

PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS ARE COMMITTED TO ROAD SAFETY

It seems the mere sight of a truck can paint a negative picture in people's minds. But that's unfair because truck drivers are very safety conscious, and a vital link in the economy. It is hard to think of any goods that do not travel some of their journey to the end user on the back of a truck.

Truck driving is like any other occupation. Drivers are professionals and go through a rigorous assessment process before gaining all the necessary licences. Just like people in other careers, they've got families waiting at home, so they want to get there safely too.

The Trucking Industry is constantly initiating ways to improve its safety performance and has achieved many favourable outcomes. The industry appreciates you taking time to read this safety tips guide.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Crash data shows around 80% of fatal crashes involving trucks are caused by the other road user.
- Between 2018 and 2022 there were 293 fatal crashes involving trucks across New Zealand.
- There were 60 fatal crashes across all road users in Taranaki between 2018 and 2022.
- Industry safety measures have helped dramatically reduce the incidence of logging truck rollovers.
- The Trucking Industry has instigated a system to rate operators on their compliance and safety record to provide an avenue to expel non-performers from the industry. This is now being developed with the NZTA.

THE STATISTICS

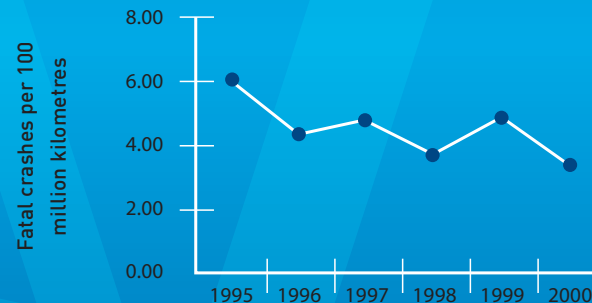
FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING TRUCKS IN TARANAKI

There have been 8 fatal crashes involving trucks in Taranaki between 2018 and 2022.



Source Material: MOT. *Please be aware that the figures for 2022 are still provisional and may change.*

FATAL TRUCK CRASHES PER DISTANCE TRAVELLED



Source Material: Caltex 'How to Share the Road Safely with Trucks' brochure and www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/driving-safely/sharing-the-road/sharing-the-road-with-trucks-and-oversize-vehicles/



HOW TO SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY WITH TRUCKS



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SAFETY TIPS FOR ROAD SHARING WITH TRUCKS

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS, CHECK YOUR REAR VISION MIRROR AND COME ALONG FOR A RIDE AS WE SHARE A FEW SAFETY TIPS THAT WILL HELP US ALL THINK ABOUT SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY WITH TRUCKS.

1 NEVER BREAK THE TWO SECOND RULE

Count off the two second rule in your head and stick to it! A trucks size can give the impression you're further back than you actually are. Always be sure to maintain a minimum two second gap when following behind a truck.

2 BE SAFE - BE SEEN

Truck drivers must constantly keep alert to other road users. But to look out for you, a truck driver must know you're there. Always position your car where you can see the driver's face in their mirror. If you can't see them, they can't see you. A good idea is to avoid being next to a truck on an expressway/motorway, either pull ahead or drop back when practical and safe to do so.

BLIND SPOTS OF A TRUCK*



*Source: www.drivingtests.co.nz/resources/where-are-blind-spots-on-trucks-and-buses/

3 THE INS AND OUTS OF OVERTAKING

When overtaking a truck, keep your momentum up. Don't slow down after pulling back in front of the truck. Imagine a tanker full of milk - if you force the truck to brake suddenly, the driver can be in all sorts of trouble with the slosh effect of that full tank.

4 STRAIGHT TALK ON CORNERS

Trucks need to take a swing at corners. The longer the truck and the more trailers it's towing, the bigger the swing. Always look at what the truck's direction indicators are doing, not what the vehicle itself is doing. If you try to sneak between the truck and the corner, you'll rapidly run out of room and into trouble.

5 HELP - BACKING ROOM PLEASE

Sometimes it takes a few moments to reverse into tricky delivery bays and alley ways. A little extra patience helps a lot! Please give the truck room to reverse. The sooner you help the truck driver get on with their job the sooner they can leave room for you to get through.

6 A TRUCKS PASSING SPACE IS LONGER THAN A RUGBY FIELD

Picture the length of Eden Park ... it's a long way. And that's just the distance you'll spend in the outside lane if you're doing 100km/h and overtaking a big rig travelling at 80km/h.

It takes longer still to build up speed to get past, then you'll need 100 metres of clear visibility after you've got back into your own lane. That adds up to a minimum 18.7 seconds to make a safe overtaking manoeuvre.

7 DON'T CUT IN FRONT OF A TRUCK

If you can't see the road immediately in front of your vehicle neither can a truck driver in front of their truck. However, their unsighted road space is far bigger than yours, so if you cut into that space, the driver can't see you. Here's an easy check - make sure you can see the driver in your rear vision mirror; that means they can see you.

8 TRUCKS PLAYING THEIR PART

Truck drivers are professionals. They know the size of trucks can be intimidating so they stay well back from cars ahead. Truck and car speeds can often differ, so trucks in convoy leave passing spaces for other vehicles.

9 USING CYCLE LANES OR SHARED PATHWAYS

Where possible utilise the separate cycle lanes or shared pathways provided as they are designed to create a large degree of separation and keep vulnerable road users away from larger faster moving traffic like trucks.

10 INTERSECTIONS

If you are stopped at an intersection and a truck is turning into the oncoming lane, you may want to back up or pull closer to the side of the road to give the truck more room.

Make sure you're behind the Give Way/Stop lines at intersections. It's very hard for a truck to turn right into a road when there's a car with its nose ahead of the line.

Keep in mind that trucks often need to cross the centreline when turning a corner so never try to pass a truck while it is turning. This includes passing on the right too, as the back end of a truck can intrude across the lane during a turn.

11 MOTORWAYS

On motorways, trucks leave sufficient room to stop in an emergency, but when they do this, cars attempt to fill those gaps. This may cause trucks to slow suddenly which can result in following vehicles hitting the back of the truck.

12 PASSING

Do not pass a truck if there is not enough room without the truck having to slow. It takes a lot of effort to keep a 40 tonne trucks momentum going, and slowing, especially on hills, can mean the truck may not be able to start again. Also, keep in mind when passing an oncoming truck, you will need to keep a firm control of your steering wheel to counter the effect of air turbulence.

13 DIP YOUR LIGHTS

Truck drivers are seated higher off the road in their vehicle. When you see the lights at the top of a truck cab coming towards you over a hill, dip your lights. Remember, just because you can't see the truck headlights does not mean the truck driver cannot see yours.

14 WASH AWAY THE SPRAY

Trucks can't help causing spray in the wet, even though many are fitted with spray suppressants. It pays to keep your wipers and screen washer going when following a truck in the wet. Think carefully before passing a truck in the wet because you may not be able to see oncoming traffic.