

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

**A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.**

## Protection from Tailgaters

There are two types of tailgaters. One type of tailgater picnics in the parking lot of a sports stadium, and the other puts you in danger by following you too closely on the road. What are your options to protect yourself when you encounter the latter? If you are faced with a tailgater there are various courses of action that you can take to deal with the situation but only one good solution.

### 1. JUST PUT UP WITH IT?

The first choice is to grin and bear it and just do nothing. While this option demonstrates great patience, it does nothing to protect you from the hazard. If the car ahead stops suddenly, even if you can stop safely, the following driver is almost certain to hit you.



### 2. TEACH THEM A LESSON?

Many people brake hard in an attempt to “teach the following driver a lesson”. Some drivers tap the brake lightly to illuminate the brake lights without slowing the car down. This option might seem like a good idea however you could provoke a road rage incident by reacting this way. In addition, the driver behind you could overreact to your braking and cause someone to hit him from behind.

### 3. SPEED UP AND GET AWAY?

By speeding up you are decreasing your forward safety gap when there is a car in front. This is never a good option. If you are on an open road you are at risk of over driving your sight, exceeding the safe speed for the road, and not leaving yourself in control to stop your vehicle in case of emergency. Consider the likelihood that the following driver will simply speed up with you; you will then have a situation where you are traveling faster and still being tailgated.

### 4. THE BEST SOLUTION

Add one to two seconds to your following distance from the vehicle in front of you. By adding this space to the front, it will give you the extra time you will require to both stop your vehicle and give the following driver time to react. Increasing your space to the front of your vehicle has another benefit too. When the tailgater finally decides to pass you unsafely in a restricted view area with double solid lines, you can provide a space to the front that he can move into and avoid oncoming traffic. We all know that drivers who follow too closely are dangerous. Remember that your objective is to protect yourself from this driver without adding to the unsafe conditions he is creating for other motorists.