



FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE

FOCUS

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the number 1 reason for FATAL truck vs car rear-end accidents is the large truck following too close. These accidents can largely be avoided if the driver of the large vehicle is paying attention and is giving the vehicle in front of them adequate space in case of an emergency.

ANTICIPATE

SMITH SYSTEM KEY 4 – LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT. Give yourself the room to “ANTICIPATE” the actions of others around you. The only space you can control is the space in front of your vehicle. Make sure you have at least 6 seconds of following distance from the vehicle in front of you at all times. This will give you the time to make an informed decision in the event of a sudden emergency.

CORRECT

- **SMITH SYSTEM KEY 1-AIM HIGH IN STEERING-** Look ahead 15 seconds to see that you are not getting too close to the vehicle ahead and giving yourself plenty of time to slow down
- **SMITH SYSTEM KEY 2 – GET THE BIG PICTURE-** Keeping a minimum 6 -second following distance will allow you to see everything that is happening in front of you and leave you time to react.
- **SMITH SYSTEM KEY 3 – KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING-** By staying back from the vehicle in front you are more likely to look at the whole area around you and not be fixed on the vehicle in front of you. This will give you ample opportunity to react and avoid a possible life-changing collision
- **SMITH SYSTEM KEY 5 – MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU-** Don't tuck up behind other large vehicles, if you stay back and out in the open you give others the chance to see you also, like when they are entering from an on-ramp. Keep open space around your vehicle and avoid a bad end to a good day.

TALK

- **Communicate with your fellow drivers about the realities of following too close. Talk about near misses you have had in the past. No one is perfect but given the opportunity, we can all improve our driving skills by communicating the real dangers and the possible consequences of FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE.**