

Look Out for The Little Guy

All drivers need to watch out for small vehicles on the road – the compact car hiding in the truck driver's blind spot, the bicycle courier passing on the right side at an intersection and the oncoming motorcycle.

Here are some reminders for drivers of trucks and other large vehicles to look out for smaller vehicles:

- Don't follow too closely. A small car can stop more quickly than a large truck, which creates the risk of your truck hitting a smaller vehicle.
- Be aware of any vehicles beside or behind you. Make sure they are not in your blind spot as you change lanes. Check for small vehicles passing on the right, especially at or near intersections.
- Be careful about judging distances based on the space between headlights and tail lights on another vehicle. What appears to be a larger vehicle farther away could actually be a small vehicle quite close to you.
- Never assume a "one-eyed" vehicle is a motorcycle — it could be a car with a burned-out headlight.
- Bicycles are difficult to see at night, and it's difficult to determine your distance from a bicycle based on the bike's reflectors or headlights. Assume a bike is closer than you think it is.
- Show the same respect for motorcycles and bicycles as you would show other vehicles on the road. They are subject to the same laws and have the same rights.
- Use extra caution around bikes of all kinds. They may be faster and more maneuverable than larger vehicles, but

their riders are far more vulnerable to injuries.

- Bicyclists often fail to signal for turns because they need both hands to control the bicycle. So be prepared for unexpected turns. Also watch for bicyclists traveling against the traffic – it's illegal, but it happens.
- Do not crowd a bike. By keeping a safe following distance, you will help protect the rider if he has to stop or if he takes a fall.
- Two-wheeled vehicles can travel fast, so make sure you can safely pass a bike. Tap your horn lightly, but do not startle the rider. Allow plenty of space for the bike's wobbly course.
- Before you open a vehicle door, check rear and side mirrors for bikes as well as cars.

Watch out for all smaller vehicles, including motorcycles and bikes. They are undersized and often overlooked.

QUIZ

1. Drivers only need to watch out for large vehicles on the road.
 - True
 - False
2. Bicycles will never pass on the right side at an intersection.
 - True
 - False
3. A small car can stop more quickly than a large truck.
 - True
 - False
4. It is difficult to determine your distance from a bicycle based on the bike's reflectors or headlights.
 - True
 - False
5. At night you should assume a bike is closer than you think it is.
 - True
 - False
6. Motorcycles and bicycles are subject to the same laws as other road vehicles and have the same rights.
 - True
 - False
7. Bicyclists often fail to signal for turns because they need both hands to control the bicycle.
 - True
 - False
8. Traveling against traffic is illegal even for bicyclists, so it never happens.
 - True
 - False
9. By keeping a safe following distance, you help protect the bike rider if he or she takes a fall.
 - True
 - False
10. Before you open a vehicle door to get out, you should check rear and side mirrors for bikes as well as cars.
 - True
 - False

BEFORE THE TALK - TIPS

Refer to the "Tips For Safety Talks!" for ideas on planning this safety meeting. Read through the article ahead of time to help you with your presentation. Add further questions to those we have provided at the end of this talk.

- Bring an example of reflective clothing that bicyclists should wear while cycling at night—but point out that often they are dressed in black or grey and are difficult to see at night.
- Ask your crew for examples of cyclists disregarding traffic rules and causing (or almost causing) accidents.
- Explain that the driver should give a bicycle a cushion of space similar to what would be given to a larger vehicle. Ask crew members if they are giving enough space to help protect bike riders who might fall or have to stop.
- Take the meeting outside and organize a demonstration of how small vehicles can easily disappear in blind spots. Use vehicles in the company parking lot

AFTER THE TALK- *CHECKLIST*

PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID

POORLY ON THE QUIZ

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

OBSERVED WORKERS

TASK(S): _____

DATE:

REFRESHER TRAINING

TOPIC(S): _____

DATE:

OTHER (DESCRIBE):

MEETING DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____

NOTES

ANSWERS:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. False | 6. True |
| 2. False | 7. True |
| 3. True | 8. False |
| 4. True | 9. True |
| 5. True | 10. true |

ATTENDANCE

INSTRUCTOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

SAFETY TALK: _____