



Safety Tips

A five-minute training series for PCOs.

Rear-Enders



In 1998, fifty percent of our auto accidents were rear-enders. These types of accidents are the result of several correctable actions. The primary cause however, is anticipating what the person(s) in front of us is going to do. As a result, we wind up surprised by their actions and often rear-end them because they did something we did not expect, such as stopping, slowing to turn or yielding to a pedestrian, vehicle or animal.

As a result of these expectations, we speed, follow too close, accelerate through an intersection or just do not slow down in time.

It is difficult enough to anticipate what we are going to do while driving, much less someone we do not even know. Therefore, we must take advantage of every safety precaution available.

Safety precautions to prevent rear-end collisions are as follows:

- **Exercise the three-second rule** (follow at least 3 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you, regardless of the speed).
- **Avoid distractions and other tasks while driving** (i.e., map reading, paper work, eating lunch, cellular phones, etc.). These take away from the 3-second margin provided by the precaution above.
- **Do not anticipate or assume what the driver in front of you is going to do.** For example, when the light turns yellow, assume they are not going to make the light and will stop. This is the cause of many intersection accidents. We go and they do not!
- **Do not assume your vehicle will stop the way your personal vehicle does.** PCOs' vehicles have different loads and characteristics that make it perform differently.
- **Do Not Speed!**