



How to Change Lanes

Lane change/merging collisions are among the most common and severe types of losses that occur between commercial and passenger vehicles. The following is a list of techniques for drivers to check or do to help prevent this type of collision.



- **Before beginning a trip, properly adjust the driver's seat and clean and adjust all mirrors in order to minimize your blind spots** and improve visibility at night and during inclement weather. Only the side of your vehicle should be visible on the inside edge of your side view mirrors. If the sides of your vehicle take up more than ten percent of your mirror, then you need to adjust your mirrors.
- **While driving, scan your mirrors every** three to five seconds so you know what is around your vehicle. Lean and look to check all blind spots.
- **Manage your space** by making certain you have enough space to complete your maneuver before you make your move.
- **Look for road hazards in the lane you are changing to.**
- **Communicate to others your intention to change lanes or merge by turning on your turn signals before you begin your maneuver.** A minimum of five seconds or five blinks of your signal is recommended. Monitor your mirror and blind spots to verify the space is clear.
- **Determine the location of any vehicle that "disappears."** If you had sight of a vehicle and all of a sudden you do not see it, it is most likely in your blind spot. DO NOT change lanes until you see it again.
- **Watch out for pedestrians as well as vehicles.**
- **Be prepared to yield the right-of-way to other motorists** as necessary to accommodate the entry of other vehicles into the traffic flow. Professional drivers should ALWAYS give the right-of-way, regardless of whether the other driver is right or wrong.
- **Practice patience when other drivers cut in front of your vehicle or make other erratic moves.** Slow down and recreate your safe following distance.
- **Improper or erratic lane changes are a serious traffic violation that could cause you to lose your license.**

