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Avoiding trucks' blind spots key to keeping Alberta's roads safe

Edmonton... Albertans can help prevent traffic accidents by staying alert to large commercial vehicles' blind spots where their drivers cannot see other vehicles travelling nearby.

A truck's blind spots, also called 'no zones', are areas along both sides of the truck that are not covered by the rear-view and side mirrors, the space immediately in front of and behind the truck, and the right front of the cab. These blind spots are much larger than those of a passenger vehicle.

Practice these precautions when driving near a commercial vehicle:

- Stay visible and remember one of the key rules of the road: if you can see the driver's face in the side mirror then he/she can see you
- If you are driving behind a truck and cannot see both of its side mirrors, then you are too close.
- Maintain a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Tailgating will not allow you enough time to stop in an emergency.
- Avoid sudden moves and always indicate your intention to turn or change lanes early as trucks require more stopping distance.
- Allow extra space for a turning truck, since given their size they sometimes have to straddle lanes to turn. Stay behind and let them complete the turn.
- Allow more time and space to pass a commercial vehicle. On a two-way road, signal your intention to pass and once the way is clear don't hesitate. It is safe to move back into the right-hand lane when you can see the entire truck in your rearview mirror.
- Set your windshield wipers to the highest speed before passing on rainy days.

Following these precautions is important with Alberta's growing population and increasing numbers of vehicles on the road. Large commercial vehicles move millions of dollars worth of material throughout the province and across the country every day. To keep Alberta's highways safe, all drivers must share the road.

For more information about traffic safety visit www.saferoads.com.

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