

F or Y our D riving



Preventing Lane Change Accidents

Lane change accidents are among the most serious a driver can experience. A single lane change crash can easily cost over \$100,000. The typical lane change accident usually involves a truck changing into the right lane and hitting a small car in the front or rear side. The driver of the car loses control and spins, often hitting other vehicles. These crashes normally result in serious injuries and considerable property damage.

Lane use and lane change accidents primarily result from following too closely or being inattentive to traffic conditions ahead. In either case, defensive driving is the most effective countermeasure. Practicing these simple safety tips may prevent you from becoming an accident statistic:

- During the pre-trip inspection check lights and turn signals, and repair if needed.
- Properly adjust the mirrors during the pre-trip inspection.
- Slow down and maintain a safe following distance, and practice the 3-Second Rule.
- If you cannot see ahead of the vehicle you are following, increase your following distance.
- Scan the road ahead, and plan in advance.
- Stay in the right lane as much as possible.
- Routinely check for merging situations at exit and entrance ramps.
- Signal lane intentions well in advance (at least eight to ten seconds) before changing lanes.
- Check mirrors frequently before changing lanes.
- Blind spots to the right of large vehicles are well known. However, automobile drivers may not know you cannot see them as they pass you on the right. Scan to the right thoroughly before steering into the next lane. Give right-of-way, don't take it.
- Clean and adjust mirrors frequently.

Please Continue to Work and Drive Safely!

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