



# Know Your Blind Spots

Know your blind spots...Other motorists may not be aware of a truck's "no zones" — those where crashes are most likely to occur. Common "no zones" include:

- Off to the side just in front of the cab
- Just behind the side mirrors
- Directly behind the truck
- Anywhere the driver is not looking

If others are not aware of these trouble spots, they may drive dangerously close. As frustrating as this can be, it is up to you to exercise caution before turning or changing lanes and to maintain a safe distance.

## FOCUS

**Minimize distractions.** Your attention must be 100% committed to driving. All vehicles have blind spots. For truck drivers, the blind spots are quite large; in fact, they are large enough to hide a family sedan from view, and these blind spots have often been the cause of serious road accidents. These collisions are avoidable/preventable and while most only involve simple damage, but some lead to very serious injuries or even tragic fatalities.

## ANTICIPATE

**Think in advance.** Check for proper mirror adjustment. Using the **Smith System Key #2, #3 & #4, #5...**

- **Key #2, Get the Big Picture** – Search for all potential hazards.
- **Key #3, Keep Your Eyes Moving** – Keep your eyes moving every 2 seconds.
- **Key #4, Leave Yourself an Out** – Surround yourself with space
- **Key #5, Make Sure They See You** - Use your warning devices & seek eye contact.

## CORRECT

**Signal for safety.** Signal and brake to give other drivers plenty of time to notice your intent. If you must pull off the road, use flashers, reflective triangles, and road flares to alert approaching drivers. Commercial drivers have to be constantly vigilant to detect unexpected road conditions, distracted drivers, and motorists who do not understand how commercial vehicles operate.  
**Slow down, maintain following space, and to be prepared to stop.**

## TALK

**Every driving situation is new and different.** Sometimes a driver takes the same route several times a day and should be watchful each visit for changes and any new obstacles. Share with your fellow drivers any information that may help them avoid any obstacles.

