

Environment aware:

Proper lane changes

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees on proper lane change. Empower them with strategies to minimize risks and become safer drivers. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

According to accident statistics from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), approximately **32% of truck accidents**¹ occur during lane changes. Unfortunately, many drivers remain unaware of accidents resulting from this maneuver, and these incidents may be misclassified on accident reports. To mitigate risks associated with lane changes, review these key talking points.

Mirror adjustment

- **Before Departure:** Ensure that mirrors are correctly positioned before drivers begin their routes.
- **Vibration Reduction:** Tighten mirrors to minimize vibrations during travel.
- **Spot Mirrors:** Set spot mirrors effectively to reduce blind spots.

Blind spot awareness

- Drivers should be fully aware of the blind spots around their trucks. It's crucial to recognize the "No Zone" areas where other vehicles may be invisible to the truck driver.
- Remind drivers they cannot rely solely on 4-wheelers to understand these blind spots.

Follow safe lane change procedures:

- 1 Minimize unnecessary lane changes:** Encourage drivers to reduce unnecessary lane changes. Changing lanes should only occur when it genuinely improves their position in traffic.
- 2 Early signaling:** Stress the importance of signaling early during lane changes. Proper signaling is as critical as signaling at intersection turns.
- 3 Mirror and shoulder checks:** Drivers should check their mirrors before signaling and consistently throughout the lane change. Other vehicles may linger in their blind spots for extended distances. Before committing to a lane change, drivers must look over their shoulder to verify the absence of nearby vehicles.
- 4 Smooth steering:** When changing lanes, emphasize the importance of a smooth transition. Drivers should steer gently into the new lane, ensuring that other drivers have sufficient time to react. Abrupt lane changes can lead to sudden reactions from nearby motorists, increasing the risk of collisions.
- 5 Establish proper following distance:** After completing the lane change, drivers should establish and maintain proper following distance. Often, lane changes occur because the vehicle in front is moving slower in traffic, and other vehicles have already passed. By adopting a safe following distance, drivers can react effectively to unexpected situations. Remember that many states require keeping the left lane clear for passing; return to the right-hand lane when safe.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit [MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5](https://www.nationwide.com/MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5)

For further guidance, refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 49 CFR 383.113 ([ecfr.gov/current/title-49/section-383.113](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/section-383.113)).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.

NationwideAgribusiness.com

¹ <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/research-and-analysis/large-truck-crash-causation-study-analysis-brief>

The information used to create this brochure was obtained from sources believed to be reliable to help users address their own risk management and insurance needs. It does not and is not intended to provide legal advice. Nationwide, its affiliates and employees do not guarantee improved results based upon the information contained herein and assume no liability in connection with the information or the provided suggestions. The recommendations provided are general in nature; unique circumstances may not warrant or require implementation of some or all of the suggestions. Nationwide, Nationwide is on your side and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Third-party marks that appear in this message are the property of their respective owners. © 2024 Nationwide GCO-0773AO (03/24)

Toolbox Talk

Date: ____/____/____

Environment aware: Proper lane changes

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Discussion notes:
