



For additional information, please visit:

www.state.nj.us/transportation
www.njsaferoads.com
www.njmvc.gov
www.aaa.com

or email:

nj.safety@fhwa.dot.gov

The 12 Months of Traffic Safety

The 12 Months of Traffic Safety is a campaign to increase public awareness of traffic safety issues. A different traffic safety issue will be highlighted each month of 2005, as outlined below.

January

Aggressive Driving

February

Drive Safely in Inclement Weather

March

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

April

Work Zone Safety

May

Seat Belt & Child Passenger Safety

June

Motorcycle Safety

July

Listen to the Signs / Driver Inattention

August

You Drink... You Drive... You Lose!

September

Intersection Safety / Older Driver Safety

October

School Bus Safety

November

Truck Safety

December

Rail Safety

Sponsored by:

United States Department of Transportation
 New Jersey Department of Transportation
 New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
 Insurance Council of New Jersey
 AAA Clubs of New Jersey



AGGRESSIVE DRIVING IS...

A combination of deliberate actions and/or hostile behaviors by a motorist who endangers other drivers or property without regard for public safety.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING INCLUDES

- ▶ Speeding
- ▶ Following too closely
- ▶ Improper or erratic lane changes
- ▶ Improper overtaking or passing
- ▶ Failing to yield the right of way
- ▶ Ignoring official traffic control devices
- ▶ An action directed at other drivers that displays anger, or intimidation, or one that threatens other drivers

THE PROBLEM

According to data provided by the Insurance Council for New Jersey and the AAA Clubs of New Jersey, more than half of NJ's drivers are angry when they're behind the wheel. Almost half, the data show, are likely to try to "punish" other drivers. In 2003 in NJ, this attitude, combined with the above-mentioned driving behaviors, resulted in more than 68,000 vehicles being involved in crashes, an 8% increase from 2001. These crashes resulted in approximately 200 fatalities and 34,000 injuries.

TAKE FIVE TO STAY ALIVE

- ▶ Allow extra time to avoid rushing and stress
- ▶ Buckle everyone's seatbelt before driving
- ▶ Be a friendly driver to others on the road
- ▶ Be aware that distractions are a leading cause of crashes
- ▶ Get to your destination safely



AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

Who are they? Here's what we know about them:

These high-risk drivers climb into the anonymity of a motor vehicle and **take out their frustrations** on fellow motorists.

Frustration levels are high, while their **concern for fellow motorists is low.**

They run stop signs and red lights, speed, **tailgate, weave in and out of traffic**, pass on the right, make improper and erratic lane changes, make hand and facial gestures, scream, honk and flash their headlights.

They drive at speeds far in excess of the law and the norm, causing them to tailgate, change lanes frequently and abruptly without signalling, pass on the shoulder and **leer at or verbally threaten law-abiding motorists.**

When confronted by aggressive drivers:

First and foremost, make every attempt to **get out of their way.**

Put your pride in the back seat. **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 in case you need to make an abrupt driving maneuver and will protect you in a crash.

Avoid eye contact.

Ignore gestures and do not make your own gestures.

Report aggressive drivers to the appropriate authorities with a vehicle description, license plate number and location.

If you have a cell phone, and can do it safely: **Call the police using #77.**

TAKE THE QUIZ!

Are you an aggressive driver?

YES NO

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Overtake other vehicles only on the left |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid blocking passing lanes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yield to faster traffic by moving to the right |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep to the right as much as possible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain appropriate following distance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Provide appropriate distance when cutting in after passing vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use headlights in cloudy, rainy, low light conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yield to pedestrians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Come to a complete stop at stop signs, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stop for red traffic lights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Approach intersections and pedestrians at slow speeds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow right-of-way rules at four way stops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drive below the posted speed limit when conditions warrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drive at slower speeds in construction zones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain speeds appropriate for conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use vehicle turn signals for turns and lane changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Make eye contact and signal intention where needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Acknowledge intention of others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use your horn sparingly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid unnecessary use of high beam headlights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yield and move to the right for emergency vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refrain from flashing headlights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Make slow, deliberate U-turns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain proper speeds around roadway crashes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid returning inappropriate gestures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid challenging other drivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Try to get out of the way of aggressive drivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Focus on driving and avoid distracting activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid driving when drowsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid blocking the right-turn lane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid taking more than one parking space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid parking in a disabled space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid letting your door hit the car parked next to you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid using the car telephone while driving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid stopping in the road to talk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid inflicting loud music on neighboring cars |

Score Yourself: Number of "No" Answers

(1-3) EXCELLENT

(4-7) GOOD

(8-11) FAIR

(12+) POOR