



# Transportation Safety Alert

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## Rear-end Collisions



One of the most devastating and costly accidents a driver can have is the rear-end collision. In the case of a heavy truck striking an automobile from the rear, the consequences can be deadly. Many drivers of four wheelers don't understand how difficult it is to stop a tractor-trailer. The fact is, at 55 m.p.h. it will take you 60' to react and another 275' to stop. This distance can be even greater with a tank trailer due to product surge. As a professional driver you must live by these rules of the road:

- Observe the rules of speed and space management.
  - When in traffic maintain a safe following distance.
  - One truck length for every 10 m.p.h. is a good rule of thumb.
  - If a vehicle pulls into your following cushion, back off to a safe distance.
  - Don't be a tail-gater. You'll reach your destination safely and on time.
- Look down the road and identify potential hazards you could encounter in the next 5 to 10 seconds.
- Always leave yourself an escape.
- Approach intersections with caution.
  - Don't assume the vehicle in front of you will move before you reach it.
- Fatigue is a big factor in rear-end collisions.
  - Know when you need to stop for rest BEFORE you get too tired.
- Don't underestimate the power of product surge. It can push you into the vehicle ahead.

*Remember - Rear-end accidents are almost always avoidable.  
Drive smart and give yourself some distance.*