

# PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

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

## Lane Change Collisions

Lane change collisions have many causes and can include drifting into the other lane, merging into another lane and overtaking the vehicle in front of you or cutting off a vehicle without adequate clearance. Merging onto the highway is another form of lane change that can lead to collisions.

Any of these situations involves looking to make sure that the other lane is clear, signaling ahead of your change to make other drivers aware of your intent, and checking to see that other vehicles are not in your path of travel during the intended change.

Lane change collisions can be very severe when vehicles are traveling at high rates of speed on a freeway or highway. The slightest bump of two vehicles at high speed will risk loss of control. These collisions often result in major injury and property damage.

There are three key activities to complete prior to a lane change: 1) verify that there is adequate room to switch lanes, merge or pass; 2) use signals to warn others of the impending maneuver; and 3) when passing on a single lane road, make sure that there is no oncoming traffic.

## Keys to Avoiding Lane Change Collisions



1. **See the other vehicle.** Look around carefully by scanning all zones prior to initiating your lane change. Once you have visually cleared your path of travel, make the change immediately. Be sure that your scan includes your mirrors but do not depend on your mirrors totally. Be sure to confirm clearance using a positive glance. Turning your head, and looking over your shoulder are common maneuvers that can help you to see whether it is safe to move into another lane.
2. **Properly judge the space you need.** When passing a vehicle on a single lane road the oncoming traffic in the distance is hard to see and may be traveling faster than you realize. If you are unable to judge if you have enough time to pass, do not initiate the passing maneuver.
3. **Plan that the other driver will get in your way.** When changing lanes for any reason, other motorists may suddenly slow down, speed up or change lanes without warning. Plan your escape so that the unexpected maneuvers of the other vehicles will not interfere with your lane change.