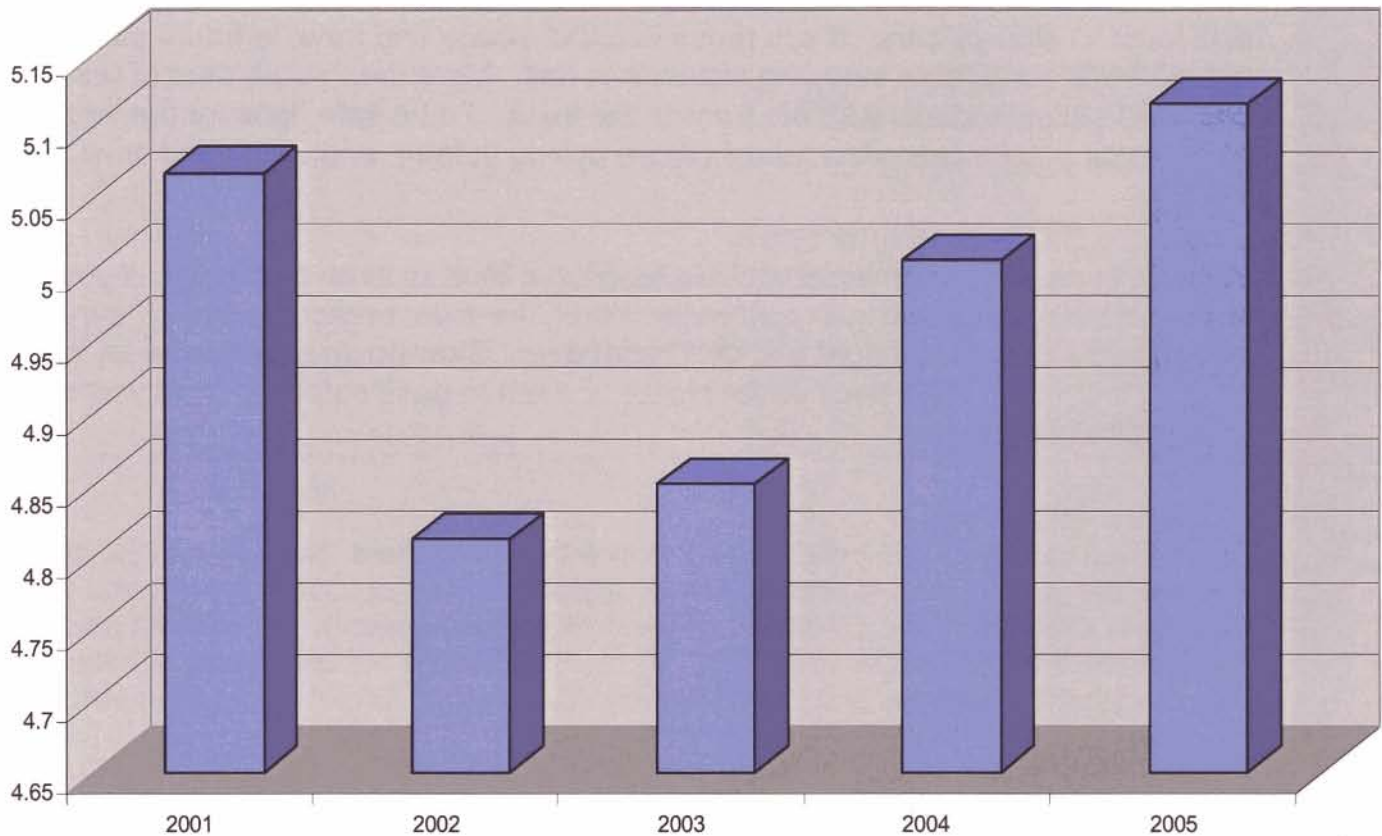
**Remember, these are professional drivers doing their job. Protect yourself, your passengers, and the commercial vehicles by applying these tips when driving.**

# Commercial Vehicles *(continued)*

## Statistics

Commercial vehicles were involved in 5% of all traffic collisions and 4.2% of all traffic fatalities from 2001 to 2005.

Percentage of Crashes Involving Commercial Vehicles  
2001-2005



### For more information:

- **AAA Exchange:** [www.aaapublicaffairs.com](http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com)
- **Drivers.Com:** [www.drivers.com/topic/11/](http://www.drivers.com/topic/11/) and [www.drivers.com/topic/95/](http://www.drivers.com/topic/95/)
- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration:** [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)
- **Highway Watch-Homeland Security:** [www.highwaywatch.com](http://www.highwaywatch.com)
- **Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement:** <http://kve.ky.gov>
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):** [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- **Share The Road Safely:** [www.sharetheroadsafely.org](http://www.sharetheroadsafely.org)