

PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Avoid Being Hit From Behind

Most of us believe that being hit from behind is an event we can't control. It is probably true that if you are stopped at a light usually you cannot avoid being hit if the driver behind loses control of their vehicle or are just inattentive. There are times however, that you can avoid being rear-ended.

Usually, rear-enders happen because drivers follow too closely. Therefore, the best way to avoid being hit from behind is to escape tailgaters. Never ignore a tailgater. You may be tempted to teach the driver on your bumper a lesson by slowing down or not letting them pass, but this could easily set off an episode of Road Rage. The right thing to do is to let tailgaters pass you as soon as possible; these are not drivers you want anywhere in your vicinity!



Making other drivers aware of your vehicle and your intentions is key, especially when you make frequent stops. Always remember to look in your rearview mirror when you brake.

- Make certain your brake and taillights are operational.
- Use your hazard flashers whenever you must double park.
- If you must stop in an unusual location, or if you break down, get as far off the road as possible and use flashers or emergency reflective equipment to make yourself visible.

Your "bubble" or space is the area around your car that should be left open so you will have an "escape" if you need to take evasive action. Always perform visual scanning while you drive, checking the road ahead and to the sides, and especially checking your rearview and side mirrors every five seconds or so.

As you scan, ask yourself:

- If this car in front of me stopped suddenly, would I be able to change lanes or drive off the road to get out of the way of the vehicle behind me?
- Have I left enough space between my vehicle and the car in front of me to stop both my vehicle and my tailgater?

Traffic can be so congested that your bubble keeps disappearing. When this happens, open up space where you can and control your own speed. As always, planning and alertness will help protect you from the mistakes of others.