

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Aggressive driving is a threat to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. What is aggressive driving? It includes speeding, running red or yellow lights, frequent and unnecessary lane changes and following too closely or "tailgating." These behaviors can lead to crashes, road rage or both. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines aggressive driving as occurring when "an individual commits a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property."

Though the majority of motorists surveyed agree that aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roads, many do not identify their own behaviors as aggressive. The focus is often on individual rights and freedom, not on the responsibility to other drivers we share the road with. Driving should be cooperative, not competitive.

Are you an aggressive driver? You may be if do any of the following:

- Exceed the posted speed limit
- Follow too closely
- Pass on the berm
- Cut in and out of traffic
- Fail to signal multiple lane changes
- Violate posted railroad crossing signs
- Pass a stopped school bus
- Display or use a weapon
- Carelessly drive through construction zones
- Fail to yield at ramps and intersections
- Use more than one parking space

Sensible Driving can Save Lives and Money

Putting an end to aggressive driving behavior (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking, and excessive lane changes) can save lives. Sensible driving can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. This decrease is the equivalent to saving somewhere between \$.19 and \$1.27 per gallon.

Reduce Your Own Aggressive Driving Tendencies

- Keep your emotions in check. Don't take your frustrations out on other drivers.
- Plan ahead and allow enough time for delays. Observe the speed limit.
- Focus on your own driving. Yelling, pounding on the steering wheel and honking your horn won't make traffic move any faster.

What to do if you encounter an aggressive driver:

- Do not react to their provoking behavior
- Stay away from erratic drivers

- Use your horn sparingly
- Do not make obscene gestures
- Do not switch lanes without signaling
- Do not tailgate
- Do not block the passing lane
- Avoid eye contact with the other driver
- Call 9-1-1 for help in emergencies.

Don't allow road rage to get the best of you!

REPORT SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

If you see something, say something.

Rick Porrello
Chief of Police