

Tailgate meeting guide

Sharing the road with large trucks

Use this guide to lead a discussion with employees about the dangers of driving around large trucks. It can help them understand the risk and how to prevent collisions. Use any of the suggested key points in your talk. Ask meeting participants to share their experiences. Use the form on Page 3 to record meeting details. Consider printing this guide and giving it to drivers.

Why is this topic important?

Key points

- Large trucks are involved in less than 1% of all crashes in BC but account for nearly 20% of all crash fatalities
- The majority of fatal collisions with large trucks are caused by the passenger vehicle
- Occupants of a passenger vehicle are at least 4 times more likely to be killed than a truck driver in collisions between passenger vehicles and trucks
- Safe driving habits can help prevent collisions
- Work-related motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause or traumatic workplace fatalities in BC

Why are large trucks hazardous to drive around?

Trucks have large blind spots

Large trucks and trailers have larger blind spots than passenger vehicles. When driving around large trucks it's easy to find yourself in a blind spot. This increases your risk that the truck may change lanes and drive into you.



Trucks can't stop or manoeuvre quickly

A fully loaded transport truck travelling at 65 km/h takes 36% longer to stop than a passenger vehicle would. That distance increases with speed. Braking suddenly in front of a truck increases the risk of a collision.

Trucks make wide turns

Trucks often need to swing wide make turns. If the intersection is tight, they may have to occupy 2 lanes to prepare for their turn. If you don't give the truck enough space it may swing into you.

How to drive safely around large trucks

Be aware of blind spots

When driving around large trucks, avoid their front and rear spots whenever possible. When passing, move steadily through the blind spots. Don't pass if you have

to move slowly through or linger in a truck's blind spots. If you're not passing, drive in a spot the truck driver can see.

Leave lots of space

Remember that trucks need more time to stop or change lanes. When merging or changing lanes around them be sure to leave enough space.

At city speeds, there should be at least 3 car lengths between you and the truck before merging in front of it.

At highway speeds, you should be able to see the truck's headlights in your rear-view mirror before merging in front of it

Near intersections, be prepared for trucks to turn

Pay attention to the truck's signals.

Avoid driving in the right-hand lane beside a truck making a right-hand turn.

If a truck is preparing to turn, slow down and give it the space it needs to swing wide.

Stop well before the stop line at intersections to avoid collisions with trucks turning towards you.

Tailgate meeting activities and resources

- Ask employees to share their driving experiences around large trucks. What were the circumstances? What did they do? What would they do differently?
- Review the provincial government's [Be Truck Aware](#) campaign resources
- Read SafetyDriven's [8 Strategies To Keep You Safe](#)
- Review [Road Safety at Work](#) resources

The information contained in this document is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal or other advice to you, and you should not rely upon the information to provide any such advice. We believe the information provided is accurate and complete; however, we do not provide any warranty, express or implied, of its accuracy or completeness. Neither WorkSafeBC, nor

the Justice Institute of British Columbia nor Road Safety at Work nor the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) shall be liable in any manner or to any extent for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, losses or expenses arising out of the use of this form. May 2022

