



Reckless Drivers: WWYD?

JAN 2021

LENGTH 2–5 minutes

TO PREPARE Read the background information.

BACKGROUND

- How your employees respond in potentially aggressive driving situations can affect the workplace. They are representing your company when driving a company vehicle, so their skills at diffusing a dangerous situation reflects on your brand.
- Six out of 10 respondents in a survey commissioned by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey said they consider unsafe driving by others as a major personal threat to themselves and their families. A recent survey from AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety determined approximately eight million US drivers engaged in extreme examples of road rage, including purposefully ramming another vehicle or getting out of the car to confront another driver.
- In this Safety Huddle, employees will discuss tips to staying safe when encountering an aggressive driver.

DISCUSSION

- Read this scenario out loud:
 - The speed limit is 45 mph. You are in a pickup truck traveling at 45 mph.
 - Out of your rearview mirror, you see a driver in a car approaching, speeding, and passing others quickly until the car is behind you and is so close you cannot see its headlights in your rearview mirror.
 - The driver in the car starts flashing his headlights and raising a fist.



What actions describe the safest approach?

- Speed up so they ease back and follow you at a safe distance.
- Have your passenger turn around and take a picture of their license plate.
- Slow down and let them pass. (correct)

Sometimes we are tempted to do any of these. Put safety first and take deep breaths if you need to calm down.



What are some tips to deal with aggressive drivers?

- Avoid eye contact. Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Make every attempt to get out of the way of an aggressive driver.
- Put your pride in the backseat. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- Wear your seat belt. It will hold you in your seat and behind the wheel.



What can you do to protect other drivers and passengers from the aggressive driver you have encountered?

- Report the aggressive driver to the appropriate authorities by providing a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, direction of travel.
- Only do this if you can do it safely while pulled over, or ask a passenger in your car to make the call.
- If an aggressive driver is involved in a crash, stop a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive, and report the driving behavior that you witnessed.

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION

- Your employees can learn more about how to handle aggressive drivers by reviewing a tip sheet on the ODC website.
 - https://safenebraska.org/download_file/5941/0
- If time allows, discuss this tip sheet, or share with employees as a follow-up.

SUMMARY

- Engaging with reckless drivers is a no-win situation. Avoid confrontations and get out of their way. Report the situation if you are able to do so safely.
- Watching this four-minute video helps drive home the discussion and gives your employees something they can take home to share with their loved ones.
 - <https://youtu.be/edi0MFUJY5g>