

## OTHER TIPS

**Wind Gusts.** Trucks have a huge amount of surface area, creating a sail-like effect which may cause unexpected drifts into your lane.

**Turbulence.** Trucks can create heavy air turbulence, especially near underpasses and shelterbelts. The turbulence can affect your ability to control your vehicle. Keep both hands on the wheel.

**Snow Cloud/Fog and Spray.** Trucks can create large snow clouds and lingering snow fog that can temporarily and dramatically reduce visibility. They can also spray slush, dirt, or mud on your windshield, obstructing your view.

**Acceleration and Stopping.** Trucks take longer to stop and regain their speed. Plan and adjust accordingly.

Trucks carrying hazardous materials are required to stop at all **railroad crossings**.

Trucks are difficult to control on **slippery roadways**. Trailers can be blown across the roadway and into the path of other traffic.

Oversized loads sometimes require the use of “**pilot cars**” or police escorts. Steer clear and pay attention to any special instructions.



## Test Your Truck Smarts

1	How many times heavier are loaded trucks than cars? a. 5 times   b. 10 times   c. 15 times   d. 20 times
2	What percent of injury crashes on state roads involves trucks? a. 2%   b. 6%   c. 12%   d. 23%
3	Who is more often cited in injury crashes between trucks and other vehicles? a. truck driver   b. other driver
4	Truck traffic accounts for what percent of annual miles traveled in North Dakota? a. 0%   b. 20%   c. 30%   d. 40%
5	How long is the blind spot behind a truck (hint: one car length=18 ft.)? a. 20 ft.   b. 80 ft.   c. 100 ft.   d. 200 ft.
6	How many car lengths are needed to safely pass a truck at 70 mph? a. 3   b. 5   c. 7   d. 11

ANSWERS: 1. d (80,000 lb compared to 4,000 lb) 2. b (other drivers 56% and truck driver 42%) 3. b (other drivers 56% and truck driver 42%) 4. b (11 car lengths) 5. d (one car length per 10 mph travel speed) 6. d (11 car lengths)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### Share the Road Safely

[www.sharetheroadsafely.org/cardrivers/  
cardrivers.asp](http://www.sharetheroadsafely.org/cardrivers/cardrivers.asp)

#### FMCSA

[http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/  
outreach/outreach.htm](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/outreach.htm)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### North Dakota Highway Patrol Safety and Education

[www.nd.gov/ndhp/safety-and-education](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp/safety-and-education)

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# STEER CLEAR

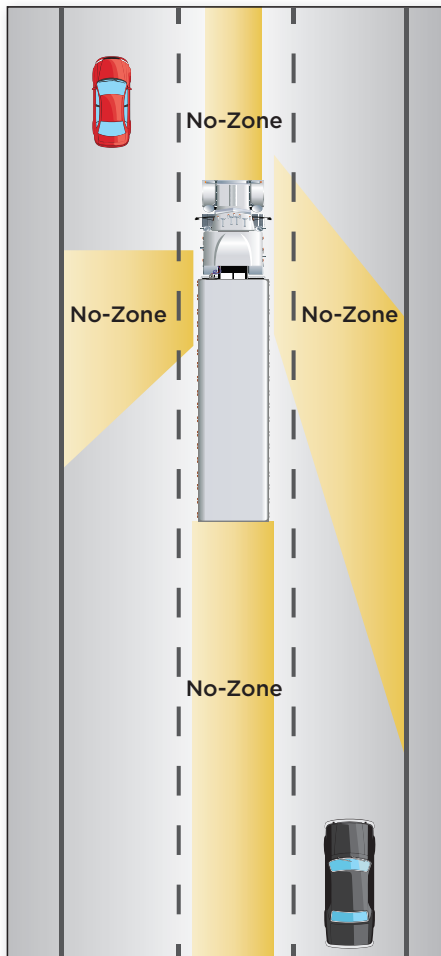
## Tips for Driving Safely with Trucks



Developed for the North Dakota Highway Patrol by the Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center, a program of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, Fargo.

## TRUCK SAFETY FACTS

- Injuries from crashes involving large trucks in North Dakota have increased 66% in the last nine years.
- In injury crashes involving large trucks and cars, drivers of the car were cited in 56% of the cases.
- In ND crashes involving large trucks and cars, 78% of fatalities were occupants of cars (usually the driver).
- **Trucks are 20 times heavier than cars. It's size that matters in crashes.**



## WATCH OUT FOR NO-ZONES

"No-Zones" are blind spots around large trucks. Know where they are and don't linger in them.

- **Side No-Zone.** If you can't see the driver's face in the mirror, he can't see you.
- **Rear No-Zone.** Truck drivers can't see you unless you are at least 11 car lengths behind them. Avoid tailgating.
- **Front No-Zone.** Look for the entire front of the truck in your rearview mirror before changing lanes. DON'T SLOW DOWN.
- **Backing Up No-Zone.** Don't cross behind a truck that's backing up.
- **Wide Turn No-Zone.** Truck drivers often have to swing left before turning right. Don't squeeze between them and the side of the road. The truck may appear to be turning left, when, in fact, it is preparing to make a wide right turn. Watch the truck's turn signals and give it some room.

## FOLLOWING AND PASSING TRUCKS

- Trucks will slow down when traveling uphill and speed up when traveling downhill.
- Leave plenty of room when stopping behind a truck. The vehicle may roll back when the driver releases the brakes.

- Allow plenty of time and space when passing a truck.
- Be alert to turn signals.
- When changing lanes in front of a truck, allow one car length for every 10 mph you are traveling (70 mph = 7 car lengths).
- Avoid passing a truck when traffic may stop or slow down.

## MOMENTOUS MOMENTUM

Large trucks require a greater stopping distance and take longer to slow down than cars. A car traveling at 55 mph can stop in about 160 feet. A truck traveling at the same speed can take more than 240 feet to stop.

55 MPH	Car Braking Distance — 160 ft.
	Truck Braking Distance — 240 ft.

- Don't slow down after passing. Maintain your speed and develop a safe distance between your car and the truck. Slowing down after passing increases your risk of collision.
- When a truck is passing you, slow down. Be aware of wind gusts created by the truck.

