



Hill International Trucks

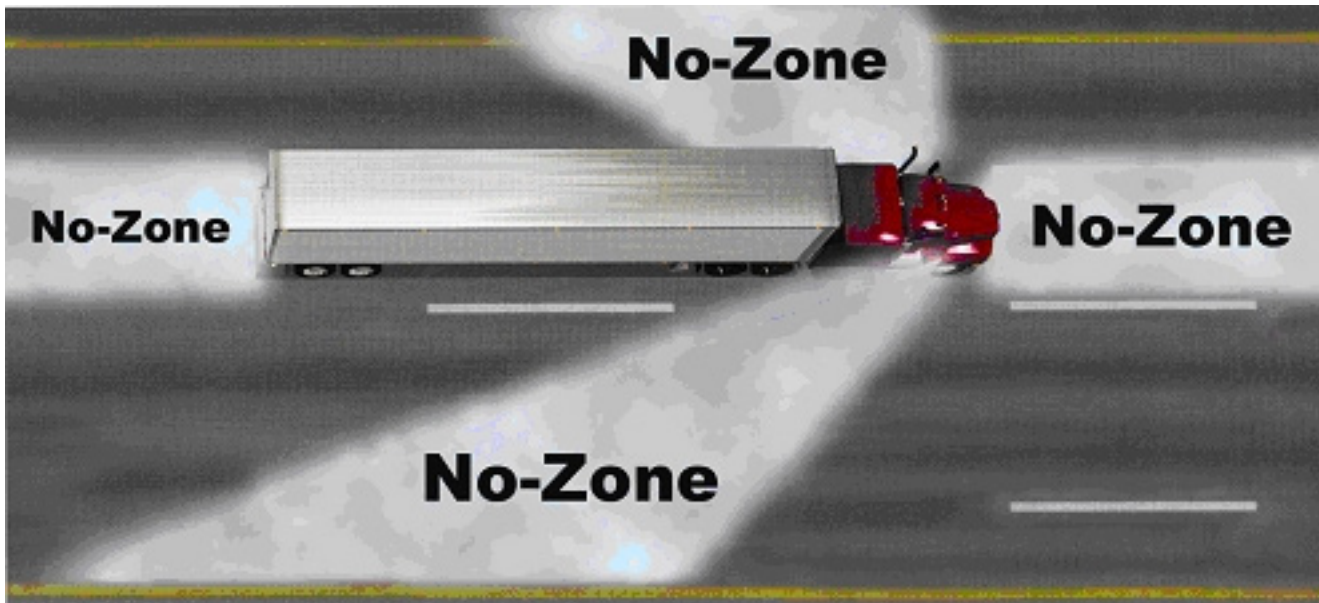
How to safely drive near a truck

As the holiday season quickly approaches, safety on the road diminishes for the fast-paced holiday season. Traveling, picking up last minute gifts, or enjoying town festivities will be part of an increase in traffic throughout the United States. The increase in traffic makes traveling more dangerous. UPS alone saw an increase in shipments by 10% from 2014 to 2015 during the holiday seasons and peaked at 36 million packages delivered on Dec. 22nd.

Give trucks plenty of room

This method seems to be a rule of thumb, but there are plenty of reasons to give drivers LOTS of room.

- **Tire Blowouts** – You don't want to get close to a big rig when a tire blows. Trucks carry heavy loads, sometimes reaching up to 80,000lbs. The stress on tires for long hauls makes it a good possibility for blowouts. A good reason to keep your distance and let trucks navigate accordingly.
- **Trucks move with wind** – The large amount of surface area on a trailer makes it more assessable to drifting in and out of lanes. A major misconception believes that trucks stay in place due to size and heftiness. Remember this key aspect when traveling next to a truck in a winter storm.
- **Know Semi-Trucks Blind spots** – Semi Trucks have far more blind spots then your traditional car or pickup truck. In some cases, a driver might not know you are even passing or riding alongside a big rig. Check out the illustration below to understand all blind spots of an 18 wheeler.



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Passing Trucks Safely

If need to pass a truck, then there are a few things to keep in mind to effectively navigate this move.

- Pass on the left side whenever possible. The right side of an 18-wheeler is full of blind spots illustrated above.
- Give plenty of room when merging into a lane with a truck. It can sometimes take a loaded trailer 300 yards to get to a complete stop.

Trucks make wide right turns

Both right and left turns for trucks are difficult when hauling a heavy load. However, right turns are considered to be sharper for truckers because they are dealing with drastically tighter conditions. Left turns are already wide due to the naturally construction of roadways. Be aware of your surroundings and in intersections with high truck volume.



Understand that Truckers are doing their best

Driving a heavy duty truck is not an easy task and most drivers are doing their best. Most truck drivers want to make a safe environment for themselves and the vehicles around them. Utilize these important methods when traveling during the holiday season.



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