to assess the truck driver’s intent before passing. If a truck is stopped at or approaching an intersection, never attempt to cut in along the right side, as the truck driver begins their turn. You could find yourself caught between the turning truck and the curb.

When passing a truck that is going in the same direction, pass quickly to resume visibility and change lanes only when you can see both of the truck’s headlights in your rearview mirror.

Many intersections are marked with stop lines. Crowding the intersection by stopping beyond the stop line can leave your vehicle exposed to trucks attempting to turn from a cross street.

Never cut in front of a truck. Fully loaded trucks can weigh more than 80,000 pounds and take the length of a football field to stop. Most cars weigh only 2,000 pounds.

**No-Zones**

There are four large blind spots around trucks where cars “disappear” from view and the driver cannot see you.

- **Side No-Zones:** Trucks and buses have blind spots on both sides. If you cannot see the driver’s face in the side-view mirror, he or she cannot see you. If the truck changes lanes, you could be in trouble. The right side blind spot runs the length of the trailer and extends out three lanes.

- **Rear No-Zones:** Avoid tailgating. Unlike cars, trucks and buses have huge no zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver cannot see your car back there. If the truck or bus brakes suddenly, you have no place to go.

- **Front No-Zones:** Do not cut in front too soon after passing a truck or bus. Truck and bus drivers need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars. Look for the entire front of the truck in your rearview mirror before you pull in front, and then do not slow down.

- **Backing Up No-Zones:** Never cross behind a truck that is backing up. Hundreds of motorists are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks that are backing up. Truck drivers do not have a rear view mirror and may not see you cutting in behind them.

Remember, if you cannot see a truck’s mirrors, the truck driver cannot see you!

**D. School Vehicles**

Drivers are to stop for school vehicles.

If a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights, the driver of any vehicle following or approaching the school vehicle shall:

- stop at least 20 feet from the rear of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its rear; or
- at least 20 feet from the front of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its front.

The driver of any vehicle following or approaching the school vehicle may not proceed until the school vehicle resumes motion or the alternately flashing red lights are deactivated. This does not apply to the driver of a vehicle on a physically divided highway.