



Lane Change Awareness

Monthly Training Topic
NV Transport Inc.
Safety & Loss
Prevention



Introduction

Of all the driving mistakes committed on the roadways, incorrect signaling and unsafe lane changes are one of the most common

Changing lanes can be a dangerous and difficult maneuver, especially for a commercial vehicle. Vehicle size, no zone lanes, traffic congestion, road construction, speed, weather conditions and the attitudes of other drivers all play a role when you are attempting a lane change.

Lane change collisions can result in serious injury and higher property damage costs, especially at higher speeds.



The Law

Although laws may vary from state to state, generally it is a rule of thumb that all of the following circumstances are against the law:

- ***Changing lanes without the use of a signal***
- ***Causing other motorists to make evasive moves, such as swerving out of your way while changing lanes***
- ***Recklessly weave in and out of traffic***
- ***Changing lanes while traveling through an intersection***
- ***Most states have a “move over” law which means that all motorists must move out of the lane closest to an emergency situation/ incident on the side of the road, if possible.***
- ***Changing lanes through double solid white lines***



Reasons to Make a Lane Change

The average driver will change lanes dozens of times in a short trip, below are some reasons drivers may need to change lanes:

- *The driver's lane is ending*
- *The driver needs to make an upcoming right or left turn ahead*
- *The driver is approaching a hazard or obstacle in their lane*
- *The driver is approaching a lane with merging traffic*
- *The vehicle in front of the driver is driving slower than the speed limit*



Tips to Making a Safe Lane Change

Check your surroundings – look around and confirm that there is enough space for your vehicle to fit into the lane. Make sure other drivers around you are not planning to make the same lane change. Remember to check your mirrors. Repeat this until you feel it is safe to make the lane change.

Signal your intentions – get into a good habit of ALWAYS signaling (even when other vehicles are not around). Make sure you are sending clear information to the drivers around you and that the drivers have time to receive and understand your signal.

Check your blind spot – Turn your head and quickly glance over your shoulder to ensure there is not a driver in your blind spot.

Check your surroundings again – the environment around your vehicle can change quickly. Take one more look around before maneuvering a lane change.

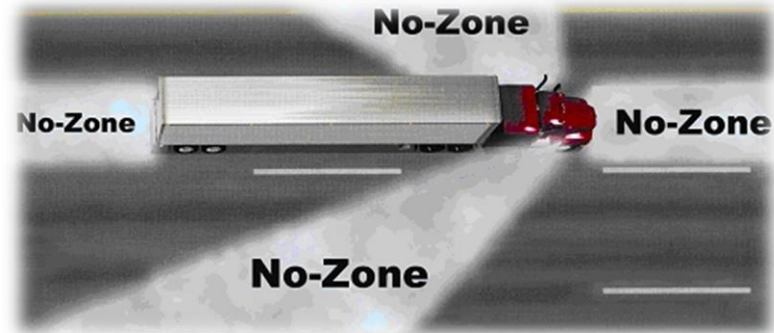
Move slowly and gradually – Do not make quick abrupt movements as this may startle other drivers. Keep your pace and slowly merge into the lane.

Dealing with Blind Spots

The reality of driving large commercial vehicles is that you have significant areas around the vehicle where you can't see other vehicles.

These “blind spots” are referred to as the No-Zone. The No-Zone represents areas where crashes are more likely to occur. There are five No-Zone areas that all drivers should be aware of:

- *Side blind spots*
- *Rear blind spots*
- *Front blind spots*
- *Wide right turns*
- *Backing up*



*Remember that other drivers are probably not aware of no-zones and may not know the size of your truck's blind spots. Be vigilant in watching out for vehicles in the No-Zone. **One-third of all crashes between large trucks and cars takes place in the No-Zone.***

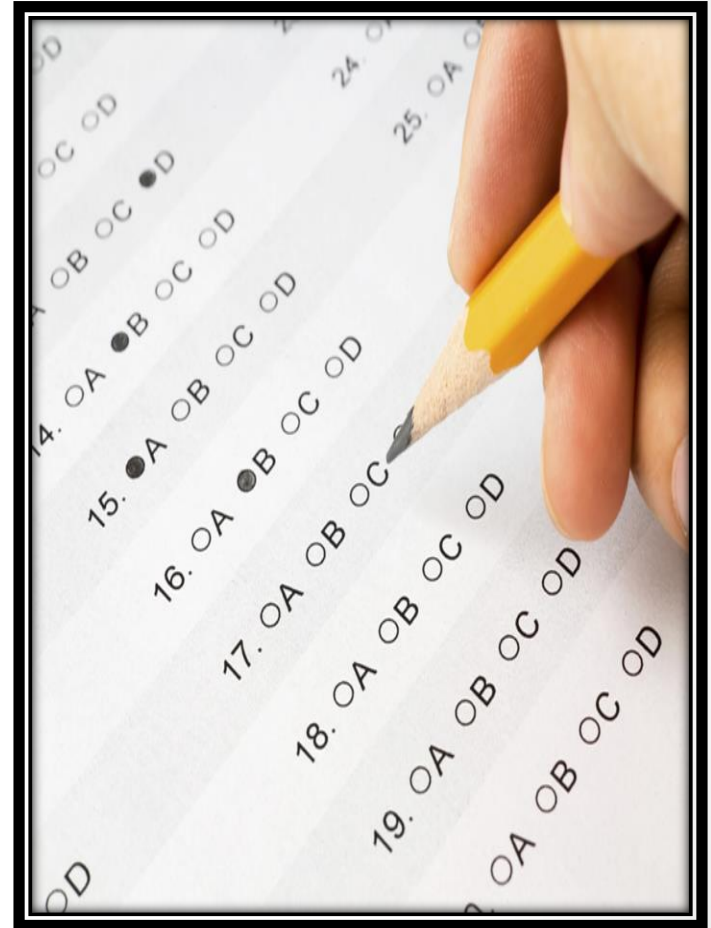
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Quiz

1. **True or False?** *A driver's ability to negotiate a curve depends upon the vehicle speed, the trucks loaded stability and the shape of the curve*
2. **True or False?** *Rollovers are more likely on rural roads and highways*
3. **True or False?** *It is best to have your seatbelt off in the event of a roll over so the roof of the vehicle does not crush you*
4. **True or False?** *Most rollover collisions involve single vehicles*
5. **True or False?** *This type of rollover occurs when a driver attempts to make a turn while traveling too fast ?*
 - A. *Side Slope Rollover*
 - B. *Ramp Rollover*
 - C. *Lateral Force Rollover*
 - D. *Sideways Skid Rollover*
 - E. *Trip Rollover*
 - F. *None of the above*

Quiz Answers

1. *True*
2. *True*
3. *False*
4. *True*
5. *C*



Question or Comments?



Additional Information on Rules and Regulations

This document is intended to be a guide on applicable rules and regulations. Although it may be used as a guide/reference for your training needs, this document is not intended to be used as the standard for FMCSA rules and regulations.

Additional information can be found on the FMCSA website.

The FMCSA website will contain the most accurate and up-to-date information on any and all applicable rules and regulations.

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>

