

## **Aggressive Driving**

They are out there on the roads every day. Chances are they will always exist. If you are not one, you most certainly have had an encounter with one – the aggressive driver. Aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roadways. Aggressive driving occurs when a driver commits a combination of moving traffic offenses that endanger other persons or property. These moving traffic offenses are commonly referred to as bad driving habits. These bad habits consist of:

- Running stop signs and red lights
- Speeding, tailgating, and weaving between lanes
- Passing on the right of a vehicle
- Making inappropriate hand and facial gestures
- Screaming, honking the horn, and flashing headlights

Do any of these bad driving habits sound familiar? Have you ever experienced a close call or even an automobile accident due to any of these moving traffic offenses? Whether you have or haven't, going forward it would be a good idea to become familiar with the following guidelines when dealing with an aggressive driver:

- Make every attempt to safely move out of the aggressive driver's way.
- Do not challenge an aggressive driver by speeding up or attempting to "hold your own" in the travel lane.
- Always wear your seat belt – not only will it hold you in your seat and behind the wheel in case you need to make an abrupt driving maneuver, but it will also protect you in a crash.
- Avoid eye contact with the aggressive driver.
- Ignore gestures, and refuse to return them.
- Report aggressive drivers to the appropriate authorities by providing a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, direction of travel.
- If you have a cell phone, and can safely get off the roadway and stop, call the police. Many law enforcement agencies have special numbers, such as 9-1-1 or \*sp.

If the aggressive driver is involved in a crash farther down the road, stop at a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive, and report the driving behavior that you witnessed. Don't be a victim of aggressive driving. By following these guidelines, you'll be doing your part in reducing this type of risk and making our roadways safer.

### **References:**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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