



## Badge on Board Fact Sheet

Campaign Overview: Badge on Board is a Nevada Department of Public Safety program designed to educate motorists about how to drive safely and legally around commercial motor vehicles. The three-day enforcement period typically nets hundreds of citations that range from speeding to unsafe lane changes to failing to yield. Since its inception in 2008, authorities have seen a decrease in crashes between passenger vehicles and tractor-trailers. The 2015 media campaign – which consists of outdoor, radio, and online video and social media components – will run in Las Vegas, Reno and rural Nevada from February 2 – March 1.

- It's a fact: a truck simply doesn't drive like a car. Trucks weigh more, are much taller and can't make the same sudden moves a car can. They have much larger blind spots and need a lot more room to come to a stop.
- For all motorists, it's important to learn how to drive safely around big rigs and other trucks.
- To educate both passenger vehicle and commercial vehicle drivers about safe driving behaviors, the federal Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) program was initiated in 2004. The Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) named its TACT program Badge on Board and implemented its first enforcement in 2008.
- Southern Nevada's next Badge on Board enforcement effort takes place Feb. 24-26, 2015. Northern Command will run its program Feb. 18-20.
- The goal of the Badge on Board program is to educate car and truck drivers about safe driving behaviors and how to share the road safely and legally.
- Badge on Board is part of the continued effort to lower crashes and keep Nevada's highways safe.
- Safe driving behaviors for the general driving public include:
  - Putting space between you and the truck. Allow one car length between your car and the truck for every 10 miles per hour of travel, or three to four seconds behind a vehicle
  - Staying out of a truck driver's blind spots. If you can't see the mirrors on the commercial vehicle the driver can't see you
  - Making safe lane changes. Use signals and leave plenty of space between you and the truck. It can take over 500 ft. for a fully loaded truck going 65 mph to come to a complete stop
  - Yielding the right of way. Vehicles already on the freeway have the right of way and those merging onto the freeway must yield or merge on safely
  - Staying out of "No-Zones." When driving around or passing semi-trucks, the public should avoid the "No-Zones." No-Zones are large blind spots around a semi truck where passenger vehicles will "disappear" from a truck driver's view. The four areas include the front, rear and both sides of the tractor-trailer. The front No-Zone extends almost 20 feet in front of a truck. The rear No-Zone extends nearly 200 feet behind a truck.
  - Always buckle up
- Safe driving behaviors for truck, bus and other commercial drivers include:
  - Slowing down in work zones and in heavy traffic
  - Leaving a safe distance between vehicles
  - Watching for vehicles in blind spots
  - Driving defensively

- A passenger vehicle should allow at least one car length for every 10 miles per hour before passing a semi-truck to move ahead of the truck in the same lane. So if you're traveling at 60 miles per hour, you should allow at least six car lengths or more before moving in front of a semi-truck.
- As a basic rule of thumb, when passing, if you can see the entire front of the truck in your rearview mirror, it's safe to merge over. Be sure to have "two lights in the mirror or steer clear."
- It's okay to pass trucks of all types (including multiple trailer combinations). Just be sure to do so safely.
- Remember to make sure you have extra time to get around trucks, regardless of the road you're on. Even on a straight and level highway, it takes an extra three to five seconds to pass a truck than to pass a passenger vehicle.
- Once you pass a semi and return to the right lane, do not slow down. Maintain your speed and make sure there is a safe space between the truck and your car. Trucks take longer to regain their speed after being slowed down and may slow the traffic behind them.
- A truck can weigh substantially more than a car so it takes more time and distance for it to slow down and come to a stop. Passenger vehicles weigh around 3,000 to 4,000 pounds; a fully loaded semi-truck weighs about 80,000 pounds—about 20 times more than a passenger vehicle.
- Passenger vehicle drivers cause or contribute to 81 percent of the roadway fatalities involving trucks. Truck driver's cause or contribute to 26 percent of the fatalities.
- Trucks transport 94 percent of total manufactured goods in the state, that's about 132,817 tons per day. More than 80 percent of Nevada communities depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods.
- Visit [badgeonboard.com](http://badgeonboard.com) for more tips on how to drive safely around trucks.
- In addition to Nevada, the federal TACT program is active in 16 other states.  
(Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington)
- The Badge on Board program is funded through a grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

#### 10-Second Scripts

- A. Play it safe when passing a semi truck. Wait for two lights in your rearview mirror, or steer clear. Brought to you by Badge on Board and Zero Fatalities.
- B. Don't cut off truckers. Wait for two lights in your rearview mirror, or steer clear. Brought to you by Badge on Board and Zero Fatalities.