

FLEETING IDEAS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REAR-END KIND

The answer is obvious, but have you ever been tailgated? Okay, let me ask you another question - if everyone hates being tailgated, then why are there so many TAILGATERS? Most tailgaters don't want to go faster than you, they just want to be in front of you. The first step in avoiding rear end collisions is to make sure YOU don't tailgate.

Some people drive with an attitude of - "I MAY BE SLOW – BUT I'M AHEAD OF YOU". In almost every driver training class, someone mentions that their pet peeve is someone driving at or below the speed limit in the "fast lane". These drivers will push your patience to the limit, however PATIENCE is the ONLY solution.

Rear-end collisions are the second most frequent type of accident and one of the easiest accident to avoid. If you haven't already done so, form the habit of maintaining a consistent 3-second following distance.

Don't fight it; don't debate it; just do it! In a one hour trip, a 3-second following distance

may cost you 2 or 3 minutes – a small price to pay to avoid a preventable accident.

KEY POINTS

- The easiest way to avoid a rear end collision is to follow the 3-Second Rule. If you come upon a slower moving vehicle be patient! Don't close your following distance.



- No matter where you are stopped in a line of traffic, pause for 1 or 2 seconds before you start moving.
- If you are being tailgated, check your mirrors and glance over your shoulder before moving to the right.

If you are in the right-hand lane, maintain a safe speed – don't speed up.

- Slow down whenever visibility is limited. Adjust your speed to weather and road conditions.
- In order to see hazards well in advance and have time to react to them, frequently observe traffic activity at an 8 to 12-second eye-lead time.