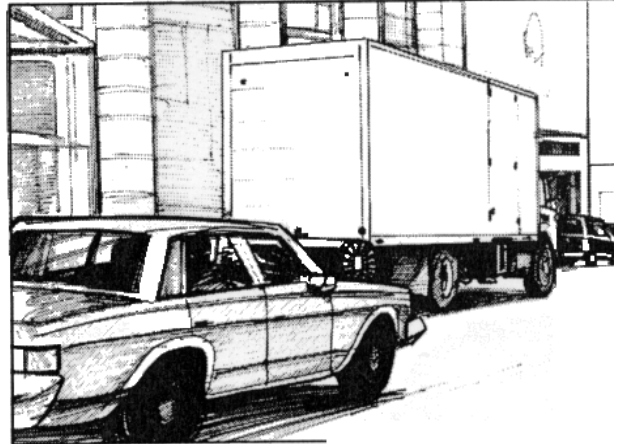


# SET THE EXAMPLE

## *Even If the Other Guy Does the Wrong Thing*



Always signal a lane change.

If you operate your vehicle with the right attitude and constantly work to sharpen your driving skills, you can avoid the kind of mistakes which cause accidents. But what if the next driver makes a serious mistake and you're affected?

Defensive drivers think about this possibility all the time, and you should too. Know what to do to prevent the accident that, if it had happened, would have been the other guy's fault. The last thing you want to do is wind up 'dead right.'

### **When It Matters the Most**

There are times, such as weekends, holidays and rush hours, when you know the highways are going to be more crowded than usual. Worse yet, you know these are the times when someone in the pack is most likely to do something careless, reckless or just plain stupid.

These are the times when you have to drive twice as well, just to make sure you cover all the bases for yourself and the other guy as well.

Start out by setting an example. Maintain the speed

limit. Follow at a safe distance and, if others cut in front of you, keep dropping back to maintain a proper distance.

### **Use Your Signals**

Know that other motorists will change lanes or make turns frequently without signaling their intentions. Once again, it's up to you to set the example. Watch for the car that cuts in front of you without a signal. But when you make a lane change, do it right.

Likewise, when you pass, pass with care. Don't take chances. And, when others pass you, give them a break. You need your margin of safety in order to get out of the way if someone else passes recklessly.

Be prepared at all times to make an evasive maneuver if someone cuts into your path, especially on two-lane highways. If someone passes you and cuts in too sharply, you may have a strong urge to teach them a lesson. Resist it. Better just to back off. Your job is to be safe, not teach lessons.

### **Be Polite With Your Lights**

When it gets dark on a congested highway, you can be sure that someone is going to drive with the bright lights on and shine them in everyone's eyes without regard to safety. Here, again, you need to set an example and look out for yourself, rather than 'getting mad and getting even.'

Don't blind them, even if they blind you. Just practice the golden rule of driving: drive around others like you wish everyone else would drive around you. In the long haul, you'll be very glad you did