

Aggressive Driving

The NHTSA defines aggressive driving as “behavior that endangers or is likely to endanger people or property. Drivers justify aggressive driving because they are “late for work” or the other driver “drives like an old lady.” A few indicators that you may be an aggressive driver are that you cut another driver off, your speed is excessive for the road conditions, and you ignore traffic signs such as school zones or four-way stops, or simple that you speed.

Feeling of Power

When an individual is driving and has total control of a two-ton vehicle, they can sometimes let that power go to their head. They may feel more in control. Because drivers are frequently anonymous to others, they may be tempted to vent their stressful feelings if they are upset. And road rage is not limited by gender. Women are as apt to drive aggressively as men.



Tips for Safer Driving

Concentrate on your driving

Don't concentrate on the radio, eating, putting on makeup, talking or texting on your phone or on your passengers.

Obey all traffic controls

Obey posted speed limits and no passing zones. Accept that a yellow light is a warning that the traffic light is about to change and not an indicator to stomp on the gas to rush through the intersection.

Don't tailgate

Keep a safe distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you. Don't assume that your reflexes are sufficient to brake in time if the other vehicle suddenly stops.

Don't dart in and out of traffic

Weaving between lanes drastically increases your chance of having an accident. Don't attempt to “make up time” by indulging in this tactic.

Don't drive in the “fast” left lane

Always drive in the right or middle lanes. Use the left lane for passing and then return to the middle or right lane. Don't ride in the left lane because you “hate passing” other vehicles.

Stay alert

Watch for changing driving or traffic conditions, especially in congested area.

What to do near others who drive unsafely

If you see a vehicle nearby that appears to be driving in an unsafe manner such as weaving or driving too aggressively, give it room. Blowing your horn, yelling, etc., will not help and may make the driver more aggressive.

Be courteous

When other signal to change lanes, yield to them. Turn on your blinker to change lanes or signal that you are about to turn.

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