



PREVENTING REAR-END CRASHES

Rear-end crashes typically result in severe losses and can be catastrophic for everyone involved. Preventing rear-end crashes requires drivers to recognize the hazards that increase the odds of a crash, know the defense, and to react properly. The information below outlines the hazards, the defense and proper reaction techniques.

HAZARDS

- ***Environment** – wet road conditions, sun, fog and other environmental factors can be distractions and reduce visibility.
- ***Equipment** – insufficient tread depth on tires or out-of-adjustment brakes can reduce your ability to stop the truck safely. An empty or light trailer load may also make stopping more difficult.
- ***Personal Behaviors** – distracted driving, speeding, driving too fast for conditions, and tailgating are unsafe behaviors that increase the risk of a rear-end crash. Driving while ill or fatigued also affects your ability to perceive hazards and react in time.

DEFENSES

- ***Vehicle Inspections** – check tires for sufficient tread depth & ensure brakes are properly adjusted.
- ***Avoid Distractions** – focus on the task of driving & avoid distractions inside and outside of the cab. Talking on the phone or eating and drinking while driving diverts your attention away from hazards in front of you.



- ***Maintain Proper Following Distance** – keep a minimum of six seconds behind the vehicle in front, and add at least one second more for each additional hazard present, like rain, sun glare, or traffic congestion. Also, do not exceed the posted speed limit and adjust your speed for construction and school zones.
- ***Be Attentive to the Road Ahead** – watch for slowing or stopping traffic ahead, then get off the accelerator and apply controlled braking. When traffic ahead is stopped, stay in one lane and avoid abrupt lane changes. If you are feeling fatigued or distracted, pull over and rest or resolve any issues so you can return your focus to driving.



Tim Minarik

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I have read and understand the above information regarding "PREVENTING REAR-END CRASHES".

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Date

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