

Our Roads, Our Safety® Week

Sharing the road safely is everyone's responsibility. It's important that road users understand the operational challenges large trucks and buses face so that they can learn to safely navigate around these large vehicles.

OUR ROADS, OUR SAFETY® WEEK

- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is launching *Our Roads, Our Safety® Week* May 5-11, 2024.
- *Our Roads, Our Safety® Week* is an annual national awareness observance that heightens education about sharing the road safely with large trucks and buses.
 - Educating road users on sharing the road safely can help us reach the goal of zero roadway fatalities, as outlined in the National Roadway Safety Strategy.
 - The National Roadway Safety Strategy continues to serve as the roadmap for safe driving and outlines our vision for ensuring America's transportation system has safer people, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds, and adequate post-crash care.
- Commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) are a critical part of our nation's economy, transporting millions of dollars in goods and thousands of people across the country each day. The CMV industry contributes to our lives and livelihood, and it's important we work together to protect these professional drivers as well as all road users operating around them.
- As the lead agency responsible for regulating and providing safety oversight of commercial motor vehicles, FMCSA is committed to keeping safety a priority by educating all road users on how to share the road safely with these large vehicles, particularly during *Our Roads, Our Safety® Week*.
- Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Whether you drive, ride, or walk, we all must share the road safely and work together to reach zero roadway deaths.
- Because road safety is everyone's responsibility, activities and messages throughout *Our Roads, Our Safety® Week* will spotlight various road users and their roles in sharing the road safely.
 - Key audiences include passenger vehicle drivers, truck drivers, bus drivers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians.
- Fatal crashes involving large trucks and buses continue to rise, with nearly 6,000 large trucks and buses involved in fatal crashes in 2021, an 18-percent increase from 2020.¹
- Whether you drive, ride, or walk, understanding the operational challenges large trucks and buses face can help keep you and other road users safe on our roads.

¹ <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/data-and-statistics/large-truck-and-bus-crash-facts-2021>



- Large trucks and buses have enormous blind spots. If you can't see the CMV driver's face in their mirror, he or she can't see you. It's important to stay out of blind spots.
- Large trucks and buses are much heavier than passenger vehicles, motorcycles, or bicycles. It can take a fully loaded truck traveling at highway speeds the length of two football fields to come to a stop. It's important to never cut closely in front of a moving truck or bus.
- Large trucks and buses make wide turns, whether turning right or left. The best place to be when a truck or bus is turning is either in front of them or behind them, never beside them.
- The *Our Roads, Our Safety*® campaign encourages road users to share the road safely with large trucks and buses year-round and is a road safety resource hub.

SAFETY TIPS FOR ROAD USERS AND CALLS TO ACTION

Passenger Vehicle Drivers

- As motorists, you play an important role in decreasing crashes by understanding that large commercial vehicles operate differently than us and adjusting your driving behaviors to share the road safely.
- CMVs have operational challenges such as large blind spots, long stopping distances, and limited maneuverability that make their turns wider than other vehicles. As a passenger vehicle driver, be sure to stay visible and out of CMV drivers' blind spots, be sure to keep a safe distance between vehicles, use your turn signals to indicate when you are maneuvering around CMVs, and have patience on the road when large trucks or buses make wide turns.
- FMCSA shares tips on how to help passenger vehicles stay safe on the road and how to navigate safely around large trucks and buses.² Check out 10 tips that can keep you and your passengers safe while sharing the road.

CMV Drivers

- CMV Drivers face unique challenges while on the road, like having large blind spots, taking longer to stop, and making wide turns.
- FMCSA is committed to CMV driver safety and educating all other road users on how to share the road with large trucks and buses.
- CMV drivers should also do their part to decrease accidents and fatalities involving large trucks and buses:
 - Safely operating large trucks and buses while obeying traffic laws can save lives – unsafe driving behaviors (such as speeding and distracted driving) can lead to crashes or even deaths on our roads.
 - As a professional driver, safety is a priority and part of the job. Preparing your vehicle and driving safely can help keep our roads safe.

² <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-driving-safely-around-large-trucks-or-buses>



Motorcyclists, Bicyclists, and Pedestrians

- No matter how you get around, everyone plays a role in road safety. Understanding the unique safety challenges CMVs face, and how to share the road safely with them, can help save lives.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians experience unique safety challenges. They lack protection in a crash, travel slower than motor vehicles, and are hard for drivers to see – particularly by truck and bus drivers. FMCSA shares tips on how to navigate the road and stay safe.³
- There are 9.89 million registered motorcyclists in the U.S.⁴ Before getting on your motorcycle, wear proper safety attire, ride responsibly, stay focused, stay visible and avoid riding in large trucks and buses blind spots.
- 966 bicyclists were killed in traffic in 2023.⁵ Together we can decrease that number by wearing a helmet, ride a bike that fits and works, stay focused and alert, particularly around large trucks and buses, ride predictably by respecting the road signage and staying visible to other road users.
- Pedestrians accounted for 17% of traffic fatalities in 2021.⁶ Be sure to follow the rules of the roads, walk on sidewalks whenever possible, stay focused and alert, stay visible to large trucks and buses.

OUR ROADS, OUR SAFETY® WEEK RESOURCES

- Discover more *Our Roads, Our Safety*® Week activities and tips: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/OROSWeek>
- Find additional safety tips for passenger vehicle drivers here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-driving-safely-around-large-trucks-or-buses>
- For additional resources specific to CMV drivers, check out the CMV Driver Toolkit: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/cm-driver-toolkit>.
- Additional resources on how to keep you and your family safe as pedestrians and bicyclists can be found here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-bicyclists-and-pedestrians>

³ <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-bicyclists-and-pedestrians>

⁴ <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813466.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety>

⁶ <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813458>

