

FLEETING IDEAS

STEER CLEAR OF REAR ENDS

Rear end collisions are the easiest collisions to avoid. YOU have almost total control over the space between you and the vehicle ahead. Therefore, rear-end collisions are easy to avoid when you drive defensively.

Some drivers brake suddenly or make turns without signaling. Because of this, maintain a 3-second following distance for all speeds. Add another second for each additional hazard, such as: bad weather, poor light, rough road, heavy traffic or when being tailgated. Adding extra seconds to your following distance will insure enough time to react to changing traffic situations.

In addition to maintaining an appropriate following distance, be far-sighted by observing 8 to 12 seconds eye-lead time ahead. By getting the "big picture", you will see hazards in plenty of time to take appropriate action.

Maintain the posted speed when driving. The faster a vehicle moves, the less a driver sees and the less time a driver has to react to hazardous situations. Slow down on hills, curves, and intersections, behind turning vehicles at night and whenever visibility is limited. Adjust your speed to weather and road conditions.

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 2 or 3 seconds before you start moving.
 - If you are being tailgated, increase your following distance so that you won't be rear-ended if you should have to brake abruptly. Don't speed up.
 - If you need to change lanes to allow a tailgater to pass, signal your intentions, check your mirrors and glance over your shoulder.
- 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 appropriately, frequently observe activity at an 8 to 12 second eye-lead time.

