



Safety Tips

A five-minute training series for PCOs.



Side-Swiping

Side-swiping vehicles is the result of a combination of several conditions. These conditions are listed below:

- Often the other vehicle is in your blind spot.
- Failure to signal when changing lanes.
- Weight of your vehicle load.
- Other driver accelerates to prevent you from pulling over.
- Failure to yield to traffic in the other lane.
- Road conditions.
- Anticipating what the other driver is going to do.

Some of these conditions are beyond your control. However, there are several that are within your control and if proper steps are taken, side-swiping accidents can be prevented.

Road conditions and the other driver's attitude are beyond your control. However, if you are observant, obey the law (speed limits, caution signs, etc.) and remain courteous in spite of the other driver's attitude, these conditions can be overcome.

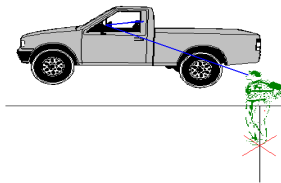
Every time you turn the wheel of your vehicle, **SIGNAL**. Not only does this indicate to other drivers your intentions, it is also courteous. Even though you can not do much about the load (weight) in your vehicle (other than diet), you can compensate for it. Do not wait until the last minute. Allow plenty of time to pull over. When changing lanes, always yield to the traffic in that lane. **Signaling does not give you the right-of-way.**

One of the most important conditions to overcome is elimination of your blind spots. To check and see if the vehicle operator has properly adjusted the outside mirrors, stand even with their rear bumper in the center of what would be the next lane. See the diagram below. Look in the side mirror. You should be able to see either their head or the driver's headrest. An effective method to adjust the outside mirrors is, while seated in the driver's seat, put your head against the driver's door window and adjust your outside mirror until you barely see the side of your vehicle. Then sit in the center of the vehicle, or lean over until your head is in the middle and adjust the passenger door mirror until you barely see that side of your vehicle. The mirrors are then properly adjusted. You will not be able to see the sides of your vehicle when back in your seat properly, but if something is coming down the side of your vehicle, you will not need a mirror to know it. This will take about 30 days to get used to. It is easier to lean over and look in the rear view mirror when backing slowly then to do so at 60 mph and changing lanes.

Adjust the outside mirrors to eliminate blindspots



Check the outside mirrors



BE POLITE.....DO NOT ASSUME WHAT THE OTHER DRIVER IS GOING TO DO..... SIGNAL EVERY TIME YOU TURN THE STEERING WHEEL.....DO NOT ASSUME THE RIGHT-OF-WAY....WHEN IN DOUBT, ALWAYS YIELD TO THAT POTENTIAL CUSTOMER!