There are 9.4 million kids between the ages of 16-24 driving on the highways. They make up only 4.7% of the total number of licensed drivers, but are involved in 10.1% of fatal accidents and in 13.5% of all accidents.

Getting a driver's license is a right of passage that many teens anxiously await. For the first time in their life they are overcome with a sense of freedom. Compound this feeling with driving with friends, speeding, aggressive and other distracted driving behaviors and you can see how this rite of passage puts teens on a one-way road to increased risk.

For those reasons, the Teens & Trucks Training Program was created by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance in collaboration with the Arizona Trucking Association, Arizona Department of Public Safety and American Trucking Associations. Together these partners developed a program to help educate teens about safe driving practices around commercial vehicles.

For more information about the program and how parents, educators and legislators can get involved please visit teensandtrucks.com. The Teens & Trucks Program Includes an instructor's manual, student workbook, and video, and is provided free of charge through a federally-funded grant by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. It is available to order online at www.teensandtrucks.org.

The Teens & Trucks Program is part of Operation Safe Driver – an initiative dedicated to improving commercial and non-commercial driver behavior and performance through effective enforcement, education and awareness strategies. Operation Safe Driver brings focus and attention to driving behaviors that are contributing to large truck and bus crashes.

Each year nearly 400,000 people under 25 die on the world's roads – on average more than 1,000 a day.

ARIZONA TRUCKING association

OPERATION SAFE DRIVER

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

DPS VIDEO ARIZONA

ATA AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE CVSA

www.teensandtrucks.org

Talking to Teens About Sharing the Road Safely with Trucks and Buses

Don't Let Their License to Drive be the Reason They Die

The passenger vehicle driver is the critical reason for between 56% and 70% of the traffic crashes involving large commercial trucks and buses and passenger vehicles.

TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY

Tractor trailers, buses and other large commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) are a vital, important part of our national economy. These vehicles are the most relied upon means of transporting products from manufacturers to stores and even to your door. Since there are so many CMVs on the highways and, let's face it – they can be large and intimidating – they often become an easy scape goat. But the truth is that while large truck and bus drivers do contribute to some traffic crashes, research shows that too many drivers of passenger cars, especially young people ages 16 to 24 years old, unnecessarily endanger themselves by failing to recognize how large CMVs and cars differ in their handling characteristics. From 2003 through 2007 there were 5,390 teen fatalities on the highways.

There are many types of commercial motor vehicles: straight trucks, tractor semi-trailers, specially constructed vehicles that haul over-dimensional loads, motor coaches and transit buses. These vehicles differ dramatically in their handling characteristics compared to passenger vehicles.

STOPPING DIFFERENCES: HOW LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES HANDLE DIFFERENTLY FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES

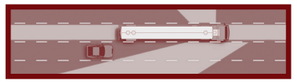
Total stopping distance includes perception of the hazard, reaction time, and the distance your vehicle travels while the brakes are applied until it comes to a complete stop. A fully-loaded tractor trailer weighing 80,000 pounds traveling under ideal conditions at a speed of 55 miles per hour will take 430 feet to stop, or almost the length of two football fields. This is a 91% longer stopping distance than that of a passenger vehicle.

Six Steps to Safety

1. DON'T CUT OFF LARGE TRUCKS OR BUSES

When passing a truck or bus, don't pull out if you're being overtaken by traffic from behind. Once you have decided it is safe to pass, declare your intention to pass by using your turn signal. Pull out and complete your pass as quickly and safely as possible. After you pass, be sure to move back into your original lane only when you can see the front of the CMV in your rearview mirror.

2. STAY OUT OF THE BLIND SPOTS

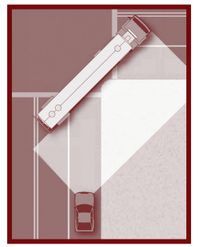


Large trucks and buses have very large blind spots; do not drive in large trucks or bus's blind spots. Pass only on their left-hand side. The NO Zone diagram to the right clearly shows a truck's blind spots or NO Zones.

3. WATCH YOUR FOLLOWING DISTANCE

While it is never safe to tailgate any vehicle on the highway, following too close is particularly dangerous around large trucks and buses. The size of these vehicles prevents you from seeing the road ahead and having sufficient time to react to slowing or stopped traffic, or another obstacle. Maintain at least a 3-second following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Pick out an object near the road such as an overpass or road sign. When the vehicle in front of you passes that object, start counting, "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three." If you are maintaining at least a 3-second following distance, you will not pass that same object until you say "one-thousand-three." If you pass the object before "one-thousand-three," slow down and adjust your following distance accordingly.

4. BE AWARE: LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES MAKE WIDE TURNS



A common cause of crashes between cars and large trucks and buses at intersections is the inability of motorists to accurately determine the speed of an approaching large truck or bus before turning into the intersection. When in doubt about the speed of an oncoming truck or bus, do not turn left into its path or pull into its lane in an attempt to pass another vehicle. Even at legal speeds, the truck or bus may be going faster than you think.

Because of their overall length, large trucks and buses have a longer turning radius. Often large trucks and buses will move into adjacent lanes prior to and after a turning movement to avoid driving over a curb or sidewalk. This can be dangerous for other drivers who are not aware of or don't expect these movements.

Because of their large size, remember that a large truck or bus making a right turn may first swing left to clear the corner. Conversely, a truck or bus making a left turn may first swing right to clear vehicles and other objects on its left side. Expect this and be prepared!

5. MOVING OFF THE ROAD

Any time a mechanical or other problem forces you to exit the highway or road, move as far off the roadway to the right as possible. Please keep in mind that some of the most deadly traffic crashes occur when distracted, inattentive, or impaired drivers drift off the road to the right and strike stopped cars or large commercial motor vehicles. Investigations into these accidents often show that the driver never applied his or her brakes. As a result, the impact force and the severity of these crashes are often much greater.

Many states have enacted "move over" laws that require motorists to move over or slow down when police officers and other emergency service personnel are present on the side of the road.

6. BUCKLE UP!

Buckle Up! If you follow these "share the road" tips and remember to always wear your seat belt, you'll be a safer driver!