



## **You Need Your Space!**

The Rear-End Collision is the most common type of vehicle crash. One-third of all crashes involving two or more vehicles, almost 2 million annually, are rear-end collisions. Over 85% are caused by a combination of insufficient following distance and driver inattention.

Keeping a cushion of space between you and the next vehicle helps prevent rear-end collisions.

These collisions most often occur at intersections and in heavy traffic conditions. They can easily turn into chain-reaction accidents, with multiple vehicles crushed between one another.

Awareness of the vehicles in front of you and those behind you is critical in managing your safety zone to prevent rear-end collisions.

## **Ways to prevent hitting the vehicle in front of you**

- Don't follow too closely.
- Remember to use the 4 second Rule.
- Be alert for brake lights flashing or coming on well ahead of you in traffic.
- Occasionally look at the cars around you; the drivers may not have their full attention on driving.
- Look for signs of road repairs or rough road surfaces that may cause other drivers to slow or stop unexpectedly.
- Observe traffic approaching from side roads, preparing to cross your path or merge with the traffic flow.
- Look for pedestrians; especially children who may unexpectedly enter your path.
  - A ball rolling into a street probably means there will be a child right behind it.
- Watch for pets or other animals that may run into the traffic.

## **Ways to prevent getting hit from behind:**

- Get rid of tailgaters. Pull off the road when it is safe to do so and let the vehicle pass.
- Touching your brakes activates your brake lights and makes your vehicle more visible.
- When you know you have to stop, start slowing down well in advance rather than braking at the last minute.
- Stop a car-length short of an intersection or crosswalk. This prevents your vehicle from being pushed into the intersection if you are struck from behind.
- If you must stop suddenly, watch your mirrors to make sure the vehicles behind you are stopping too. Flash your brake lights to alert the other driver.
- Avoid unnecessary stops. Parking improperly can increase the probability of a rear-end collision.
- Allow for an increase in stopping distance during inclement weather.
- Keep plenty of space ahead and behind you to prevent rear-ender collisions. Get the big picture of traffic in front and behind to avoid collisions caused by sudden stops.