



Leave Yourself an Out

Techniques for Preventing Collisions:

- Build a space cushion all around your vehicle to the front, rear and sides.
- Start by using the features of high aim steering. Look ahead to select a safe path through traffic and establish a 15-second eye lead time (Key 1).
- Establish a proper following distance (Key 2) of 4 seconds to gain the front quarter of your space cushion.
- Open up the sides and the rear of your cushion by adjusting your speed and choosing the lane where the fewest objects can invade your space.
- Traffic tends to travel in clusters. Clusters are unsafe because they limit your options and expose you more readily to the mistakes of others. Avoid them whenever you can.
- If conditions become too congested for you to keep a four sided space cushion, try to keep at least the front and one side open until you can build the full cushion again.
- Be ready for sudden moves and keep an “out” to the side that will allow you room for evasive movements.
- Avoid tailgaters by encouraging them to pass. If necessary, change lanes to allow them to move ahead.
- When stopped behind another vehicle, stay back roughly 15 feet. This affords several benefits; a cushion in front should you be hit from the rear, room to pull away without reversing should the vehicle ahead of you stall, or if the vehicle ahead of you rolls backward, you may avoid being hit in the front.
- Anticipate the actions of others. Decide what they may do and what you will do in response.



Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."