



## FOLLOWING DISTANCE

### FOLLOWING DISTANCE DEFINED

Following distance is defined as following another vehicle so closely that if the following driver is attentive to the actions of the vehicle ahead, he/she could not avoid a collision if the driver in front brakes suddenly.

### FOLLOWING DISTANCE STATISTICS

80% percent of car crashes with a truck are caused by the car drivers – American Trucking Association report. Give extra space – trucks take 40% longer to stop compared to other cars driving on the road.

### PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS – FOLLOWING DISTANCE

- When you are pulling out - Accidents can happen when the driver comes too close to another vehicle before pulling out of the lane
- Pulling forward at the right time – Accidents happen when drivers pull ahead in traffic before the vehicle ahead of them moves forward.
- When you are entering a lane – Accidents happen when drivers do not provide enough space before entering a lane.
- When they pass you and merge into your lane, they may not provide you with adequate following space. They squeeze in between you and the vehicle in front of you.

These accidents are preventable! By allowing more space. By waiting for traffic to pull forward. To provide more space between vehicles and by being aware of blind spots. It is our responsibility because other drivers do not know or understand that you need more space to maneuver. They do not realize it takes you more time to stop.

### WHAT DRIVERS CAN DO!

#### Stay Alert

Drivers should increase following distance when traveling at increased speeds, when approaching congested traffic and when weather conditions impact roads and visibility.

Understand Stopping distance is made up of three parts.

Perception Distance: the distance a vehicle travels while the driver is deciding what to do regarding a hazard.

Reaction time: The time it takes for the driver to act out the decision that was made regarding the hazard.

Braking Distance: This is when the driver presses the brake and the time the vehicle takes to stop.

Know your speed and provide enough distance between you and others on the road!

Provide ample following distance by following this basic tip: 1 second for every 10 feet of vehicle length at speeds under 40mph. If traveling above 40mph, add 1 second for the additional speed.

Know you weight! The more weight, the harder it is to stop.

### SAFETY TIPS

Adapt Following Distance Based on road conditions!

Dry roads: between 60-100 feet

Wet roads: 120 feet or more

Packed snow: 180 feet or more

Icy roads: 600 feet at least or more

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Safe Trucking’s mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.