Large trucks use Missouri roadways while delivering automobiles, clothing, basketballs or canned foods. People rely on large trucks for pickup and delivery of nearly everything because no other form of transportation can deliver goods door to door. Even if goods travel in part by other means, trucks carry nearly all goods at some point in their journey.

Research indicates that drivers of passenger cars are responsible for 70 percent of the fatal crashes involving large trucks. In fact, the actions of the automobile driver is more than three times as likely to contribute to a fatal crash than the action of the truck driver.

Become “semi” conscious and learn how to share the road with large trucks to avoid crashes and save lives.

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This brochure paid for with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration funding by the Missouri Department of Transportation.
One-third of all crashes between large trucks and cars take place in the No-Zone areas around a truck.

Be “semi” conscious and protect yourself and your passengers when sharing the road with large trucks.

- Don’t linger alongside a large truck or bus. You could be driving in a blind spot or the “No-Zone.” If you can’t see the truck driver’s face in the side view mirrors, the truck driver has no way of knowing you are there.

- Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer. A tractor-trailer often appears to be traveling at a slower speed because of its large size. Many crashes take place at intersections because the driver of the passenger vehicle did not realize how close the truck was.

- Pass Safely. Always use your turn signals when changing lanes. After passing, change lanes only when you can see both of the truck’s headlights in your rearview mirror.

- Tractor-trailers can’t stop quickly. Allow plenty of space between you and a large truck. Cutting in front of a tractor-trailer can have deadly results.

- Large trucks need more room to make turns and maneuver in traffic. Observe turn signals and avoid a “Squeeze Play” – don’t cut between a truck and the curb.

- Slow down and pay attention when entering and driving in work zones. Don’t speed up just to get around a large truck.

- Always Buckle Up! A safety belt will keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle.

- Pay attention, avoid distractions, and obey the speed limit.

- Drive alert! No drinking, No drug of any kind that impairs you - even the over-the-counter stuff, No texting. If something could diminish your driving ability, don’t do it!