



S&W READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY	FEBRUARY
DRIVER SAFETY SERIES – MONTHLY TRAINING	
AGGRESSIVE DRIVING	

Aggressive driving can refer to any display of aggression by a driver. It is often used to describe more extreme acts of physical assault that result from disagreements between drivers. "Road Rage" is a term believed to be coined by the American media, originally to describe the most violent events. However, "**Road Rage**", such as using the vehicle as a weapon or physically assaulting a driver or their vehicle, is NOT aggressive driving. Such acts are criminal offenses, and there are laws to deal with these violent crimes.

The WIKIPEDIA defines an **Aggressive Driver** as:

a form of automobile operation in which an operator will deliberately behave with contempt towards other drivers and drive in such a manner as to increase the risk of an automobile accident

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING MAY BE CHARACTERIZED BY THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS:

- Excessive Speed
- Frequent or Unsafe Lane Changes
- Failure to Signal
- Tailgating
- Failure to Yield the Right of Way
- Disregarding Traffic Controls
- Impaired Driving0020

When dealing with an aggressive driver it is recommend that you...

- Remain calm
- Keep your distance
- Do not pass unless you have to
- Change lanes once it is safe (don't jump lanes without looking)
- If you cannot change lanes and an aggressive driver is behind you, stay where you are, maintain the proper speed and do not respond with hostile gestures.
- Call **911** to report an aggressive driver or a driver you believe may be impaired.

Motorists are advised to be patient and courteous to other drivers. You should correct any unsafe driving habits that may endanger, annoy or provoke other drivers. Be aware of the actions that have resulted in violence in the past. Many of these actions are simply eliminated by practicing common courtesy. Others are behaviors which are, or may be considered, offensive.

AVOID BEHAVIORS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO PROVOKE AGGRESSION:

- **Gestures** - Obscene or offensive gestures irritate other drivers. Be aware that any gesture may be misinterpreted by another driver.
- **Car phones** - Don't let your phone become a distraction. Car phone users are perceived as being poor drivers and presenting a traffic hazard. Data shows that aggressive drivers are particularly irritated by fender-benders with motorists who were talking on the phone.
- **Eye contact** - If a motorist tries to pick a fight, do not make eye contact. Get out of the way without acknowledging the other motorist.
- **Aggressive tailgating** - Riding the bumper of the vehicle in front of you is both annoying and unsafe.
- **Aggressive horn use** - Leaning on the horn to express anger is aggravating and in some cases against the law.
- **Aggressive headlight use** - Flashing headlights to denote irritation is rude and unsafe.

USE COMMON COURTESY:

- **Lane blocking** - Don't block the passing lane on multiple lane highways. Allow vehicles to pass you.
- **Tailgating** - Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
- **Signal use** - Don't change lanes without using your signal, and make sure you can change lanes without cutting another driver off. After changing lanes or turning, turn your signal off.
- **Horn use** - Use your horn sparingly. Noise is shown to be a contributor to stress.
- **Failure to turn** - In many areas, right turns are allowed after a complete stop for a red light unless an intersection is marked otherwise. Avoid the right lane if you are not turning right.

- **Parking:**
 - Don't take up more than one parking space
 - Don't park in a space reserved for people with disabilities unless you are disabled
 - Don't open your door into the car next to you
 - When parallel parking, do not tap the vehicles in front or in back of yours
 - Always look carefully before backing out of a parking space
- **Headlight use** - Keep headlights on low beam, except where lighting conditions are poor. Dim your high beams for oncoming traffic, when approaching a vehicle from the rear or when another vehicle is passing you.
- **Merging** - When traffic permits, move out of the right hand acceleration lane of a freeway to allow vehicles easier access from on-ramps.
- **Blocking traffic** - If you are driving a cumbersome or slow moving vehicle, pull over when possible to allow traffic to pass you. Do not block the road to stop and have a conversation with another driver or a pedestrian.
- **Alarms** - Be sure you know how to turn off the anti-theft alarm on any vehicle you are driving. If you are purchasing an alarm, buy one that turns off automatically after a short time.
- **Avoid all conflict if possible** - If challenged, take a deep breath and get out of the way, even if you are in the right.
- **Before reacting**, think about the possible consequences of your actions.

***Aggressive behavior behind the wheel could result in serious injury or even death to yourself or someone else.
Don't let an impulsive action ruin the rest of your life.***