

Maintaining a Safety Cushion

SMARTdriving Series



As you scan your traffic picture for potential conflicts, keep in mind your position with respect to stopping, slowing or turning space. Look for a safe space cushion. You can get and keep a space cushion even in crowded traffic situations. You open up space for an out when you choose the proper lane, leave space ahead and to one or both sides.

If you get “boxed in” regularly, it indicates improvement is needed at leaving an out, that is, an escape route.

When someone tailgates you, open up more space ahead.

Plan for space...be ready for the unexpected!

Objectives for Maintaining a Safety Cushion:

- Recognize the lane of least resistance and position the vehicle accordingly.
- Allow extra following distance when crowded by a tailgater.
- When possible, leave at least one side open for swerving room.
- Pass only when there is space, visibility and distance to do so safely.
- Quickly re-establish space around the vehicle when space diminishes.



For additional information, visit <http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/>